

**Political Science POLI:1501:EXW Introduction to American Foreign Policy  
Fall 2019**

Instructor: Byung-Deuk Woo

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and by appt

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**Ordered Books for this Class.**

Jentleson, Bruce. 2014. American Foreign Policy The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century, 5th Edition. New York: Norton.

This book comes in 3 formats (online, downloadable, and print). You are welcome to use any format. The content is the same.

To purchase the book, go to

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?ID=4294977895>

There will also be readings on ICON

**I. Introduction**

This class will introduce you to American foreign policy and the study of American foreign policy. American foreign policy plays an important role in the life of everyone living in America and outside of America. America's preeminent role on the world stage makes its foreign policy actions a topic of significant interest for Americans and individuals in other nations. As such, it is important to understand American foreign policy and how it is made.

This class will introduce you to American foreign policy in two ways. First it will examine the history of American foreign policy and how the priorities and capabilities of America have changed over the past 225 years. Knowing the history of American foreign policy will help you to understand the current issues and controversies in American foreign policy. The final way this class will introduce you to American foreign policy is by examining a few current issues in American foreign policy. It is important to know what issues face America and how the current administration is dealing with these issues. Also, it is important to understand competing views on these issues.

This class will not only introduce you to American foreign policy; it will also introduce you to the study of American foreign policy making. How do the leaders of America devise America's foreign policy? This class will examine different theories of foreign policy decision-making and help you to understand how and why foreign policy is made. These theories will be examined using evidence from current and historical foreign policy issues and should allow you to analyze how and why the current administration is crafting foreign policy. Thus, this class will introduce you to America's foreign policy and provide you with the analytical abilities to understand how

foreign policy decisions have been made and how they will be made by the current and future administrations. Finally, this class satisfies the Social Sciences General and International and Global Issues Education Requirement. The requirements of the class are designed to achieve the broad goals of the GE program by promoting the ability to develop positions supported by evidence and reason as well as by introducing you to the study of American foreign policy.

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of critical events in the history of American foreign policy
- Understand and apply theories of foreign policy decision-making
- Critically analyze current issues in American foreign policy

### **Course Structure**

This course is being offered over the World Wide Web as a Distance Education offering. Students will login to the course site on ICON to access the discussions forum and all course materials, including: pre-recorded lectures, readings, handouts, assignments, examinations, and quizzes. Course materials will support students in the completion of assignments, projects, and examinations. For a detailed explanation of the course work requirements to be mentioned below, see the “Requirements” section of this syllabus.

Students will be expected to visit the course site several times a week to:

- Review the “Modules” page and get familiarized with all course materials (e.g. assigned readings and assignment requirements).
- View pre-recorded lectures. Lectures are lead by the course instructor and discuss specific topics for the general topic of the week
- Review the course homepage for any updates related to the course “Events”.
- Submit course assignments to the course instructor via the ICON “Assignments”. Assignments are due no later than 5:00 P.M. CST on the dates specified later on this syllabus, unless otherwise noted.

In addition, and during specific times of the semester, students will visit the course site to:

- Take Quizzes/Tests (See the Requirements Section Below for Exact Dates).

Email:

Email is the official method of communication for this course. Students can expect to receive weekly communications from the instructor (via email) introducing assigned course work and the

topics to be presented on the pre-recorded demonstrations. Students are expected to check their university email account several times a week.

The course structure mentioned above assumes students have basic computer skills and are knowledgeable of the various programs and hardware they will need to use during this session (e.g. Microsoft Word). For information and computer support geared toward distance education students, access:

- the CCP Technical Support page - <http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/ccp/sos/>
- the Student Guide to ICON - <http://icon.uiowa.edu/support/onlinehelp/students/guide/>

## **II. Requirements:**

36%- 2 non-cumulative examinations (16%, 20%)

27%- 4-6 page research paper

15%- 3 online quizzes (5% each for a total of 15%)

22%- Online Discussion Assignments and Participation

## **III. Policies:**

### **Readings:**

In addition to the assigned readings for the class and the sections, students are required to keep informed about current international and national news. Students may do this through a variety of means including the New York Times, the New York Times online, the Washington Post online, CNN online, the International Herald Tribune online. I suggest the New York Times. As students, you have free access to the New York Times. Questions for the tests will come from the assigned readings and the news.

### **Exams (36%):**

There will be two non-cumulative midterm examinations for this class. The exams will be based on the readings, lectures, and discussions in class and section. Students who wish to do well on these tests should read the assigned material and attend the lectures and discussion sections.

