

Dalhousie University
Department of Political Science
American Foreign Policy (POLI 3574)
Fall 2017

Monday and Wednesday, 10:05am-11:25, Henry Hicks Building 217

Instructor: Dr. Steven Seligman
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00pm-2:30 (or by appointment)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an advanced introduction to the study of American foreign policy. The first section of the course covers major theoretical frameworks in the theory and practice of American foreign policy. We examine major theories in International Relations, American exceptionalism, isolationism, internationalism and neoconservatism. The second section of the course provides a brief, general overview of the history of American foreign policy from 1776 to the end of the 20th century. The third section examines the key institutions, actors and processes that shape American foreign policy. We examine the President, Congress, the Judiciary, the National Security Council, the Department of State, the Department of Defence, the role of military power and soft power, and the domestic sources of American foreign policy. The fourth section of the course uses a variety of case studies to examine American foreign policy toward specific thematic issues, and toward specific countries and regions of the world. We examine foreign economic and trade policy, human rights and foreign aid, and the environment. We also examine American foreign policy toward Canada, Europe, Russia, China and Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa.

REQUIRED BOOK AND READINGS

There is one required book for purchase, which is available at the Dalhousie University Bookstore. Other readings will be made available online by the instructor. The required book is:

Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, eds., *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

- 1) Short Paper (Due in class September 27): 15%
- 2) Mid-Term Exam (Held in class October 18): 25%
- 3) Research Paper (Due in class November 15): 35%

4) Final Exam (Take-home exam due in class December 5): 25%

ASSIGNMENTS

1) **Short Paper.** Students will write a paper of approximately 1,000-1,250 words (4-5 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font) in response to a question provided by the instructor. The question will address material covered during the first section of the course. The purpose of the assignment is to assess the student's understanding of the course material. As such, students should refer to, and cite, **only material covered in the readings and lectures.** The paper is due in class on September 27. It is worth 15% of the course grade. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of 5 percentage points per day. Papers submitted more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

2) **Mid-Term Exam.** The mid-term exam will be held in class on October 18. It is worth 25% of the course grade. The first portion of the mid-term exam will ask students to define and explain the significance of key terms. The second portion will ask students to write a short essay in response to a question. Both portions will give students some choice about which terms and essay questions they wish to answer.

3) **Research Paper.** Students will write a research paper of approximately 2,500 words (8-10 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font) in response to a question provided by the instructor. Students will have some choice among a few questions. The paper is due in class on November 15. It is worth 35% of the course grade. Students must submit a hard copy of the paper to the instructor. Papers cannot be submitted via email. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of 5 percentage points per day. Papers submitted more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

4) **Final Exam.** The final exam will be a take-home exam that is due in class on December 5. It is worth 25% of the course grade. Students will write one essay in response to a question provided by the instructor.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

1) **Academic Regulations.** This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the [University Calendar](#) and the Senate.

2) **University Statements.**

a) **Academic Integrity.** At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and

procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Click [here](#) to read more.

b) Accessibility. The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click [here](#) to read more.

c) Student Code of Conduct. Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. Click [here](#) to read more.

d) Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect. Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Click [here](#) to read more.

e) Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory. Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

f) University Policies and Programs.

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
<https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

g) Learning and Support Resources.

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>

- Student Health Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Aboriginal Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1) **Academic Integrity.** All assignments submitted may be subjected to evaluation by a University approved a computer service that checks assignments for plagiarism. Students are required to retain an electronic copy of all papers in addition to the hard copy submitted to the professor.

2) **Academic Accommodation.** Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

3) **Grade Appeals.** Students who wish to appeal their grade must produce a brief written statement (approximately 250 words) explaining why they feel that the assignment/exam was not graded correctly. Appeals must be made within one week from the date on which the assignment/exam was returned. The appeal process will produce a revised grade that may be raised, unchanged, or lowered. The revised grade is final and cannot be appealed.

4) **Use of Electronic Devices.** Students are not permitted to use any electronic devices during the mid-term exam. Students are asked to turn off their cell phones during lectures. Laptops, tablets and other electronic devices may be used during lectures for note taking, but not for any purpose that, in the judgement of the instructor, is distracting to class (i.e. listening to music, streaming videos, etc).

5) **Email Communication with the Instructor.** Emails to the instructor must be sent from the student's official Dalhousie University Email Account. The instructor will not respond to emails sent from any other account except to inform students of this policy. Grades will not be discussed over Email.

