

Government 135
American Foreign Policy
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Tuesday 12 noon— 1 p.m.
(Or by Appointment)

American Foreign Policy Spring 2007

Catalog Description of the Course:

American Foreign Policy. The institutions, practices and development of American foreign policy; the interaction of domestic and foreign factors on the formulating of American foreign policy since World War II. Prerequisite: Government 30, 130 History 159, or permission of the instructor.

----- Introduction

For most Americans, the world has taken a decidedly frightening turn since the events of September 11, 2001. No area of public life has changed more dramatically or quickly than in the realm of foreign policy. Almost over night, the U.S. went from a policy of deterrence, which grew out of the Cold War, to a declared policy of “pre-emption.” Moreover, some analysts were even beginning to openly use the term “empire” and “empire building” to describe developments. As this semester begins, however, events have taken yet another sharp and disturbing turn, and talk of an “American empire” has died almost completely away. President Bush’s approval ratings have plummeted since his re-election in 2004, control of congress shifted in 2006 from the Republicans to the Democrats, and the next presidential race is shaping up as a free for all, in no small part because of a deteriorating situation in Iraq. While most attention is focused on Iraq, the U.S. faces equally significant challenges in many other parts of the world, not least in Afghanistan, Iran, and North Korea. In sum, the ups and downs of the Bush administration’s handling of foreign policy, especially because they have occurred so quickly, serve as a telling case study in the relationship of politics to foreign policy.

At the same time, it is crucial to recall that despite contemporary concerns about terrorism, *no* era in the history of American foreign policy was more compelling--or dangerous--than the period that began after the Second World War. During the period known as the Cold War from 1946 or so until 1989, the U.S. was wholly committed to a nuclear and conventional arms race, unbridled competition with the Soviet Union, and an unprecedented scale of involvement in the Third World. One of the primary aims this semester, therefore, will be to compare and contrast the making of foreign policy during the Cold War with policymaking since 9-11, particularly in terms of the relationship between domestic politics and foreign policy decision making.

COURSE GOALS:

1. Provide an overview of American foreign policy from 1946 to the present, with attention paid both to the Cold War *and* post-Cold War periods, particularly since September 11, 2001
2. Acquaint students with major concepts, institutions and turning points in post WWII policy.
3. Provide an introduction to the political processes and dynamics at work in the foreign policy arena, with an emphasis on the interplay of political culture and ideology.
4. Raise substantive questions about the values, goals and tactics of American foreign policy, past and present.

Course Requirements: This is an upper division course, and students are expected to participate actively in class discussion and complete all reading assignments on schedule.

Course Method: This basically is a lecture-discussion course. Class participation is encouraged and expected and, therefore, impossible without regular attendance.

Grades: Percentage breakdown of final grade: Examinations will count for 95%; and participation for 5%. Regular no-fault quizzes [which will be explained in class] will be used to test currency in reading. It is essential that you attend regularly because there will be *no* makeups permitted for these quizzes.

Examinations: There will be two midterm examinations and a final

Course Etiquette:

Please arrive by the class hour. Habitual latecomers will discover the instructor's patience, uncommon as it might be, is not infinite. Similarly, please make certain your cell phones are **OFF** once class begins.

Additional Resources:

- **SUPPLEMENTARY READING:** During lecture, I'll frequently refer to current articles that deal with the concerns of this course.. You can read these articles in their entirety by following the links on my U.S. foreign policy **BLOG**, which can be found at <http://usfp.blogspot.com/> For those who are interested, I edit a similar blog for my War, Peace and Mass Media course, which can be found at <http://warmedia.blogspot.com/>. You may wish to bookmark one or both in your browser.
- **Helpful Web Sites:** Students often ask which sources I depend on for timely updates on current foreign policy situations. Here are a few of them.
 - ❖ **The War in Context:** Iraq + war on terrorism + Middle East Conflict+ critical perspectives. This is a extraordinarily useful roundup of articles from around the world dealing with the immediate concerns of this course. It's free, but donations are welcome. See <http://warincontext.org>

Some other very useful websites dealing with the U.S. - Iraq and/or Iran and Korean situations in particular include:

