

## The US and World Affairs Fall 2014

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Dr. Zachary Selden  
Anderson 004  
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### Goals

The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the historical context of American foreign policy, ways of thinking about the formulation of foreign policy, the decision-making process and how various players in and out of government affect it, and current issues in global affairs.

### Required Reading

Bruce W. Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, FIFTH EDITION.

As part of the course, students will also be expected to regularly read the international section of either the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* or other major news sources.

### Writing Requirement

Students will select an issue in contemporary American foreign policy and write two short (2-3 double-spaced typed pages) essays based on articles in one or more of the three newspapers listed above. The first paper will describe the issue and its significance to the United States. The second paper will consider the pros and cons of different courses of action available to the United States.

### Class Discussion and Participation

This course is lecture-based, but I get bored listening to myself talk, and I expect that you do as well. We will have several class sessions based on discussion of articles included in the book, as well as some short articles I may provide to you. If you want full credit for participation, be prepared to say something on occasion.

In addition, there will be a crisis simulation in which you will each play the role of a National Security Council member. The scenario will be based on an actual event in American Foreign Policy using some of the original documents. This will take place on OCTOBER 20 AND 22. IF YOU CANNOT BE HERE THOSE DAYS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW WELL IN ADVANCE SO WE CAN MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGMENTS.

## **Academic Integrity**

Incidents of plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with severely. Any incident of cheating on an exam will result in zero credit for that exam. A documented incident of plagiarism will result in a grade of “D” if the plagiarism extends to no more than a few sentences. More extensive plagiarism will result in a grade of “F” for that assignment.

## **Grading**

First paper: 15% (SEPTEMBER 17)  
Second paper: 20% (OCTOBER 31)  
Midterm: 25% (OCTOBER 6)  
Class participation: 10%  
Final Exam: 30%

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## **Week 1 and 2 (August 25-September 5)**

### **Introduction and Theoretical Context**

- Ways of thinking about foreign policy: international system, domestic politics, individual level
- Ways of thinking about American foreign policy across time: Wilson, Jefferson, Jackson, Hamilton
- Defining the national interest
- Grand strategy

### Reading

Jentleson chapter 1 and pages 216-219, 229-233

NO CLASS ON FRIDAY AUGUST 28

## **Week 3 and 4 (September 8-19)**

### **The Historical Context**

- Early years of the republic
- The post-Civil War expansion
- The US emergence as a major power
- WWI
- WWII

### Reading

Jentleson chapter 4 and pages 234-236, 250-257

**FIRST PAPER DUE SEPTEMBER 17**

### **Week 5 and 6 (September 22-October 3)**

#### **The Cold War and its impact on American Foreign Policy**

- Containment
- Deterrence theory
- The division of Europe
- Cuban missile crisis: study of bureaucratic politics
- Korea and Vietnam

#### Reading

Jentleson chapter 5 and pages 253-262 and 267-272

### **MID-TERM EXAM OCTOBER 6**

### **Week 7 and 8 (October 8-17)**

#### **The Domestic Context of Foreign Policy**

- Bureaucratic politics
- The executive branch
- Congress
- Media and public opinion

#### Reading

Jentleson chapter 2 and 3

### **CRISIS SIMULATION OCTOBER 20 AND 22**

### **Week 10 and 11 (October 24- November 7)**

#### **The Post Cold War Era**

- Dealing with the collapse of the Soviet empire
- Economic issues in foreign policy
- Multi-lateral or unilateral?
- When to intervene?
- The Yugoslavia crisis
- September 11<sup>th</sup> and the rise of globalized terror networks.

#### Reading

Jentleson chapter 6 and 7 and pages 279-284

### **SECOND PAPER DUE OCTOBER 31**

### **Week 12-13 (November 10-21)**

#### **Globalization and its Challenges**

- Iraq and Afghanistan
- Globalization
- Democratization

Reading

Jentleson chapter 8 and pages 611-617

THANKSGIVING BREAK NOVEMBER 26-30

**Week 14-15 (December 1-10)**

**Current and Future Challenges**

- Proliferation
- Failed states
- Rise of new powers
- The maintenance of American hegemony?

Reading

Jentleson chapter 10 and 12 and 596-597, 601-602

Barry Posen “[Pull Back: the case for a less activist foreign policy](#),” Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb. 2013

Stephen Brooks, et al., “[Lean Forward](#),” Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb. 2013

**IN CLASS FINAL EXAM ON DECEMBER 17 AT 3:00pm.**