6) **Grade Scale and Definitions.** All course assignments will be graded according to the following grade scale, which was approved by the Dalhousie University Senate in 2014:

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.00	85-89		
A-	3.70	80-84		
B+	3.30	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	3.00	73-76		
B-	2.70	70-72		
C+	2.30	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	2.00	60-64		
C-	1.70	55-59		
D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of "C" or "C+" is required).
FM	0.00		Marginal Failure	Available only for Engineering, Health Professions and Commerce.
F	0.00	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter;

				weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00		Incomplete	
W	Neutral and no credit obtained		Withdrew after deadline	
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained		Compassionate reasons, illness	
P	Neutral		Pass	
TR	Neutral		Transfer credit on admission	
Pending	Neutral		Grade not reported	

WEEKLY READINGS AND TOPICS

September 6 - Introduction

Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, "Introduction: US Foreign Policy—Past, Present, and Future," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 1-4. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

SECTION 1 - THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

September 11 - International Relations Theory and American Foreign Policy

Brian Schmidt, "Theories of US Foreign Policy," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 5-20. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Christina Rowley and Jutta Weldes, "Identities and US Foreign Policy," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 178-194. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Robert Jervis. "President Trump and IR Theory." *H-Diplo Policy Series: American and the World—2017 and Beyond*. 2 January 2017.

September 13 – Ideas and Ideologies

Daniel Deudney and Jeffrey Meiser, "American Exceptionalism," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 21-39. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Andrew Johnstone, "Isolationism and Internationalism in American Foreign Relations," *Journal of Transatlantic Studies* 9 (1) 2011: 7-20.

Rupert Cornwell, "The Big Question: What is neo-conservatism, and how influential is it today?" *The Independent*, 11 September 2006.

SECTION 2 – HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

September 18 – From Thirteen Colonies to Global Superpower, 1776-1945

Walter LaFeber, "The US Rise to World Power, 1776-1945," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 43-58. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Mark T. Gilderhus, "The Monroe Doctrine: Meanings and Implications," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36 (1) 2006: 5-16.

Serge Ricard, "The Roosevelt Corollary," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36 (1) 2006: 17-26.

September 20 – The Cold War, 1945-1991

Richard Saull, "American Foreign Policy during the Cold War," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 59-81. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Dennis Merrill, "The Truman Doctrine: Containing Communism and Modernity," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36 (1) 2006: 27-37.

September 25 – From Cold War to 9/11

John Dumbrell, "America in the 1990s: Searching for Purpose," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 82-96. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment," *Foreign Affairs* 70 (1) 1990/91: 23-33.

SECTION 3 – INSTITUTIONS, ACTORS AND PROCESSES

September 27 - President, Congress and Judiciary

*** Short Paper due in class ***

Michael Foley, "The Foreign-Policy Process: Executive, Congress, Intelligence," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 111-129. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Jack N. Rakove, "Making Foreign Policy—The View from 1787," in *Foreign Policy and the Constitution*, edited by Robert Goldwin and Robert A. Licht, 1-19. Washington: The American Enterprise Institute Press, 1990.

Michael M. Uhlmann, "Reflections on the Role of the Judiciary in Foreign Policy," in *Foreign Policy and the Constitution*, edited by Robert Goldwin and Robert A. Licht, 40-53. Washington: The American Enterprise Institute Press, 1990.

October 2 – National Security Council, Department of State and Department of Defence

Brent Durbin, "Bureaucratic Politics Approach," *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, 11 December 2015.

Vincent A. Auger, "The National Security Council," in *Routledge Handbook of American Foreign Policy*, edited by Steven W. Hook and Christopher M Jones, 165-177. New York: Routledge, 2012.

Jerel Rosati and Scott DeWitt, "The Department of State," in *Routledge Handbook of American Foreign Policy*, edited by Steven W. Hook and Christopher M Jones, 178-192. New York: Routledge, 2012.

Peter J. Dombrowski, "The Department of Defence," in *Routledge Handbook of American Foreign Policy*, edited by Steven W. Hook and Christopher M Jones, 193-202. New York: Routledge, 2012.

October 4 – Military Power and Soft Power

Beth A. Fischer, "Military Power and US Foreign Policy," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 130-143. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Joseph S. Nye Jr., "Obama and Smart Power," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 97-107. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

October 9 – Thanksgiving (No Class)

No readings

October 11 - Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy

Piers Robinson, "Media and US Foreign Policy," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 161-177. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Donald Abelson, *A Capitol Idea: Think Tanks and US Foreign Policy*. Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006, 127-146.

