

**POLS 430 — Fall 2012**  
**United States Foreign Policy**

---

Dr. Michael A. Allen  
Office: Environmental Research Building, 5121  
E-mail: MichaelAAllen@boisestate.edu

Class: WF 10:30–11:45pm  
Office Hours: W 2:00–5:00pm  
*and by appointment.*

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the important actors in United States Foreign Policy, the goals those actors have, and the problems they encounter in achieving their goals. The culmination of actors, institutions, and external factors help to shape what we understand to be a single concept: foreign policy. The class begins by examining the history of US foreign policy, followed by the various institutions, bureaucracies, and interests that contribute to policy-making. The final part of the course looks at specific areas of foreign policy and how the previous frames help us to understand why policy rests at its current state.

## **Course Format**

Given the nature of the course and the level of the students attending it, the course is mixed in its presentation. Part of the class will be devoted to traditional lecture while the rest will be devoted to classroom discussion. Students are expected to remain engaged in the material in either part of the class and progress the class by asking questions. Additionally, the lectures are not purely drawn from the course readings and students will be responsible for knowing both written materials as well as what is covered in lecture for any quiz, test, and written assignment.

## **Required Text**

There are four books required for the course:

1. Allison, Graham, and Zelikow, Philip. 1999. *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, 2 ed., New York, NY: Addison-Wesley. ISBN: 978-0321013491
2. Kriner, Douglas L. 2010. *After the Rubicon: Congress, Presidents, and the Politics of Waging War*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0226453569
3. Trubowitz, Peter. 1998. *Defining the National Interest*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0226813035
4. Zakaria, Fareed 2012. *The Post-American World, Release 2.0, updated and expanded* New York, NY: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0393340389

In addition to the books, there will be several articles required throughout the course. These articles will be available on blackboard.

This course does not require you to subscribe to a newspaper or a magazine, but being knowledgeable about current events will certainly help your performance in the class as it will become easier to relate the topics we are discussing to ongoing events. A few recommended sources include:

- *The New York Times*

- *The Wall Street Journal*
- *The Economist*

Additionally, academic political science blogs can provide a wealth of information on specific topics. A few blogs worth following are (click to go to the website):

- The Quantitative Peace
- The Monkey Cage
- The Duck of Minerva

## Course Requirements

### 1. Book Quizzes: 10%

For each of the 4 books we read and the one movie we watch, there will be one in-class quiz. Generally, the quiz questions will be posted on the digital display and students will write the answers on a full length sheet of paper.

### 2. Midterm: 20%

The midterm will be an even mix of multiple choice questions and short answers. Expect to spend 35 minutes on multiple choice questions and 40 minutes on short answer. Each section will be weighted equally for the final grade.

### 3. Reaction Papers 20%

For two of the books, you will write a 2-3 page paper (double space, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins) focusing on **one** particular aspect of the book and analyzing it. The reaction paper should either be critical of the point or embrace the point and expand it to another topic, event, or region not covered by the book. Each paper is worth 10% of your grade. Each paper is due the day the book is assigned for discussion.

### 4. Class Debate: 15%

The class debate will occur throughout the semester. It will involve teams of 3-4 people. 2 people from each team will participate in the live debate. Early in the class, each team will be assigned a topic and a side. The students will prepare speeches in affirmation or negation of the topic. The time allotment for the speeches will be 10-10-6-6 with 3 minutes of questioning after each of the 10 minute speeches by the opposing team. Each person will be graded individually based on the debate as well as by inter- and intra-group review.

### 5. Foreign Policy Analysis Paper: 15%

Students will prepare a 5 page paper analyzing the foreign policy platform of a presidential candidate that is on the Idaho ballot. The paper should focus on pivotal planks of the platform that differ from the current incumbent and explain how this would lead to a different world (if at all). Detail challenges to implementing the selected planks and identify any theories of international relations that speak to the issue.

### 6. Final 20%

The final will be longer than the midterm, but the distribution will be about the same. Expect to spend 50 minutes on multiple choice questions and 50 minutes on short answer questions.

