

Recent Announcements

2020SP POL_SC 4540 Ba (01) American Foreign Policies

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)

Poli 4540 US Foreign Policies

Room: Middlebush 211

Times: MWF, 12-12:50pm

Professor: Dr. Heather Ba

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Office: Professional Building 302

Office hours: Wednesday 2 – 5 p.m., no appointment needed; other times by appointment (See below, “Course policies”)

Teaching Assistant: Julia Jung

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Office: Professional Building 22

Office hours: TBA

General Description and General Course Objectives

This course intends to introduce students to different approaches to explaining US foreign policy. Though the empirical material pertains almost exclusively 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, especially in the first half of the course.

Course Materials

The following books are on sale in the Mizzou student book store:

- 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*
- Ambrose, Stephen E. *Rise to globalism: American foreign policy since 1938*

Additionally, please make sure you register for the Reef/iClicker application that you can use. The course will also make extensive use of online sources and material on the course Sakai website.

Assignments and Grading

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

Participation during lecture: 10%

Final Exam: 35%

Ten Semi-Weekly Quizzes: 40%

Three Small Group Exercises: 15%

Course Policies

Each reading appears in the syllabus on the day when we will discuss it. If I think that the reading is complex, or if I have particular objectives I want to reach via a discussion session, I may hand out or post study questions to guide you in your reading, but I will not often do so. If I use slides during the class, I usually place these on the course website on Canvas around the time of the class.

I will generally lecture on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Fridays, the TA will conduct class and students will either take & review a quiz or complete a small group discussion, writing, or presentation exercise. In order for this design to work well, students must come to class having completed the reading and having thought about it beforehand. Avoid embarrassment by coming to class prepared. If any aspect of the course or the material is difficult to understand, I encourage you to discuss the matter with me at your earliest opportunity. Generally, it is best to do this well in advance of tests and other deadlines. Because I cannot possibly accommodate all possible student schedules in my "open door" office hours, I encourage you to schedule a consultation with me for a specific time. Meeting with you takes precedence over my research and most other professorial activities. I am most easily reached by e-mail, but do not hesitate to call or knock on my office door. The worst that can happen to you is that I will tell you to see me at a later time. If you send me an email and I don't answer as quickly as you think I should, just pick up the phone and call me. 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-. Let's hope I don't need to use a grade lower than C-.

DAILY SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING FOR CLASS
W, 01/22	Introduction to course	
American Primacy in the Post-WWII Era		
F, 01/24	WWII – Cold War	Ambrose, Chs 1-4
M, 01/27	The Cold War, Domino Theory and Containment	Ambrose, Chs 5-6
W, 01/29	Korean War	Ambrose, Chs 7-8
F, 01/31	Quiz #1	
M, 02/03	Other Pre-Vietnam Fronts in the Cold War	Ambrose Chs 9-10
Presidential Decision-Making and Foreign Policy: Vietnam		
W, 02/05	Vietnam -- intervention in 1954	Burke & Greenstein, Chapters 1-3
F, 02/07	Small Group Assignment	Eisenhower Report Card
M, 2/10	Vietnam: 1954 & 1965 intervention decisions compared	Burke & Greenstein, Chs 4-6
W, 2/12	B&G on Lyndon Johnson's decision-making	Burke & Greenstein, Chs 7-9
F, 2/14	Quiz #2	
M, 02/17	Assessing Presidential decision-making on basis of Vietnam decisions	Burke & Greenstein, Chs 10-12

Client states, bureaucratic politics & the foreign policy “machine”

W, 02/19 The generation of stable, routine policy Sylvan & Majeski, Chs 1, 4

F, 02/21 Quiz #3

M, 02/24 An empire of client states Sylvan & Majeski, ch 2

W, 02/26 Acquiring client states Sylvan & Majeski, ch 3

F, 02/28 Quiz #4

M, 03/02 Maintaining client states Sylvan & Majeski, ch 5

W, 03/04 Dealing with adversaries Sylvan & Majeski, ch 6

F, 03/06 Small Group Assignment Client State Profile

M, 03/09 The persistence of the system Sylvan & Majeski, ch 7

Public Opinion and US Foreign Policy

W, 03/11 How public opinion shapes US Foreign Policy Part I Hook Chapters Posted on Canvas

F, 03/13 How public opinion shapes US Foreign Policy Part II Hook Chapters Posted on Canvas

M, 03/16 The "indexing" theory of political news in the USA
Bennett, Coverage of Abu Graibh
Bennett, Press-state relations

W, 03/18 Quiz #5

F, 03/20 -3/29 No Class – Happy Spring Break !!!

Congress, the President, and the Use of Force

M, 03/30 Congressional-executive Howell and Pevehouse (2005)

interaction over use of force

W, 04/01 Divided government, diversion, and
"strategic avoidance" of conflict Foster (2006)

F, 04/03 Quiz #6

Intelligence, covert operations, and national security

M, 04/06 Introduction: The politics of intelligence Diamond, Introduction, pp. 374-393

W, 04/08 The end of the Cold War Diamond, 17-45; 60-76

F, 04/10 Quiz #7

M, 04/13 "Rogue" states and WMDs Diamond, 248-288

W, 04/15 Intelligence and the 2003 Iraq war Diamond, 393-425

F, 04/17 Quiz #8 & Small Group Assignment Memo to Trump

M, 04/20 Intelligence and the Persian Gulf War I Diamond, 107-140

W, 04/22 Intelligence and the Persian Gulf War II Diamond, 141-188

F, 04/24 Quiz # 9 & Small Group Assignment Memo to Trump

Foreign Economic Policy

M, 04/27 Trade politics -- NAFTA, part I Mayer, chapters

W, 04/29 Financial Liberalization

F, 05/01 Economic Sanctions Drury, chapters

M, 05/04

Quiz #10

W, 05/06

Review

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 13, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Course Summary:

Date

Details