OPTIONAL: Peter Trubowitz, "Regional Shifts and US Foreign Policy," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 144-159. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

October 16 – Mid-Term Exam Review Class (And Research Paper Information Session)

No readings

October 18 – Mid-Term Exam

No readings

SECTION 4 – POLICY ISSUES AND CASE STUDIES

October 23 – Economic and Trade Policy

Peter Gowan and Doug Stokes, “Global Economy,” in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 317-334. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

David P. Fidler. “President Trump, Trade Policy, and American Grand Strategy: From Common Advantage to Collective Carnage.” *Asian Journal of WTO and International Health Law and Policy* 12 (1) 2017: 1-31.

October 25 – Human Rights and Foreign Aid

Andrew Moravcsik, “Why Is US Human Rights Policy So Unilateralist?” in *The Cost of Acting Alone: Multilateralism and US Foreign Policy*, edited by Shepard Forman and Patrick Stewart, 345-376. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001.

Clair Apodaca, “US Human Rights Policy and Foreign Assistance,” *Ritsumeikan International Affairs* 3 (2005): 63-80.

October 30 – The Environment

Robyn Eckersley, “Global Environment,” in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 351-373. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Tuğba Ağaçayak, Sarah Louise Nash and Ümit Şahin. “The Trump Effect on Climate Policy: Hard Times for Global Climate Action.” *Istanbul Policy Centre—Mercator Policy Brief*, April 2017.

November 1 – American Foreign Policy toward Canada

M. Angeles Villarreal and Ian F. Fergusson. “The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).” *Congressional Research Service*, 24 May 2017.

Amelia Hadfield and Rupert Potter. “Trump, Trudeau and NAFTA 2.0: Tweak or Transformation?” *The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* 106 (2) 2017: 213-215.

Robert Summerby-Murray. “Trump, Canada and NAFTA: Trading Protection or Protecting Trade?” *The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* 106 (2) 2017: 217-219.

November 6 and 8 – Reading Week (No Classes)

No readings

November 13 – University Closed in Lieu of Remembrance Day (No Class)

No readings

November 15 – American Foreign Policy toward Europe

*** Research Paper due in class ***

Mike Smith, “The USA and the EU,” in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 219-238. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Joyce P. Kaufman. “The US Perspective on NATO under Trump: Lessons of the Past and Prospects for the Future.” *International Affairs* 93 (2) 2017: 251-266.

November 20 – American Foreign Policy toward Russia

Peter Rutland and Gregory Dubinsky, “US Foreign Policy in Russia,” in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 239-258. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Eugene B. Rumer, Richard Sokolsky and Andrew S. Weiss. “Trump and Russia: The Right Way to Manage Relations,” *Foreign Affairs* March/April 2017.

November 22 - American Foreign Policy toward China and Asia

Michael Cox, “The USA, China, and Rising Asia,” in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 259-276. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Susan Shirk. “Trump and China: Getting to Yes with Beijing.” *Foreign Affairs* March/April 2017.

Rex W. Tillerson and James Mattis. “We’re Holding Pyongyang to Account.” *The Wall Street Journal* 13 August 2017.

November 27 – American Foreign Policy toward the Middle East

Toby Dodge, “US Foreign Policy in the Middle East,” in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 197-218. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Paul Rogers, “Global Terrorism,” in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 335-350. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Marc Lynch. “Belligerent Minimalism: The Trump Administration and the Middle East.” *The Washington Quarterly* 39 (4) 2017: 127-144.

OPTIONAL: F. Gregory Gause, III. "The Trump Administration and the Middle East." *H-Diplo Policy Series: American and the World—2017 and Beyond*. 14 August 2017.

November 29 - American Foreign Policy toward Latin America

James Dunkerley, "US Foreign Policy in Latin America," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 277-296. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Tom Long and Max Paul Friedman. "Trump and Latin America: Asymmetry and the Problem of Influence." *H-Diplo Policy Series: American and the World—2017 and Beyond*. 17 May 2017.

December 4 - American Foreign Policy toward Africa

Robert G. Patman, "US Foreign Policy in Africa," in *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, 297-314. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Witney Schneidman. "Donald Trump and Africa." *Brookings Institution*. 10 November 2016.

Witney Schneidman. "Trump and Africa: Imagining a Positive Legacy." *Brookings Institution*. 24 February 2017.

Witney Scheidman. "Ross Outlines Trump's Commercial Policy toward Africa." *Brookings Institution*. 26 June 2017.

December 5 – Take-Home Exam due in Class Today

No readings