

PS271:US Foreign Policy

Seminar Leader: Aaron Allen
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This multidisciplinary course explores the structural evolution of the United States' role in the world and the institutions shaping elite policy-making. Through an interactive approach, students will be able to contextualize contemporary American foreign policy challenges from their geographic, material, and ideational roots. Furthermore, course activities and assignments are tailored to assist students in becoming foreign policy practitioners fully capable of applying national security decision theories. The curriculum threads together historical cases, international relations scholarship, and security studies in order to provide a holistic understanding of all the constituent parts influencing America's external posture. How did a nation once known for its relatively isolationist disposition become a global superpower and key enforcer of the liberal international order? What are the unique attributes of American-style foreign policy that have remained consistent across presidential administrations since the end of World War II? A critical appraisal of topics such as hard and soft power, alliances, globalization and multilateralism, bureaucratic politics, and the rise of the military industrial complex offers students the necessary tools to answer these core questions. The complementary emphasis on professional development will allow participants to garner practical skills through simulations, seminar debates, and presentations.

Requirements

Readings:

1. Course readings will be available online.
2. Halperin, Morton H., Priscilla Clapp, and Arnold Kanter. 1974. *Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy*. 2nd Edition. Brookings Institution Press. (978-0815734093)
3. Nye, Joseph. 2005. *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*. Public Affairs. (978-1586483067)

Suggested Readings for Current Affairs Update:

The Economist
Time
The Atlantic
Forbes
The New Yorker
Fortune
The Wall Street Journal
New York Times
Washington Post
Financial Times

Los Angeles Times
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
BBC News
World Politics Review
Diplomatic Courier
Politico
Christian Science Monitor
Deutsche Welle

Class Preparation:

For each class, please read the assigned texts thoroughly and come prepared to discuss:

- The main arguments put forth by the author(s);
- The role of individual actors, domestic considerations, and other similar factors needed to comprehend evolving trends in U.S. foreign policy;
- And how each reading relates to the larger themes of bureaucratic politics, elite decision-making, and contemporary challenges.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Please know that there will be a sign-in sheet for each session. Up to two absences will not affect one's grade or require documentation. Every additional absence without approved leave will result in the subtraction of one point from the overall final grade. If you need a Leave of Absence, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to make the appropriate arrangements.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credits for any course if a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. Students facing a long-term, serious medical or personal emergency (generally lasting more than two weeks) may request a Leave of Absence, to be approved by the Dean, Associate Dean, Head of Student Life, or Director of Academic Services. The 30% rule applies even in these cases. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook in Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2022: Please contact the instructor if you will require remote participation due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic or if you are feeling ill.

Academic Integrity:

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Assignments, Grade Breakdowns and Deadlines:

Written:

Policy Recommendation Memo

40%

Students are required to write a policy memo to the current U.S. President that recommends a proscribed action on a matter of national security. This written assignment must be narrowly tailored, well organized and have a clear and concise style. The memo must include an introduction, background information, policy options with analysis, and a final recommendation. More detailed information will be provided in class.

Memo Length and Formatting Requirements: word length between 5000- 6000 words, single-spaced, 1-inch margins, and Chicago style endnotes.

- Topic: Send an email to the instructor with 2-3 sentences describing your topic for approval. **Due September 4, 2022 at 12:00 CEST.**
- First Draft: Send the instructor the first draft of your memo via email. **Due September 30, 2022 at 17:00 CEST.**
- Second Draft w/ Group Review: After revising your first draft, you will be placed into a small group for a peer review. **Your second draft will be due to your peers by October 12th, 2022 at 12:00 CEST.**
- Third Draft: Send the instructor your third draft of your memo via email. **Due November 4, 2022 at 17:00 CEST.**
- Final Draft: Turn in a hard copy of your policy memo on the last day of class (**December 8, 2022**).

Policy on Late Submission of Papers:

Papers that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). The instructor will not accept any papers that are more than 24 hours late.

Oral:

Class Participation	30%
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This seminar involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussions, reflections on current affairs, and working groups. The classroom is a protected space and you should feel free to voice your arguments and comments. Your class participation grade will be based on: (1) engagement in course discussions; (2) current affairs updates; (3) simulations; (4) debates; (5) and working groups.

Group Presentation	10%
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Each student will be placed in a group that will be assigned a topic on a U.S. response to an international challenge. Your group must prepare a 30-40 minute presentation exploring the different facets influencing U.S. foreign policy decision making on your topic. After the presentation, your group will facilitate a class discussion for the remainder of the session. More detailed information will be provided in class.

Exams:

Midterm Exam	10%
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Students will take an in-class midterm exam on October 13, 2022. More detailed information will be provided in class

Final Exam	10%
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A capstone simulation will take place during completion week on December 15, 2021 (normal session time and location). More detailed information will be provided in class.

Schedule

Week/ Beginning	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 August 29	<p>Course Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States Constitution • Tocqueville, “Conduct of Foreign Affairs by the American Democracy” • Mead “The Jacksonian Tradition: And American Foreign Policy” 	<p>US Foreign Policy (1777-1945):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slaughter, “International Relations, Principal Theories” • Kissinger, • Kaufman, “A Concise History of U.S. Foreign Policy, Chapters 2 & 3” • Congressional Research Services, “Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad”
Week 2 September 5	<p>The Cold War:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennan, “The Source of Soviet Conduct” • Stuart, “Constructing the Iron Cage: The 1947 National Security Act” • Haass, “The World: A Brief Introduction, Cold War Chapter” 	<p>International Economic Statecraft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollard, “Economic Security and the Origins of the Cold War: Bretton Woods, the Marshall Plan and American Rearmament (1944–50)” • NSC 68: “United States Objectives and Programs for National Security (Economics Sections)” • Sayson, “Structural Adjustment Programs: Whose Colonizing Instrument?”

