

PSC413: American Foreign Policy

Douglas M. Gibler

Spring 2016

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Class Hours: 9:30-10:45am, Tues-Thurs
Classroom: 3031 Houser Hall

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of United States Foreign Policy in the contemporary era. We will review the social science understandings of various policy concerns and then apply those ideas, discussing how the United States can make its foreign policy most effective. Topics covered include promoting international cooperation, advancing change in international politics, and dealing with conflict. We conclude the course with a discussion of the national interest and the governmental budget.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, each student should be able to:

- Differentiate among various conceptions of policymaking
- Apply the cost-benefit approach to leader decision-making
- Understand basic findings related to foreign policy
- Understand a basic formal model of leader behavior

In addition to learning the course material on democratization and international conflict, after successful completion of the activities in this course, students should also be able to

- Critically discriminate between reliable and less reliable information in their decision-making
- Understand the scientific method and critically evaluate scientific information
- Develop effective written communication skills.
- And develop skills in working together in team activities.

Required Readings

- Gibler, Douglas M., *Constrained Choices: American Foreign Policy in the 21st Century*, Chapters 1-3, Forthcoming at Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Various articles linked on the syllabus

Course Requirements

Course requirements are distributed as follows:

- 25% Attendance and Discussion (20%)
- 25% Midterm Exam (25%)
- 25% Paper assignment (25%)
- 25% Final Exam (30%)

Attendance at class lectures is mandatory; an attendance sheet will be passed out daily. Attendance AND participation in discussions are required to gain a thorough knowledge of the topics discussed during lectures. Students will be graded on their preparedness and the quality of their comments during discussions. Two exams will evaluate student knowledge of the lectures and readings. A make-up exam for the midterm will be available for students on the scheduled day for the final exam. The final exam is cumulative; no make-up is available for the final exam. The paper assignment (maximum of 7 pages, typed, double-spaced) will be explained in class, and class days will be allotted to completing the paper.

Email Policy

Email is a convenient way to continue contact between professor and student outside of class. Students should take advantage of this opportunity but should also do so in a professional manner. I will not reply to emails that do not include a salutation (“Dear Prof...” or “Hello Dr...”). I will not reply to emails that are hastily written and filled with grammatical errors and misspellings. I will also not respond to emails that ask for answers to questions that can easily be found on the syllabus or the class blog. Last, if you have a question regarding lectures or assigned material that you just cannot seem to master, then ask a question in class, come to me during office hours, or post a question on the blog for other students to answer. Email is best for 1-2 sentence responses, and conceptual questions do not lend themselves well to email.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are a distraction to both the professor and to fellow students, even if the phone is only used for texting. You should **TURN YOUR CELL PHONES OFF!** before entering the classroom.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

I take academic integrity very seriously and will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. There are very serious penalties for cheating at UA that could have consequences far beyond your college career. Cheating of any form is a really stupid thing to do so don't try, and, if you have any doubts about what cheating is, ask me or examine the UA policies (see below).

The Code of Academic Conduct in the University of Alabama Undergraduate Catalog defines plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty as follows:

- Plagiarism: representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own
- Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information
- Fabrication: presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material
- Misrepresentation: falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts.

Disabilities Policy

Federal law mandates the provision of services at the university-level to qualified students with disabilities. Please inform the instructor immediately if special circumstances need to be discussed.

Class Schedule

Part I: Background on US Foreign Policy

01/14 (Thursday): Syllabus handout via email; readings assigned

01/19 (Tuesday): **Thinking Strategically about US Foreign Policy**; Read: Gibler, Chapter 1

01/21 (Thursday): No class

01/26 (Tuesday): **Constraints Amid the Policymaking Process**; Read: Gibler, Chapter 2

01/28 (Thursday): No class

Part II: Promoting International Cooperation

02/02 (Tuesday): **Encouraging Trade**; Read: Hankla, C. R. and Kuthy, D. (2012), Economic Liberalism in Illiberal Regimes: Authoritarian Variation and the Political Economy of Trade. *International Studies Quarterly*. doi:[10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00753.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00753.x)

