

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

Tuesday and Thursday, 10:05am-11:25, Sir James Dunn Building 101

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 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 present. 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, 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 required readings are available online via Brightspace. 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 January 31): 15%
- 2) Mid-Term Exam (Held in class February 16): 25%
- 3) Research Paper (Due in class March 16): 35%
- 4) Final Exam (Take-home exam due in class April 6): 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 January 31. 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 February 16. 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 an 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). Students are free to choose their topic provided that it relates to American foreign policy. The instructor will provide some suggested topic questions for consideration. The paper is due in class on March 16. It is worth 40% 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. Students must submit a hard copy of the paper to the instructor. Papers cannot be submitted via email. The late penalty is administered based on the date that a hard copy was submitted.

4) **Final Exam:** The final exam will be a take-home exam that is due in class on April 6. It is worth 25% of the course grade. Students will write one essay in response to a question provided by the instructor.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1) **Academic Integrity.** Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with Dalhousie University's policies on academic integrity, particularly the section concerning plagiarism and cheating, but also the section concerning student resources:

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Additional information about academic integrity and University policies can be found here:

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/healthprofessions/faculty-and-staff/academic-integrity/information-for-faculty.html>

All assignments submitted may be subjected to evaluation by Urkund, a University approved 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. More information about Urkund can be found here:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/faculty-resources/urkund--plagiarism-detection.html

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) **Key Dates.** January 20 is the last day to add winter term courses, the last day for late registration, and the last day to drop winter term courses with no financial implications. February 10 is the last day to drop winter term courses without a "W" and the last day to change winter term courses from audit to credit (and vice versa). March 17 is the last day to drop winter term classes with a "W."

4) **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.

5) **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 is distracting to class (i.e. listening to music, streaming videos, etc).

6) **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.

7) **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

A	4.00	85-89		thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
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

SECTION 1 - THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

January 10 - 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.

January 12 - 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.

January 17 – 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.

Jim George, "Leo Strauss, Neoconservatism and US Foreign Policy: Esoteric Nihilism and the Bush Doctrine," *International Politics* 42 (2) 2005: 174-202.

SECTION 2 – HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

January 19 – 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.

January 24 – 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.

January 26 – From Cold War to 9/11 and the Aftermath

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

January 31 - 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.

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

Brent Durbin, "Bureaucratic Politics Approach," *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, December 11, 2015, Available from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/bureaucratic-politics-approach#ref1181379>

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.

February 7 – 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.

February 9 – Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy

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.

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.

February 14 – Mid-Term Exam Review Class (And Research Paper Information Session)

No readings

February 16 – Mid-Term Exam

No readings

February 21 and 23 – Reading Week (No Classes)

No readings

SECTION 4 – POLICY ISSUES AND CASE STUDIES

February 28 – Foreign 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.

Terrence Guay, “Global Trade,” in *Routledge Handbook of American Foreign Policy*, edited by Steven W. Hook and Christopher M Jones, 393-405. New York: Routledge, 2012.

March 2 – 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.

March 7 – 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.

Michael E. Kraft, “Environmental Policy,” in *Routledge Handbook of American Foreign Policy*, edited by Steven W. Hook and Christopher M Jones, 420-433. New York: Routledge, 2012.

March 9 – American Foreign Policy toward Canada

M. Angeles Villarreal and Ian F. Fergusson, “The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).” *Congressional Research Service* (April 16, 2015).

Paul W. Parfomak *et al*, “Keystone XL Pipeline: Overview and Recent Developments,” *Congressional Research Service* (April 1, 2015).

Geoffrey Hale, “Canada-US Relations: Proximity and Distance in Perspective,” in *Readings in Canadian Foreign Policy: Classic Debates and New Ideas*, 3rd ed., edited by Duane Bratt and Christopher J. Kukucha, 155-170. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2015.

March 14 – American Foreign Policy toward Europe

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.

Robert Kagan. "Power and Weakness." *Policy Review* (June/July 2002): 3-28.

Tamara J. Resler. "The United States and Central Europe: Principles and Pragmatism in the Evolving Partnership," in *Regional and International Relations of Central Europe*, edited by Zlatko Šabič and Petr Drulák, 145-161. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012.

March 16 – American Foreign Policy toward Russia

*** Research Paper due in class ***

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.

Angela E. Stent. *The Limits of Partnership: US-Russian Relations in the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015, 275-306.

March 21 - American Foreign Policy toward China

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.

Charles W. Freeman III, "The Commercial and Economic Relationship," in *Tangled Titans: The United States and China*, edited by David Shambaugh, 181-210. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2013.

Christopher P. Twomey, "The Military-Security Relationship," in *Tangled Titans: The United States and China*, edited by David Shambaugh, 235-260. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2013.

March 23 – 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.

Mark L. Haas, "The United States and the Arab Spring: Threats and Opportunities in a Revolutionary Era," in *The Middle East and the United States: History, Politics and Ideologies, Updated 2013 Edition*, edited by David W. Lesch and Mark L. Haas, 501-534. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2013.

March 28 - American Foreign Policy toward the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Jeremy Pressman, "From Madrid and Oslo to Camp David: The United States and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1991-2001," in *The Middle East and the United States: History, Politics and Ideologies, Updated 2013 Edition*, edited by David W. Lesch and Mark L. Haas, 244-261. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2013.

Robert O. Freedman, "George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict," in *The Middle East and the United States: History, Politics and Ideologies, Updated 2013 Edition*, edited by David W. Lesch and Mark L. Haas, 262-293. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2013.

March 30 – 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.

Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro, "US-Mexican Relations in the Twenty-First Century," in *Contemporary US-Latin American Relations: Cooperation or Conflict in the 21st Century?*, edited by Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro. 17-43. New York: Routledge, 2010.

Marifeli Pérez-Stable, "The United States and Cuba since 2000," in *Contemporary US-Latin American Relations: Cooperation or Conflict in the 21st Century?*, edited by Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro. 44-63. New York: Routledge, 2010.

April 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.

April 6 – Take-Home Exam due in Class Today

No readings