Course Description

This course provides a survey of the content and formulation of American foreign policy with an emphasis on the period after World War II. It considers the sources of American foreign policy including the international system, societal factors, government processes, and individual decision makers. The course begins with a consideration of major trends in U.S. foreign policy after World War II. With a historical base established, the major institutions and actors in American foreign policy are considered. The course concludes with an examination of the challenges and opportunities that face U.S. decision makers in the current context. It is assumed that students have a basic understanding of the American system of government.

Students are strongly encouraged to stay current with foreign policy developments through reading one of the major newspapers (e.g., New York Times or Washington Post) in either the paper or on-line version.

Course Grading

Grading Policies: For specifics on my grading standards and numerical thresholds for various grades, see my website under the “Courses and Grading” link.

Please note: I do not “round” the numerical scores. A numerical score must at least reach the minimum threshold of a grade to receive that grade (e.g., 89.99 is a B+ while 90 is an A-).

Grades will be based on: (1) a take-home final (35%), (2) a take-home midterm (30%), and (3) participation (35%).

Class periods will be devoted to a mixture of lecture and discussion. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the day's assigned reading.

Exams

Midterm: The take-home midterm will be comprised essays. The exam is open book and open note, but you may not give or receive aid from any other person. The midterm will be posted on the Moodle (an announcement will be sent). It is due as indicated on the class schedule. Turn in your completed midterm at any point before the deadline in the appropriate section of the Moodle.
You do not need to footnote anything. No references to material from outside the course are expected.

Excused (no penalty) late exams will be allowed only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies. No unpenalized extensions will be granted due to the pressures of academic life (such as work due in other classes) so plan accordingly.

Unexcused late exams will be penalized 1/3 of a full letter grade (e.g., B+ to B) for each day it is late (every full 24 hours from the due time is a one grade step). Please inform me immediately through e-mail that your exam will be late under this provision. No unexcused late exams will be accepted after 7 days.

**Final:** There will be an essay-format, take-home final. The expectations are the same as described for the midterm. The final will be due at the end of the final exam window for this course time. Turn in your final on Moodle. Excused and unexcused rules apply as outlined for the midterm.

**Participation**

Participation will be evaluated based upon the student's contribution to discussion, responsiveness to other students, and quality of insight. Class attendance is a basic requirement of the participation grade. You will receive two participation grades: one for the first half of the semester (classes 2-13) and one for the second half of the semester (classes 14-25). These two grades will be averaged to yield the final participation grade.

**Readings**

The following books are required reading:

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, rev. edition (also available through the Moodle electronically)


The books are on reserve at Olin Library. A number of other readings are available directly from the course Moodle as indicated on the syllabus.

The following item is available for purchase (in paper or pdf format) directly from the Kennedy School of Government at http://www.ksgcase.harvard.edu/. Make sure you purchase the 28 page case study (listed as a “case” for type).

*Case 271.0 Richard Neustadt, “Americanizing the Vietnam War”*

The following items are available for purchase (in paper or pdf format) directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy:

*ISD Case 334 “The Cuban Missile Crisis”*
To order the cases, go to the ISD website: http://www.guisd.org/. Please note that these items are non-returnable.

**Students with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html.
CLASS SCHEDULE

I. Introduction

1. September 5  Introduction: Overview of Course

II. Decisions and Decision Makers

2. September 7  A U.S. Foreign Policy Legacy? -- Isolationism and Internationalism

   Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 3-23 (Moodle)

3. September 12  Models of American Foreign Policy Making: International and Societal Forces

   Ole R. Holsti, “Theories of International Relations,” Making American Foreign Policy, pp. 313-343 (Moodle)
   Eugene Wittkopf and Christopher Jones, “Pattern and Process in American Foreign Policy: An Analytical Perspective” American Foreign Policy, pp. 17-26 (Moodle)

4. September 14  Models of American Foreign Policy Making: Individual Level

   Ole R. Holsti, “Cognitive Process Approaches to Decision-Making: Foreign Policy Actors Viewed Psychologically” Making American Foreign Policy, pp. 33-54

