

# Course Syllabus

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## Poli 9440 US Foreign Policy Analysis

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### General Description and General Course Objectives

This course intends to introduce graduate students to different approaches to explaining US foreign policy. Though the empirical material pertains mostly to the post World War II era, the main analytical ideas are intended to apply to a longer period, and are often applicable to nations other than the United States. Throughout, the emphasis will be on explaining and understanding policy choices. This does not imply an indifference to evaluating those choices, but just as a jury hears the facts of a case before rendering a verdict, so too will we concentrate on description and analysis before proceeding to prescription. Although we will seek throughout the course to tie theory to historical events, this is not a course on US diplomatic history. It does not pretend to be comprehensive in its treatment even of the post-1945 world, though you get a brief survey of them.

### Course Materials

The following books are assigned heavily or in their entirety:

- John P. Burke and Fred I. Greenstein, *How Presidents Test Reality*
- John Diamond, *The CIA and the Culture of Failure*
- David Sylvan and Stephen Majeski, *U.S. Foreign Policy in Perspective*
- Stephen Ambrose, *Rise to globalism: American foreign policy since 1938*
- Graham Allison and Philip Zelikow, *Essence of a Decision*
- Alexander George, *Presidential Decisionmaking in foreign policy: The effective use of information and advice*
- Irving Janis, *Victims of Groupthink: A Psychological Study of Foreign Policy Decisions and Fiascoes*
- Thomas Knecht, *Paying Attention to Foreign Affairs: How Public Opinion Affects Presidential Decision Making*
- Walter McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State: The American Encounter with the World Since 1776*

The course will also make extensive use of online sources and material on the course Canvas website.

## Assignments and Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on the following assessments:

Participation during class discussion: 15%

Final Term Paper or Mock-Comprehensive Exam: 50%

Three reaction papers: 35%

## Course Policies

Each reading appears in the syllabus on the day when we will discuss it. In order for this design to work well, students must come to class having completed the reading and having thought about it beforehand. Please come to class prepared. Each graduate student will help to plan and lead the class discussion on three weeks during the semester. These should be the weeks you also write a reaction paper.

If you need to make an appointment to discuss the course, your performance, or your research projects, please send me an email. If you send me an email and I don't answer as quickly as you think I should, send me a follow-up. I try to answer every email within 24 hours of receipt, but on days when I am quite busy, or when I receive 50-60 emails per day, I may not be able to reply as quickly as that. I don't regard it as rude of you to re-send an email if you believe I might have overlooked the first one.

I often make minor changes in the syllabus once the semester has begun. If you make a habit of not attending class, you may find that the syllabus has been changed in your absence, and readings and assignments have shifted. I also follow a fairly traditional grading scale: 94% and above A, 90-93% A-, 87-89% B+, 84-86% B, 80-83% B-, 77-79% C+, 74-76% C, 70-73% C-. If I have to give a grade below an A-, there's a problem.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC/ QUESTIONS	READING FOR CLASS
W, 01/20	Introduction to course	
<b>Historical Overview of USFP</b>		
W, 01/27	Important themes in USFP	McDougal
W	Liberalism and	<del>McDougal (The Mission of American Foreign Policy: The National Interest, Moral Abstraction, American Politics)</del>

W, Liberalism and H.J.Morgenthau, *The Main Springs of American Foreign Policy: The National Interest vs Moral Abstractions*, *American Foreign*

02/03 Realism in *Science Review* XLIV (1950).

USFP

H.W.Brands, *What America owes the world : the struggle for the soul of foreign policy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press pp.144-181.

J.W. Nobel, Morgenthau's struggle with power: the theory of power politics and the Cold War, *Review of international studies.*, 1995, Vol.21, No.1, pp.61- 86

John Mearsheimer 'Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq war: realism versus neo-conservatism' (2005) at [https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/morgenthau\\_2522jsp/](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/morgenthau_2522jsp/)

W, An overview of Ambrose, Chs 1-10

02/10 key events

### The President and their advisors

W, Rational Actor Allison and Zelikow

2/17 vs

Organizational  
Behavior vs.  
Governmental  
Politics

W, Multiple Alexander George, Chs

02/24 Advocacy

Systems

W, Group Think Herek, G. M., Janis, I. L., & Huth, P. (1987). Decision making during international crises: is quality of process related to outcome?. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 31(2), 203-226.