## General Guidelines and Information

1. **Lectures will begin on time.** Avoid arriving late to class; otherwise, you may miss important material, quizzes, or information about class assignments. However, being late is better than not showing up at all. If you do arrive late, attempt to arrive quietly into class and avoid making too much of a disruption. The same is true if you have to leave class early. If you miss any information due to your absence, ask a classmate to help you catch up.
2. **Study guides and extra credit.** I do not offer either of these.
3. **Please avoid classroom disruptions.** Turn your cellphones to silent before class begins.
4. **Use the APSA style of reference.** To standardize citations and references, follow the guidelines set out by the *American Political Science Association*. Information and guidelines can be found in the following pdf file: <http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/Publications/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf>.
5. **Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.** All written work is subject to being submitted to SafeAssignment through Blackboard. This is a program that will find copied work from both published sources, the internet, and other work by students. Student who are found to be plagiarizing or cheating on a given assignment or test will automatically fail that assignment or test.
6. **SafeAssignment:** All written assignments must be turned in through SafeAssignment given the appropriate links on Blackboard as well as providing a physical copy to the instructor/teaching assistant. The digital copy is due by 5pm on the day the assignment is due to be turned in. Assignments not turned in digitally as well as physically will not be graded and receive a zero for that assignment. If you have trouble with submitting an assignment, contact the instructor immediately.
7. **Missing exams and late assignments:** There will not be makeup exams or quizzes. Late paper assignments will be severely penalized-as such, having work completed early will increase your chances of avoiding penalties to your grade. The standard deduction will be one full letter grade per day that the assignment is late. That is, an B- will become a C-.
8. **Camtasia:** I intend to capture each lecture with the Camtasia software that is embedded in blackboard. The software captures both the audio from the lecture as well as the slides on the computer. This resource is intended to be a supplement to students to help them when they miss class, when they want to double check their notes, or are reviewing for an exam. However, there are a few caveats that come with the use of this software that students should be aware of:
  - (a) Items will generally be posted after one class period has passed. If the next class is a major test, then I will post the lecture material as soon as possible. Thus, the ideal use for these lectures will be to fill in notes, not skip class.
  - (b) Recording quality is not guaranteed. The software relies on my internal microphone and, given the size of the classroom and my movement while lecturing, there will be times when the audio is not clear.
  - (c) Recording itself is not guaranteed either. The software partially relies on having a stable internet connection and if that goes out or is unaccessible, then I will not be able to record the class. Other technical difficulties may make recording problematic and thus, students should not come to expect that there all lectures will be recorded. It will be there as a luxury when possible.
  - (d) Finally, if the recordings negatively impact class (attendance, participation, etc.), then I will discontinue recording the lecture sessions.

Given these issues, students are strongly encouraged to attend class during the regular session.

9. **Grade appeals.** If you believe that you were not graded appropriately for a given assignment and wish to contest that grade, you must do so in writing. Appeals will not be accepted for 48 hours from which the assignment was returned. The appeal should clearly state your objection and request that your work be re-evaluated. Re-evaluated work will be graded from scratch and the grade can be increased or decreased from the grade originally assigned.
10. **The syllabus.** the syllabus is a living document that can and will be altered throughout the duration of the course based both on need and design. Generally, this means readings will be removed or added as needed. All changes will be listed on Blackboard, so make sure to check announcements for any such change.
11. **Contacting the instructor.** The best way to get in touch with me is either through email. Any question that is of general interest to the entire class should may be answered in a way that provides the answer to the entire class.
12. **Accommodations:** To request academic accommodations for a disability contact the Disability Resource Center by phone, (208) 426-1583, or e-mail, [drcinfo@boisestate.edu](mailto:drcinfo@boisestate.edu). Students are required to meet with a Disability Specialist prior to receiving accommodations and may be required to provide documentation to clarify accommodation requests. Information about a disability is confidential. More information on the accommodation process can be found at <http://drc.boisestate.edu>.

## Final Grades

A: 93+  
A-: 90–93  
B+: 88–90  
B: 83–88  
B-: 80–83  
C+: 78–80  
C: 70–78  
D: 60–70  
F: 0–60

Clarification: The upper limit is a boundary. For example, if a student's final grade is an 82.3, they will get a B-; however, if they get an 83, they will receive a B.

## Course Schedule

This is the reading you are expected to have done *by the day it is assigned*. As mentioned earlier, the books are going to be the longest part and you should start reading them well in advance of the due date for discussion. Suggestions for readings will also be welcomed if they are offered early enough.