5. September 19  The Origins of the Cold War

   Gaddis, Strategies of Containment, pp. 24-124 (Moodle)

   Recommended:

   X Article/George Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” Foreign Affairs 65 (Spring 1987):852-68. (Moodle)
   NSC-68. (Moodle) Skim in comparison to the X article.
   Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 125-234 (Moodle)
6. September 21  Case Discussion: The Cuban Missile Crisis

ISD Case 334 “The Cuban Missile Crisis”

7. September 26  Case Discussion: Vietnam

Americanizing the Vietnam War by Richard Neustadt–this case will be the basis for discussion.
Bruce Kuklick, Blind Oracles, 2006, pp. 206-220 (Moodle)
Gordon Goldstein, Lessons in Disaster, pp. 144-185 (Moodle)
Selections from McNamara, In Retrospect (Moodle)
Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 235-271 (Moodle)

Note: Read rest of Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 271-391 (Moodle) over the next couple of weeks for background.

III. Institutions

8. September 28  The Presidency and the Constitution

Larry George, “Democratic Theory and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy” (Moodle)
Mead, “The Carter Syndrome” (Hastedt reader #21)
Miller Center, “National War Powers Commission Report” (Hastedt reader #22)
Slaughter & Rabkin, “Law, Liberty, and War” (Hastedt reader #28)

9. October 3  Congress

Harold Hongju Koh, “Why the President Almost Always Wins in Foreign Affairs” (Moodle)
James M. Lindsay, “From Deference to Activism and Back Again: Congress and the Politics of American Foreign Policy” (Moodle)
Howell and Pevehouse, “When Congress Stops Wars,” (Hastedt Reader #27)
10. October 5  Case Discussion: The 2003 Iraq War


Midterm posted by end of day Friday, October 7

11. October 10  Public Opinion, Interest Groups, and Elections

Foyle, “Vox Populi as a Foundation for Foreign Policy Renewal? Unity and Division in Post-Bush Administration Public Opinion,” (Moodle)
Roberts, “The War We Deserve” (Hastedt reader, #18)
Huliaras, “The Evangelical Roots of U.S. Africa Policy,” (Hastedt reader #19)
Martin, “Waiting Games,” (Hastedt reader #20)

12. October 12  Case Discussion: Dubai Ports Crisis

Foyle, “Anatomy of a Crash: Port Security and the 2006 Dubai Ports World Controversy” (Moodle)

13. October 17  Bureaucratic Politics

Stephen Krasner, “Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison in Wonderland)” Foreign Policy (Summer 1972): 159-79. (Moodle)
IV. Actors and Issues

14. October 19  
Foreign Policy Actors: The State Department, National Security Adviser, Homeland Security, and the Intelligence Community

Charles Parker and Eric Stern “Bolt from Blue or Avoidable Failure?”  
Foreign Policy Analysis November 2005 (Moodle)
Ivo H. Daalder and I.M. Destler, “How National Security Advisers See Their Role” (Moodle)
Light, “The Homeland Security Hash” (Hastedt reader #23)
Kerbel, “Lost for Words” (Hastedt reader #25)
Atwood, McPherson, Natsios, “Arrested Development,” (Hastedt reader #26)
Luce & Dombey, “US Foreign Policy: Waiting on a Sun King,”  
Financial Times (Moodle)
Lois Romano, “Hillaryland Goes State” Washington Post, March 11, 2010 (Moodle)

Friday, October 21 Midterm Due (on Moodle) at noon (covers classes 1-13)

15. October 26  
Foreign Policy Actors: The Military

Kohn, “Coming Soon” (Hastedt reader #24)

16. October 31  
Economics – American Ideas and Foreign Economic Policy Making

Mead, “America’s Sticky Power” (Hastedt reader #31)
Leverett & Noel, “The New Axis of Oil,” (Hastedt reader #32)