Week 3
September 12

Bureaucratic Politics Pt. I:

- Halperin, Clapp, and Kanter, “Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy” (pp. 1- 118)

Bureaucratic Politics Pt. II:

- Halperin, Clapp, and Kanter, “Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy” (pp. 119- 240)

Week 4
September 19

Bureaucratic Politics Pt. III:

- Halperin, Clapp, and Kanter, “Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy” (pp. 243- 363)
- Renshon and Renshon, “The Theory and Practice of Foreign Policy Decision Making”

Critical Analysis:

- Holyoke, “Interest Groups and Lobbying: Pursuing Political Interests in America”
- Dunlap, “The Military-Industrial Complex”
- Chomsky and Herman, “Manufacturing Consent, Chapter 1”
- Watch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTBWfkE7BXU&t=1s>

Week 5
September 26

Case Study-The Korean War:

- Hybel, “Harry Truman and the Decision to Intervene in the Korean War”
- Casey, “White House Publicity Operations during the Korean War, June 1950-June 1950”

Nuclear Policy & Arms Control:

- Nichols, “Nuclear Strategy, 1950–1990: The Search for Meaning”
- Brands, “Progress Unseen: U.S. Arms Control Policy and the Origins of Détente, 1963–1968”
- Congressional Research Services, “Arms Control and Nonproliferation: A Catalog of Treaties and Agreements”

Week 6
October 3

**Presentation I
The Cuban Missile Crisis:**

- Watch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZcRqkObP2U>

Soft Power:

- Nye, “Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics”

Week 7
October 10

**Presentation II
The Vietnam War:**

- Watch:
<https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-vietnam-war/>

****Midterm Exam****

Week 8
October 17

**Simulation- Congressional
Committee Legislation Markup**

- Demarest, “Resourcing the National Security Enterprise: Connecting the Ends and Means of US National Security, Chapter 3”
- Griffin and Waxman, “War Powers: Congress, the President, and the Courts”

Intelligence and Covert Action:

- Kennedy, “Of Knowledge and Power: The Complexities of National Intelligence”
- Harvard Kennedy School of Government Case Program, “Politics of a Covert Action: The US, the Mujahideen, and the Stinger Missile”

October 24-30

*******Fall Break*******

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Week 9
October 31

**Simulation- National Security
Council**

- Galui, “Resourcing the National Security Enterprise: Connecting the Ends and Means of US National Security, Chapter 4”
- Congressional Research Services, “The National Security Council”
- Watch:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt9_14Im7CE

Case Study- The First Gulf War:

- Brands, “George Bush and the Gulf War of 1991”
- Jones, “America, Oil, and War in the Middle East”
- Watch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vbFGn1QhVs>

**Week 10
November 7**

Great Debate: NATO Expansion:

- Goldgeier, “NATO Expansion: The Anatomy of a Decision”
- Albright, “Why Bigger is Better”
- NATO, “Russia's Accusations - Setting the Record Straight”
- Mearsheimer, “Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault: The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin”
- Friedman, “Now a Word From X”

Globalization:

- Haass, “The World: A Brief Introduction, Globalization and Liberal World Order Chapters”
- Brzezinski, “Second Chance: Three Presidents and the Crisis of American Superpower, Chapter 4”

**Week 11
November 14**

**Presentation III-
Interventions in the Former
Yugoslavia**

- Harvard Kennedy School of Government Case Program, “Getting to Dayton: Negotiating an End to the War in Bosnia”

9/11 & Global War on Terrorism:

- Singh, “The Bush Doctrine”
- Johnson, “Blowback”
- Gordon, “Can the War on Terror Be Won?”
- Watch: Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror (All 5 Episodes). On Netflix

**Week 12
November 21**

**Presentation IV-
War in Iraq:**

- Watch:

Buying the War :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KzYL6e3sV0>

Part 1:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-bushs-war-part-1/>

Part 2:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-bushs-war-part-2/>

**Great Debate: The Role of the US in the
World: Hegemon, Global Primacy or
Imperialist Empire?:**

- Maier, “Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors, Chapter 1”
- King, “When an Empire is not an Empire: The US Case”
- Lake, “The New American Empire?”
- Johnson, “America's Empire of Bases”

**Week 13
November 28**

Emerging Frontiers- The Cyber and Space Domains:

- Haass, “The World: A Brief Introduction, The Internet, Cyberspace and Cybersecurity Chapter”
- Congressional Research Services, “Cybersecurity Issues and Challenges: In Brief”
- US Government, “National Space Policy of the United States of America”

**Week 14
December 5**

Case Study: U.S. Response to Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine:

***** Readings TBD*****

**Completion
Week
December 12-16**

Great Debate - Containing China:

- Tellis, “Balancing without Containment: A U.S. Strategy for Confronting China’s Rise”
- Allison, “China vs. America: Managing the Next Clash of Civilizations”
- US Government, “The United States Strategic Approach to People’s Republic of China Report”
- Fravel, Roy, Swaine, Thornton, and Vogel, “China is not an enemy”
- Council on Foreign Relations, [“Timeline of US-Chinese Relations since 1949”](#)
- Watch: [China: Power and Prosperity](#)

Current U.S. National Security Strategy:

***** Readings TBD*****

Final Capstone Simulation