*Note: Any author year listed in parentheses (e.g. (Waltz 1959)) will be found in the reference list at the very end of this document. These are usually articles or books chapters and can be found on Blackboard.*

### Week 1

*Introduction*  
August 29th  
August 31st

Syllabus and Introduction  
Understanding Foreign Policy

## Week 2

### *Historical Foundations*

September 5th

The First 100 Years

September 7th

Early 20th Century, Read: (Frieden 1988)

## Week 3

### *Contemporary Foundations for Foreign Policy*

September 12th

Discuss Trubowitz

September 14th

The Cold War; Read: (National Security Council 1950)

**Due:**

First Reaction Paper (Optional) on 9/12

## Week 4

### *Institutions of Foreign Policy*

September 19th

The President

September 21st

**Discuss Kriner**

**Due:**

Second Reaction Paper (optional) on 9/21

## Week 5

### *Bureaucracies of Foreign Policy*

September 26th

The Congress

September 28th

National Security Bureaucracies

## Week 6

### *Bureaucracies of Foreign Policy II*

October 3rd

State Department

October 5th

Intelligence Community, ; **Debate 1**

**Due:**

Debate 1 on October 5th

## Week 7

### *The Policymaking Process*

October 9th

Policymaking

October 11th

**Discuss Allison**

**Due:**

Third Reaction Paper (optional) on 10/11

## Week 8

### *US Use of force*

October 17th

The Use of Force

October 19th

**Debate 2;** Review

**Due:**

Debate 2 on 10/19

## Week 9

### *Tests; Public opinion*

October 24th

**Midterm**

October 26th

Public Opinion and Conflict; Read: (Mueller 1971,

**Due:**

Gelpi, Feaver & Reifler 2005/06)

5

## **Week 10**

*WMDs; Human Rights*

October 31th

November 2nd

**Due:**

Weapons of Mass Destruction; Read: (Powell 1985)  
Human Rights; Read: (Cutrone & Fordham 2010)  
Presidential Foreign Policy Analysis

## **Week 11**

*Trade and Aid*

November 7th

November 9th

**Due:**

Domestic Politics and Trade Read: (Bailey, Goldstein & Weingast 1997, Hiscox 1999)  
Trade and Foreign Aid; Read: (Meernik, Krueger & Poe 1998); **Debate 3**  
Debate 3 on 11/9

## **Week 12**

*Fog of War*

November 14th

November 16th

Fog of War Part I

**Cancelled/Optional** Fog of War Part II

## **Thanksgiving Break**

## **Week 13**

*Terrorism*

November 28th

November 30th

Terrorism Part I; **Fog of War Quiz**; Read: (Pape 2003)  
Terrorism Part II

## **Week 14**

*Decline of America?*

December 5th

December 7th

Rise and Decline of American Hegemony Read: (Fordham & Kleinberg 2011)  
Hegemonic Institutions; Read: (Ikenberry 2003)

## **Week 15**

*Wrapping up Foreign Policy*

December 12th

December 14th

**Due:**

**Discuss Zakaria**  
**Debate 4;** Final Review  
Fourth Reaction Paper (Optional) on 12/12  
Debate 4 on 12/14

## **Final**

Wednesday, December 19th, 2012

## **List of Articles**

Bailey, Michael, Judith Goldstein & Barry R. Weingast. 1997. "The institutional roots of American trade: politics, coalitions, and international trade." *World Politics* 4(3):309–338.

- Cutrone, Ellen A. & Benjamin O. Fordham. 2010. "Commerce and imagination: The sources of concern about international human rights in the US Congress." *International Studies Quarterly* 54(3):633–655.
- Fordham, Benjamin O. & Katja B. Kleinberg. 2011. "International trade and US relations with China." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 7(3):217–236.
- Frieden, Jeff. 1988. "Sectoral conflict and foreign economic policy, 1914-1940." *International Organization* 42(1):59–90.
- Gelpi, Christopher, Peter D. Feaver & Jason Reifler. 2005/06. "Success matters: Casualty sensitivity and the war in Iraq." *International Security* 30(3):7–46.
- Hiscox, Michael J. 1999. "The magic bullet? The RTAA, institutional reform, and trade liberalization." *International Organization* 54(4):669–698.
- Ikenberry, John G. 2003. "Is American Multilateralism in Decline." *Perspectives on Politics* 1(3):533–550.
- Meernik, James, Eric L. Krueger & Steven C. Poe. 1998. "Testing models of US foreign policy: Foreign aid during and after the Cold War." *The Journal of Politics* 60(1):63–85.
- Mueller, John. 1971. "Trends in popular support for the wars in Korea and Vietnam." *American Political Science Review* 65(2):385–75.
- National Security Council. 1950. "National Security Council Report 68.".
- Pape, Robert A. 2003. "The strategic logic of suicide terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97(3):343–361.
- Powell, Robert. 1985. "The theoretical foundations of strategic nuclear deterrence." *Political Science Quarterly* 100(1):75–96.
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1959. *Man, the state and war*. New York: Columbia University Press.