

## **PSC413: American Foreign Policy (Spring 2014)**

Prof. Douglas M. Gibler

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Class meeting time and place: 8:00am-8:50am (22 ten Hoor Hall)

Office Hours: after class and by appointment

## **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.

## **Course Requirements**

- Attendance and Discussion (20%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Paper assignment (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. 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 and Laptops**

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. Laptops are also not allowed in my classroom.

## **Cheating and Plagiarism**

I and 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, examine the UA policies (see below), or better still, take this tutorial on plagiarism that was developed by UA's libraries: [Play-it-safe](#). (Please plug in speakers or headphones before starting this tutorial.) 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.

Although authors occasionally indulge in plagiarism intentionally, most often writers plagiarize unintentionally. Many do not realize that indirect quotations, which result from paraphrasing and summarizing material, also require acknowledgement of the author and the source of the idea. A direct quotation of an authors exact words is the only footnoted material that requires the use of quotation marks, but both direct and indirect quotations must be footnoted. Any idea or statement that is not the authors own must be documented. Remember- the following require the use of a citation:

- Any material directly quoted from another’s work
- Any information that is summarized or paraphrased
- Any idea derived from a known source
- Any fact or data that is not common knowledge and is borrowed from anothers work

Material that is common or general knowledge does not have to be footnoted, unless the wording is taken directly from a particular source. A general rule is that if a fact can be found in five or more sources, it is considered to be common knowledge and does not have to be documented. See Anthony C. Winkler and Jo Ray McCuen, *Writing the Research Paper; A Handout* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979).

## Class Schedule

We will follow this general schedule for the course. Note that required readings for each week are listed here; specific due dates are also noted.

### Part I: Background on US Foreign Policy

- Week 1 (January 8th)—Course Introduction
- No class January 10th (SPSA conference)
- Week 2 (January 13th)—Thinking Strategically about US Foreign Policy; Read: Hans J. Morgenthau 1950. “[The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy: The National Interest vs. Moral Abstractions.](#)” *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (Dec), pp. 833-854 and Wolfers, Arnold. 1952. “[National Security as an Ambiguous Concept.](#)” *Political Science Quarterly*.
- Week 3 (January 22nd)—Constraints Amid the Policymaking Process; Read: Benjamin O. Fordham (2008), [Economic Interests and Public Support for American Global Activism](#), *International Organization* , Vol. 62, No. 1 (Winter, 2008), pp. 163-182
- No class January 20th (MLK Day)
- No class January 24th (MID Conference)

### Part II: Promoting International Cooperation

- Week 4 (January 27th)—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)

- Week 5 (February 3rd)—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](#). Working Paper.
- Week 6 (February 10th)—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](#)

### Part III: Advancing Change

- Week 7 (February 17th)—United States Economic Aid and Repression: The Opportunity Cost Argument, Douglas M. Gibling, *The Journal of Politics*, April 2008, pp 513 - 526 doi:[10.1017/S002238160808047X](#) and [Military Responses to Refugee Disasters](#), Barry R. Posen, *International Security* 1996 21:1, 72-111
- Week 8 (February 24th)—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](#) and [The causes of nuclear weapons proliferation](#) SD Sagan - *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2011
- Week 9 (March 3rd)—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: 321347. doi:[10.1111/j.1743-8594.2008.00074.x](#)
- Week 10
  - March 10th—**Midterm Exam**
  - March 12th—Group meeting day

### Part IV: Dealing with Conflict

- Week 11 (March 17th)—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](#)
- No class March 24th-March 28th (Spring Break)
- Week 12 (March 31st)—Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism; Read: Collard-Wexler, Simon, et al., (2013) Do Foreign Occupations Cause Suicide Attacks? *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, doi:[10.1177/0022002713478558](#) and John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart. [The Terrorism Delusion: Americas Overwrought Response to September 11](#). *International Security* 37, no. 1 (Summer 2012): 81-110.
- Week 13 (April 7th)—Military Strength and Conflict Avoidance; Read: Bremer Stuart. 1992. Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36 (2): 30941. doi:[10.1177/0022002792036002005](#)
- Week 14 (April 14th)—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?](#) Stephen Biddle, Jeffrey A. Friedman and Jacob N. Shapiro, *International Security* , Vol. 37, No. 1 (SUMMER 2012), pp. 7-40

## Part V: Conclusions

- Week 15 (April 21st)—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) and 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)
- Finals Week
  - Thursday. May 1st—**Final Exam from 3:30PM to 6:00 PM**
  - Thursday. May 1st—**Midterm Make-up Exam from 4:00PM on**