02/09 (Tuesday): **Fostering Economic Development**; Read: Blattman, Christopher, Nathan Fiala, and Sebastian Martinez Bustos, Credit Constraints, Occupational Choice, and the Process of Development: Long Run Evidence from Cash Transfers in Uganda. doi:[10.1093/qje/qjt057](https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjt057)

02/16 (Tuesday): Establishing and Maintaining Governance; Read: Paul K. Huth, Sarah Croco, and Benjamin J. Appel (2011). Does International Law Promote the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes? Evidence from the Study of Territorial Conflicts since 1945. *American Political Science Review*, 105, pp 415-436. doi:[10.1017/S0003055411000062](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055411000062)

Part III: Advancing Change

02/23 (Tuesday): Human Rights; Read: Gibler, Chapter 7

03/01 (Tuesday): Managing Weapons Proliferation; Read: Matthew Fuhrmann. "Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements." *International Security* 34.1 (2009): 7-41. doi:[10.1162/isec.2009.34.1.7](https://doi.org/10.1162/isec.2009.34.1.7)

03/03 (Thursday): Read [The causes of nuclear weapons proliferation](#) by Scott Sagan

03/08 (Tuesday): Spreading Democracy; Read: Enterline, A. J. and Michael Greig, J. (2008), *The History of Imposed Democracy and the Future of Iraq and Afghanistan*. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 4: 321-347. doi:[10.1111/j.1743-8594.2008.00074.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1743-8594.2008.00074.x)

03/10 (Thursday): Midterm Exam

03/15 (Tuesday): Spring Break

03/17 (Thursday): Spring Break

Part IV: Dealing with Conflict

03/22 (Tuesday): Economic Sanctions; Read: Lektzian, David and Glen Biglaiser. (2012) Investment, Opportunity, and Risk: Do US Sanctions Deter or Encourage Global Investment? *International Studies Quarterly*, doi:[10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00761.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00761.x)

03/29 (Tuesday): Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism; Read: Collard-Wexler, et al., (2013) Do Foreign Occupations Cause Suicide Attacks? *J. of Conflict Res.*, doi:[10.1177/0022002713478558](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002713478558)

03/31 (Thursday): Read John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart. [The Terrorism Delusion: America's Overwrought Response to September 11](#). *International Security* 37, no. 1 (Summer 2012): 81-110.

04/05 (Tuesday): Military Strength and Conflict Avoidance; Read: Bremer Stuart. 1992. "Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36 (2): 309-41. doi:[10.1177/0022002792036002005](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002792036002005)

04/07 (Thursday): Paper assignment discussion

04/12 (Tuesday): Using Military Force; Read: [The Myth of Air Power in the Persian Gulf War and the Future of Warfare](#), Daryl G. Press, *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 2 (Fall, 2001), pp. 5-44 and [Testing the Surge: Why Did Violence Decline in Iraq in 2007?](#)

04/14 (Thursday): Stephen Biddle, Jeffrey A. Friedman and Jacob N. Shapiro, *International Security*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (SUMMER 2012), pp. 7-40

Part V: Conclusions

04/19 (Tuesday): Revisiting the National Interest; Read: *Come Home, America: The Strategy of Restraint in the Face of Temptation*, Eugene Gholtz, Daryl G. Press, and Harvey M. Sapolsky, *International Security*, Spring 1997, Vol. 21, No. 4, Pages 5-48, doi:[10.1162/isec.21.4.5](https://doi.org/10.1162/isec.21.4.5)

04/21 (Thursday): Read *Don't Come Home, America: The Case against Retrenchment*, Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, and William C. Wohlforth, *International Security* 2013 37:3, 7-51, doi:[10.1162/ISEC_a_00107](https://doi.org/10.1162/ISEC_a_00107)

04/26 (Tuesday): Review for final; Paper due by class time

05/03 (Tuesday): Final Exam from 8:00am to 10:30am; Midterm Make-up 8:30am to noon