

POSC 350: U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1-1:50

CHBS Building 5011

Instructor: Dr. Theresa Schroeder

Office Location: CHBS 3507

Office Hours: Monday 4-5 & Wednesday 5-6

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Course Description:

The aim of this course is to familiarize you with the process and content of US foreign policy. This course examines U.S Foreign Policy and the process by which it is made. In this course, we will study the institutions and individuals responsible for foreign policy decisions. It is intended to help you acquire a sound conceptual and practical understanding of the foreign policy challenges that US policy-makers face and the reasons for and implications of their decisions. We will use case studies, discussions, and current events to examine U.S. Foreign policy decision-making in real-world scenarios. Students will gain expertise in crafting a policy brief and recommendation for an issue facing U.S. foreign policy makers today.

Course Goals:

The course goals are as follows:

1. Acquaint students with the players and sources of U.S. Foreign Policy decisions.
2. Introduce students to the themes, purposes, and patterns of U.S. Foreign Policy.
3. Sharpen critical thinking about complex issues and events.
4. Hone writing and presentation skills.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of key actors and forces that inform and constrain US foreign policy decision-making and implementation.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the basic principles and purposes of US foreign policy.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking ability through in-class discussion, exam questions, and policy brief.
4. Demonstrate expertise in finding and using appropriate scholarly sources.

Required Materials

Hook, Steven and John Spanier. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*. Sage Press

Stevenson, Charles. *America's Foreign Policy Toolkit: Key Institutions and Processes*. Sage Press

Changes to the Syllabus and Course Schedule:

It may be necessary to alter the syllabus including the assignments, due dates, assigned readings, and other components during the course of the semester. Any alterations will be announced in class.

Grading Policy

Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A 100% - 90%	B 89.9% - 80%
C 79.9% - 70%	D 69.9% - 60%
F 59.9% - 0%	

Earning Grades: *Due dates, exam dates, and assignments are subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*

On-going current events: 10%

General Participation/Homework/In-class assignments: 10%

Exam 1: 15%---Sept. 28

Exam 2: 15%---Nov. 2

Comprehensive Final Exam: 20%

Background Paper on Assigned Simulation Appointment: 10%---Oct. 5

Simulation Position Paper: 15%---Oct. 26

Simulation Participation: 5%---Nov. 7- Nov. 18

Submission of Papers:

The background and position papers are to be uploaded on Desire2Learn by 11:59pm the date the assignment is due. There are no exceptions. Papers turned in late will receive a 10% grade deduction for each day it is late. All written assignments must be turned in as a Word document and have your name and the name of the assignment on the document. Students must use Times New Roman 12 pt. font with normal margins. From time to time, additional in-class or homework assignments will be distributed. Instructions for submission will be discussed in class.

Appealing Grades

If a student wishes to appeal a grade on an assignment, they must first provide a written statement explaining why additional points should be given. This statement must be typed and does not mean a simple request for more points. The student must tell why s/he believes some specific aspect of his/her answer is correct or of more value. The instructor reserves the right to subtract points as well as to add points during the review process and to re-grade the entire exam, not just the portion under appeal.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are advised to retain all notes and drafts for all work until after they receive their final grade. Students should also be aware that the instructor takes matters of plagiarism and cheating very seriously and is prone to imposing the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes, but is not limited to, issuing an automatic grade of 0.0

for the entire course.

E-mail Policy:

Students should ask their questions directly to the professor in person, before class or during office hours. I have ample office hours and am willing to set up an appointment with the student if they are unable to meet during normal office hours. However, when e-mailing me, students must adhere to the follow netiquette rules explained at the following website: “How to E-mail a Professor” <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. Please check the syllabus prior to e-mailing a question. I stop checking e-mails at 5pm but will respond to all e-mails within 24hrs during the week and within 48 hrs on the weekend.

Technology in the Classroom:

Laptop computers and tablets may be used to take notes during lecture. Students should refrain from using facebook or checking e-mail during lecture. The use of cell phones is strictly forbidden. Students seen texting during class will have their cell phones taken away for the rest of the class period.

Excused Absences & Make-up Exams

Attendance is not mandatory however students are expected to attend every lecture. Students will not do well in the course if they routinely miss class. If a student misses class for any reason, they are expected to obtain notes from a classmate. I do not give out my notes. Tardiness and absences will negatively impact the student’s participation grade. Make up exams for either an exam or final will be permitted only under the gravest of circumstances and with appropriate documentation such as illness or 3 or more final exams on the same day. Students will be allowed to make-up an exam due to sickness if the student can provide a doctor's note stating the dates the student should be excused from classes within the note. This does not include regularly scheduled doctor’s appointments, but is only for acute illness when the student has been instructed by the medical provider to NOT go to class. Students are required to notify their instructor one month before the exam takes place if they wish to change the exam date or time due to non-medical reasons. The student must submit the “Change in Final Exam Schedule” form found on the Registrar’s website to the professor:

<https://www.radford.edu/content/registrar/home/students.html>

Academic Accommodations

If you are seeking academic accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you must register with the Disability Resource Office (DRO). Submit disability documentation to the DRO in the lower level of Tyler Hall Suites 54-69, by fax to 540-831-6525, or by email to dro@radford.edu. Once documentation is received and reviewed, a Disability Services Specialist (DSS) will contact you for an interview. You will be notified via RU email when your accommodation package is complete. Meet with **each** course professor, during his or her office hours, to discuss the accommodations and return signed documents to the DRO. For additional information and disability documentation guidelines, visit www.radford.edu/dro or call 540-831-6350.