- Columbia International Affairs Online: <http://www.ciaonet.org> A first-rate page with scholarly approach
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: <http://www.ceip.org/files/Iraq/index.htm> The Carnegie site is comprehensive and worth a daily visit, with updated news stories, analysis by its experts.
- Center for Defense Information: Under the direction of former flag rank U.S. military officers, this is one of the most reliable and well-respected sources of information for defense matters: <http://www.cdi.org/>
- Council on Foreign Relations: http://www.cfr.org/background/background_iraq_readings.php CFR's site offers plenty of background information and reprints of articles making the Bush administration's case for war, as well as other perspectives.
- BBC Conflict With Iraq Page: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/2002/conflict_with_iraq/default.stm The Beeb's site has a more international feel, with key documents, maps, and timelines, even a review of the Arab press.
- www.countrywatch.com and www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html for useful stats on countries
- Gulf 2000: <http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/> This site was developed by the Gulf/2000 Project at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University in New York City. It is designed to make available in a single location a wealth of information on the eight countries of the Persian Gulf region--Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- For declassified national security documents, see the National Security Archive: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/>

TEXTBOOKS:

1. Thomas M. Magstadt, *An Empire If You Can Keep It: Power and Principle in American Foreign Policy* (CQ Press, 2004)
2. Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong: An Anatomy of American Nationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2004.)
3. Peter W. Galbraith, *The End of Iraq* (Simon & Schuster, 2006).
3. Supplementary Course Reader 2007 (Available on course shelf in Hornet Bookstore)

Reading Assignments and Dates of Interest

First Unit--"Foreign Policy Through the Cold War"—Weeks 1—8

<u>Week No.</u>	<u>Read by:</u>	<u>Textbook:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>
1	February 1	Magstadt	Preface
2	February 6	Magstadt	Chapter 1
3	February 13	Magstadt Course Reader	Chapter 2 #4 "The Missionary"
4	February 20	Magstadt	Chapter 3
5	February 27	Magstadt Course Reader	Chapter 4 Readings A, B, C
6	March 6	Magstadt	Chapter 5
7	March 13	Magstadt Course Reader Lieven	Chapter 6 #1 "Apocalypse Soon" Preface & Introduction

****First Examination is on Thursday, March 22**

Second Unit--"Post-Cold War Transitions and Transformations"—Weeks 9-13

<u>Week No.</u>	<u>Read by:</u>	<u>Textbook:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>
8	March 20	Magstadt Galbraith	Chapter 7 Chapters 1-3
9	April 3	Galbraith	Chapters 4-5
10	April 10	Course Reader Lieven Galbraith	Readings D & E Chapter 1 Chapters 6-7
11	April 17	Magstadt Course Reader Lieven Galbraith	Chapter 8 #2 (Cheney Remarks) & #3 (NSS highlights) Chapter 2 Chapters 8-9

12	April 24	Course Reader Lieven Galbraith	#5 "Myth of Terrorism" Chapter 3 Chapters 10-11
13	May 1	Course Reader Lieven	#7 "Americans on Promoting Democracy" Chapters 4 & 5

****Second Examination is on Thursday , May 3**

Third Unit--"Where to now? "—Weeks 14-15

14	May 8	Magstadt Lieven Course reader	Chapter 9 Chapter 6 #8 "American Nationalism"
15	May 15	Course reader Lieven	#6 "Normalization of War" Conclusion

****Final Examination [in-class] is on Thursday, May 24, [10:15-12:15]**

EXAMINATION MAKE-UP POLICY

MAKE-UP POLICY: Only students who have a compelling reason such as illness will be allowed to make up a missed examination. Should you unavoidably miss an examination, you **MUST** speak with me personally or leave a message at my voice mail number no later than the morning of the scheduled examination.

If your excuse is acceptable, you must take the exam on a day agreed upon by the instructor at the Testing Center, which offers a make-up test service on a limited basis for missed classroom exams. The Testing Center's Make-up testing hours are by appointment only, Monday through Thursday **AFTER** 5 PM. The fee is \$6.00 per exam. To call about an appointment, dial (916) 278-7870.

RETURN OF PAPERS: The only guarantee that your final exam can be returned is that you turn it in with a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.