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American Foreign Policy

Course Code:	POL216
Recommended Year of Study:	2 or 3
No. of Credit/Term:	3
Mode of Tuition:	Lecture-Tutorial
Class Contact Hour:	3
Category in Major Program:	Elective
Discipline:	Politics
Prerequisite:	None

Course Aims:

This course explores the historical, institutional, and political contexts within which foreign policies of the United States are formulated. It also studies America's role in the world and how its dominating political and military power reshapes international relations. Finally, the course examines contemporary foreign policy challenges to the United States, such as the war on terror, the rise of China, strained relations with Europe, and the transition to a post-unipolar era.

Learning Outcomes:

Students should be able to comprehend conflicting goals of American foreign policy. Students should also be able to explain the sources of U.S. dominance in the international system. Moreover, students should become familiar with U.S. responses to various challenges to its national interests.

Teaching Method:

This course consists of lectures, classroom discussions, tutorials, presentations, and research and writing.

Assessment:

The final grade of students will be determined by the following: attendance and participation 10%, tutorial 10%, research paper 30%, final exam 50%. The paper needs to

be at least 12 pages long but no more than 15. The paper is due one week after the final exam.

Required Readings:

There are no required textbooks. However, the course will use three chapters of Bruce W. Jentleson's *American Foreign Policy: the Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*. A copy of the book is on reserve in the library. In addition, the course will use journal articles and selected book chapters, which will also be put on reserve. However, most of the journal articles will be available on the internet.

Topics

Sept 9. Introduction

Sept 16. The Domestic Context of American Foreign Policy

Bruce W. Jentleson, Chapter 2

Michael Matanduno. 2002. "The United States Political System and International Leadership: A 'Decidedly Inferior' Form of Government?" in G. John Ikenberry, ed. *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays*.

James M. Lindsay. 2003. "Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy," *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 3.

Sept 23. The Historical Context of American Foreign Policy: The Cold War Era

Bruce W. Jentleson, Chapters 4 and 5

William C. Wohlforth. 2004. "Economic Constraints and the Turn Toward Superpower Cooperation in the 1980s," in Olav Njolstad, ed., *From Conflict Escalation to Conflict Transformation: The Cold War in the 1980s*.

Sept 30. The Post Cold War American Hegemony: Causes and Origins

Colin Dueck. 2004. "Ideas and Alternatives in American Grand Strategy, 2000-2004," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 30, pp. 511-535.

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth. 2002. "American Primacy in Perspective," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.

Stephen M. Walt. 2005. *Taming American Power: The Global Response to U.S. Primacy*. Chapter 1.

Mortimer Zackerman. 1998. "A Second American Century." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 77,

No. 3.

Oct 14. The Bush Legacy

Ivo H. Daalder and James James M. Lindsay. 2003. "Bush's Revolution," *Current History*, November.

G. John Ikenberry. 2002. "America's Imperial Ambition," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

Robert Kagan. 2008. "The September 12 Paradigm: America, the World, and George W. Bush," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

Oct 28. The War on Terror

Philip H. Gordon. 2007. "Can the War on Terror Be Won?: How to Fight the Right War," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.

Bruce Riedel. 2007. "Al Qaeda Strikes Back," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June.

Stephen Biddle. 2008. "How to Leave a Stable Iraq: Building on Progress," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

Barnett R. Rubin. 2007. "Saving Afghanistan," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February.

Nov 4. The Decline of American Hegemony

Daniel W. Drezner. 2007. "The New New World Order," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April.

Richard N. Haass. 2008. "The Age of Nonpolarity: What Will Follow U.S. Dominance," *Foreign Affairs*.

Christopher Layne. 2006. "Impotent Power? Re-examining the Nature of America's Hegemonic Power," *The National Interest*, September-October.

T.V. Paul. 2005. "Soft Balancing in the Age of U.S. Primacy," *International Security*, Vol. 30, No. 1.

Michael Lind, 2007. "Beyond American Hegemony," *The National Interest*, May/June.

Nov 11. U.S. Relations with China

G. John Ikenberry. 2008. "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February.

Kerry Dumbaugh. 2005. "China-U.S. Relations: Current Issues and Implications for U.S. Policy," Congressional Research Service, Report for Congress.

Robert B. Zoellick. 2005. "Wither China: From Membership to Responsibility?" Remarks to National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, September 21.

Robert J. Art. 2007. "Agreeing to Agree (and Disagree)," *The National Interest*,

May/June.

Nov 18. Relations with EU, Russia, Japan and India

James P. Rubin. 2008. "Building a New Atlantic Alliance: Restoring America's Partnership With Europe," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.

Dimitri K. Sime. 2007. "Losing Russia: The Costs of Renewed Confrontation," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.

R. Nicholas Burns. 2007. "America's Strategic Opportunity With India," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.

Richard L. Armitage and Joseph S. Nye. 2007. "The U.S.-Japan Alliance: Getting Asia Right through 2020," Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Nov 25. Challenges from Globalization: Trade and Environmental Issues

Kenneth F. Scheve and Matthew J. Slaughter. 2007. "A New Deal for Globalization," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.

Stephen E. Eizenstat and Marney L. Cheek. 2007. "Ending the Trade War in Washington: Saving the Trade Agenda by Protecting Workers," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June.

Carter F. Bales and Richard D. Duke. 2008. "Containing Climate Change: An Opportunity for U.S. Leadership," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

Dec 2. U.S. Strategies for the Future

Richard Holbrooke. 2008. "The Next President: Mastering a Daunting Agenda," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

Fareed Zakaria. 2008. "The Future of American Power: How America Can Survive the Rise of the Rest," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June.

Barack Obama. 2008. "Renewing American Leadership," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.

John McCain. 2007. "An Enduring Peace Built on Freedom: Securing America's Future," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.

Tutorials

Sept 18

The Iraq War and Bush's relations with congress

Sept. 25

Did Reagan bring down the Soviet Empire?

Oct. 2

What did Clinton do to enhance American dominance in world affairs?

Oct 16

Assessing the impact of Bush Doctrine

Nov. 6

Has the United States Really Declined?

Nov 13

Will China and the United States Become Inevitable Rivals?

Nov 20

Is the United States Using Japan to Contain China?

Nov 27

Is Globalization Good or Bad for the United States?