Changes to the Syllabus and Course Schedule:

It may be necessary to alter the syllabus including the assignments, due dates, assigned readings, and other components during the course of the semester. Any alterations will be announced in class.

U.S. Foreign Policy
Fall 2016 Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to make alterations to the syllabus and course schedule as needed. Any alternations will be announced **in class**. All non-textbook readings are to be completed prior to lecture. If students come unprepared to discuss the readings, a pop quiz will be given. Non-textbook readings will be available on D2L a week prior to the date assigned and will be removed from D2L a week after they assigned.

Week 1:

Aug 29: Intro to the Course: Constraints

Reading: Snyder, Jack "One World, Rival Theories"

Aug 31: Current U.S. Foreign Policy

Reading: Chp 1: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*
Interests

Assignment: Historical Foreign Policy

Sep 2: Current U.S. Foreign Policy cont

Reading: U.S. National Security Strategy, 2015
& Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review

Assignment: Worksheet on Identifying US interests & Values

History of U.S. Foreign Policy

Week 2:

Sep 5: Cold War

Reading: X. "The Sources of Soviet Conduct." *Foreign Affairs* 25, no. 4 (1947):
566-82.

Chp 2: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*

Sep 7: Cold War (cont)

Reading: Chps 3 & 4: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*

Sep 9: Cold War (cont)

Week 3

Sep 12: Cold War (cont)

Reading: Kirkpatrick, "Dictatorships and Double Standards

Chp 6: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*

Sep 14: Post-Cold War- Pre-9/11

Reading: Chp 7: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*

Sep 16: Post-Cold War- Pre-9/11

No Class: Film on your own: "Bill Clinton: Commander in Chief"---McConnell
Library Collection

http://fod.infobase.com.lib-proxy.radford.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=59325

Week 4

Sep 19: Post-Cold War- Pre-9/11 (cont)

Reading: Chps 8 & 9: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*

Sep 21: Post 9/11

Reading: Chps 10 & 11: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*

Sep 23: Arab Spring & Beyond

Reading: Chps 12 & 13: *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*

Week 5

Sep 26: Catch-up/ Review

Sep 28: Exam 1

How Foreign Policy is Made

Sep 30: Powers of the President

Reading: Chp 3 “ America’s Foreign Policy Toolkit”

Week 6:

Oct 3: Powers of President (cont)

Oct 5: Powers of Congress

Reading: Chps 4 & 5 “ America’s Foreign Policy Toolkit”

Oct 7: Powers of Congress (cont)

Week 7

Oct 10: Diplomatic Instruments

Reading: Chp 6 “ America’s Foreign Policy Toolkit”

Oct 12: Diplomatic Instruments (cont)

Oct 14: Economic Instruments

NEW Reading: Nye, Joseph. (2008). Public Diplomacy and Soft Power. *Annals of The American Academy on Political and Social Science*, 616(1), 94-109.

Reading: Chp 7 “ America’s Foreign Policy Toolkit”

Week 8

Oct 17: No Class for Poli Sci Days

Oct 19: Economic Instruments Cont

Oct 21: Military Instruments

Reading: Chp 8 “ America’s Foreign Policy Toolkit”

Week 9

Oct 24: Military Instruments (cont)

Reading: Robinson, Linda. "The Future of Special Operations: Beyond Kill and Capture." *Foreign Affairs* 91, no. 5 (2012): 110-22.

Oct 26: The Role of Intelligence

Reading: Chp 9 “American’s Foreign Policy Toolkit”

Oct 28: International Influences

Case study: Intervention in Libya

Reading: TBD

Week 10

Oct 31: Catch-up/Review

Nov 2: Exam 2

Nov 4: Simulation Prep & Current Events

Week 11

Nov 7: Simulation

Nov 8: Simulation

Nov 11: Simulation

Week 12

Nov 14: Simulation

Nov 16: Simulation

Nov 18: Simulation

Week 13

No School; Thanksgiving Break

Contemporary Issues

Week 14

Nov 28: Public Opinion

Reading: Chp 12 “ America’s Foreign Policy Toolkit”

Berinsky, A. (2010). Public Opinion and the Iraq War. In B. Norrander & C. Wilcox (Eds.), *Understanding Public Opinion* (pp. 59-82). Washington, DC: CQ Press

Nov 30: Public Opinion & Women

Reading: Zenko, M. (2011, July 14). City of Men, *Foreign Policy*.

Dec 2: Foreign Policy & Women

Watch: Madeline Albright, on Being a Woman and a Diplomat

Week 15

Dec 5: Foreign Policy & Women (cont)

Explore the Let Girls Learn website: <https://letgirlslearn.gov/about/>

Reading: Council of Foreign Relations, "How Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention and Resolution Advances U.S. National Interests."

Dec 7: Catch-up/Review

Dec 9: Catch-up/Review

Week 16

Finals Week