03/03

## Janis Chs 1-6 &amp; 8

W, Presidential Burke & Greenstein  
03/10 Qualifications  
and  
Personality

### Client states, bureaucratic politics & the foreign policy "machine": Cybernetics

W, The generation Sylvan & Majeski  
03/17 of stable,  
routine policy

### Public opinion and US foreign policy

W, Public Opinion Thomas Knecht, Chs 1-3  
03/31

Holsti, O. R. (1992). Public opinion and foreign policy: Challenges to the Almond-Lippmann consensus. *International studies quarterly*, 36(4), 439-466.

Petersen, K. K. (2009). Revisiting Downs' issue-attention cycle: international terrorism and US public opinion. *Journal of strate security*, 2(4), 1-16.

W, Interest  
04/07 Groups

Newhouse, John. "[Diplomacy, Inc.: The Influence of Lobbies on U.S. Foreign Policy](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2009-05-01/diplomacy-inc)"

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2009-05-01/diplomacy-inc>." *Foreign Affairs*, May / June 2009.

"The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy," by professors John J. Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago and Stephen M. W

"The Israeli Lobby." *Journal of Palestine studies*. <https://leeds.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

<https://leeds.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

(2006) 35(3): 83-114.

'The War over Israel's Influence', *Foreign policy*. [https://leeds.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?query=any,contains,991019424332905181&tab=AlmostEverything&search\\_scope=My\\_Inst\\_CI\\_not\\_ebsco&vid=44LEE\\_INST:VU1&...](https://leeds.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?query=any,contains,991019424332905181&tab=AlmostEverything&search_scope=My_Inst_CI_not_ebsco&vid=44LEE_INST:VU1&...) July/August 2006.

John W. Dietrich 'Interest Groups and Foreign Policy: Clinton and the China MFN Debates', *Presidential studies quarterly*. [https://leeds.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?query=any,contains,991019458518305181&tab=AlmostEverything&search\\_scope=My\\_Inst\\_CI\\_not\\_ebsco&vid=44LEE\\_INST:VU1&...](https://leeds.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?query=any,contains,991019458518305181&tab=AlmostEverything&search_scope=My_Inst_CI_not_ebsco&vid=44LEE_INST:VU1&...) 29, no. 2 June 1999.

Watch

[John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt - The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzXS3tmZrcU) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzXS3tmZrcU>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzXS3tmZrcU>

W, The Media  
04/14

Bennett, W. L., Lawrence, R. G., & Livingston, S. (2006). None dare call it torture: Indexing and the limits of press independence the Abu Ghraib scandal. *Journal of communication*, 56(3), 467-485.

Bennett, W. L. (1990). Toward a Theory of Press-State. *Journal of communication*, 103-127.

Entman, R. M. (2003). Cascading activation: Contesting the White House's frame after 9/11. *Political Communication*, 20(4), 4

Jacobs, L. R., & Page, B. I. (2005). Who influences US foreign policy? *American political science review*, 107-123.

## Congress, the President, and the Use of Force

- W, Congressional-Howell, W. G., & Pevehouse, J. C. (2005). Presidents, Congress, and the use of force. *International Organization*, 209-232.
- 04/21 executive interaction over use of force
- Foster, D. M. (2006). An "invitation to struggle"? The use of force against "legislatively vulnerable" American presidents. *International Studies Quarterly*, 50(2), 421-444.
- Tama, J. (2020). Forcing the President's Hand: How the US Congress Shapes Foreign Policy through Sanctions Legislation. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 16(3), 397-416.

## Intelligence and national security

- W, The CIA Diamond
- 04/28

## USFP Going Forward

- W, 21<sup>st</sup> century grand strategy
- 05/06
- Posen, Barry. *Restraint: A New Foundation for U.S. Grand Strategy*. Cornell University Press, 2015.
- Kahl, Colin, and Hal Brands. "Trump's Grand Strategic Train Wreck: Believe It or Not, the President has a Grand Strategy. But Nightmarish Mess." *Foreign Policy*, January 31, 2017.
- Ikenberry, G. John. "Liberal internationalism 3.0: America and the dilemmas of liberal world order." *Perspectives on politics*. 7.0 (2009): 71-87.

**Final Papers Due: TBD**



## Course Summary:

**Date**

**Details**

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