17. November 2  
Economics – The Financial Crisis, Government Debt, and Foreign Policy

Paul Krugman, “How the Other Half Thinks,”  
http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/10/02/how-the-other-half-thinks/
Justin Wolfer, “Krugman vs. Ferguson: Letting the Data Speak,” (click on imbedded links too)  
Stephen M. Walt, “Indispensable or Insolvent” at  
http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/06/21/indispensable_or_insolvent
Roubini, “The Coming Financial Pandemic” (Hastedt reader #33)
V. The Future of American Foreign Policy

18. November 7  Goals and Interests

Brzezinski, “From Hope to Audacity” (Hastedt reader #1)
Gelb, “The World Still Needs a Leader,” (Hastedt reader #2)
Dueck, “Hegemony on the Cheap” (Hastedt reader #3)
Wallerstein, “The Eagle Has Crash Landed” (Hastedt reader #4)
Kurth, “Pillars of the Next American Century,” (Hastedt #5)

19. November 9  American Grand Strategy

McDougall, “Can the U.S. Do Grand Strategy”  FPRI  April 2010 (Moodle)
Kupchan and Trubowitz, “Grand Strategy for a Divided America,” (Hastedt reader #6)
Kupchan, “Enemies Into Friends” (Hastedt reader #7)
Lieven and Hulsman, “Neo-Conservatives, Liberal Hawks, and the War on Terror,” (Hastedt reader #29)


Ramberg, “Preemption Paradox” (Hastedt reader #37)
Metz, “New Challenges and Old Concepts” (Hastedt reader #38)
Allison, “Nuclear Disorder” (Hastedt reader #39)
Ikle, “Nuclear Abolition” (Hastedt reader #40)
Lindley & Clemency “Low-Cost Nuclear Arms Races,” (Hastedt reader #41)

21. November 16  Defense Policy

Arquilla “The New Rules of War,” (Hastedt reader #35)
Hitchens, “Space Wars,” (Hastedt reader #36)
McFate, “U.S. Africa Command” (Hastedt reader #16)
Clark & Levin, “Securing the Information Highway,” (Hastedt reader, #30)

22. November 21  Great Power Relations

Fedorov, “Will Moscow Help with Trouble Spots?” (Hastedt reader #8)
Goldman, “Russia and the West,” (Hastedt reader #9)
Pollack, “Emerging Strategic Dilemmas in U.S.- Chinese Relations,” (Hastedt reader #10)
Layne, “China’s Challenge to U.S. Hegemony” (Hastedt reader #11)
23. November 28  Case Discussion: Global Economics

Thomas D. Lairson, “The Global Financial Crisis: Governments, Banks, and Markets” (Moodle)

24. November 30  Iraq and Afghanistan

Woodward, Obama’s Wars, selections (Moodle)
Kagan, “How We’ll Know When We’ve Won” (Hastedt reader #43)
Biddle, “Is it Worth It?” (Hastedt reader #44)
Daxner, “Afghanistan: Graveyard of Good Intent” (Hastedt reader #445)
Rid, “Cracks in the Jihad,” (Hastedt reader #46)
Edelstein, “Exit Lessons,” (Hastedt reader #47)

25. December 5  A World of Snakes: Additional Foreign Policy Challenges

DNI Threat Assessment, 2010 (Moodle)
Shen, “Can Sanctions Stop Proliferation?” (Hastedt reader #34)
Sigal, “Let’s Make a Deal” (Hastedt reader #12)
Erikson, “Requiem for the Monroe Doctrine” (Hastedt reader #13)
Gerecht, “Mirror Imaging the Mullahs” (Hastedt reader #14)
Lindsay & Takeyh, “After Iran Gets the Bomb,” (Hastedt reader #15)
Etzioni, “Bottom-Up Nation Building” (Hastedt reader #17)
Munson, “Lifting the Veil” (Hastedt reader #42)

VI. Conclusions

26. December 7  Why does the U.S. do what it does?

Final due at the end of the final exam window for this course’s date and time. See Registrar Schedule.