**October 7: Exam 1 (16%)**

**November 11: Exam 2 (20%)**

On ICON, I will post review questions for the readings and lectures (as well as powerpoints of my lecture). The test will come from these review questions and questions on current events.

Requests to take the exams at other than the scheduled times must be made in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student fails to take an examination, the

decision to allow a makeup and the penalty associated with that makeup, if granted, is completely at the discretion of the instructor.

**Research Paper (27%):**

Students are required to turn in a final paper. This paper should be 4-6 pages double spaced 12 pt Times New Roman font with page numbers. A minimum of four sources is required for this paper. Two of these sources must be either a published book or academic journal article NOT ASSIGNED FOR THIS CLASS. If you are unsure what these are, ask either one of the teaching assistants or myself. This paper is due in the ICON Assignments by 11:59 pm on Friday November 22.

For this paper, students should contrast the foreign policy of a Democratic candidate with President Trump's foreign policy on that same issue and advocate for one of the policies. Specifically, students should address the following in the paper: 1) identify an important foreign policy issue 2) identify a Democratic Presidential candidate and their foreign policy on that issue, 3) identify President Trump's foreign policy on that issue, 3) discuss why the candidate and the President each think their policy is the best to deal with the foreign policy issue, 4) identify which policy you think is best for the US, 5) discuss why you think the policy you identified is the best one for the US, 6) discuss why you think the other policy (the one you did not identify) would not be best for the US.

The position you take is irrelevant to your grade. Rather, the criterion for grading this paper will be the quality of your analysis and your use of evidence. A detailed description of what we will be looking for in the paper will be posted on ICON before the outline (see below) is due. PLEASE LOOK AT THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION.

Throughout the semester, students will be required to turn in three smaller assignments about their papers. The first assignment is due by 11:59 pm on **September 27**. You are required to turn in a TYPED paragraph, which states what foreign policy you plan on analyzing, the current policy, and your alternative policy. The next assignment is due by 11:59 pm on **October 25**. You are to turn in a 1-2 page typed outline with bibliography. The final paper is due by 11:59 pm on **November 22**. You will post all writing assignments to ICON in Assignments.

**Paragraph- September 27- 2%**

**1-2 Page Outline with Bibliography-October 25: 5%**

**Final Paper- November 22: 20%**

**Overall Paper Grade: 27% (20%+5%+2%)**

Assignments and the final paper must be turned in on the assigned date and at the end of the class/section. Late papers will be marked down ten points each day that it is late (the paper is out of 100 points). If a paper is turned in at 12 am on November 23, the best a student can do on that paper is a 90. Papers that exceed 6 pages (excluding the bibliography) will be penalized.

Finally, these papers should be your own work. This means that a student that is caught plagiarizing or obtaining work that is not their own will receive a 0 on the final paper (the entire 25% that it is worth). If you have questions about this, please ask one of the Teaching Assistants or myself.

### **Online Quizzes (15%, 3 worth 5% each)**

The third criterion is three online quizzes starting the week of November 18 and ending the last week of class. The quizzes will be available on ICON from Tuesday 8 am CST to Friday 5 pm CST for the corresponding weeks. For the third quiz, you will have until the Monday 11:59 pm CST of Finals week to complete the quiz.

Once you start the quiz, you will only have 25 minutes to complete the quiz. Each quiz will consist of four questions based on the central points of the lecture or readings for that week. Similar to the examinations, these quizzes are open book and open note. More information on these quizzes will be posted on ICON. If you have questions about this, please ask me.

### **Discussion Sections and Assignments (22%)**

Students are REQUIRED to participate each week in an online discussion section. The online discussion will be based on the readings assigned for each week. Discussions will be oriented around a written assignment. Each student will be required to write one short essay based on a topic posted by me. This essay should address the question and incorporate the readings from that week. There will be more information about this assignment on ICON. These assignments will generally require students to formulate a foreign policy based on the readings. Assignments will be graded on the argument presented, the information they cover, the structure of their essay, and the quality of the writing (a poorly written essay will receive no better than 70% on this assignment). The assignment should not be just a summary of the material (IF IT IS, YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE 50% OF THIS PART OF THE GRADE). A good assignment will incorporate the readings AND present an original argument. The written assignment will make up 10% of the 19% of your section grade (5% for each paper). Additional information and topics for each week will be posted on ICON.

One to three students will post an assignment/week. Students will sign up for assignments the first week of class on the ICON discussion board and post their assignments on a discussion board. Assignments are to be posted by Tuesday, 8 am CST of their assigned week.

Starting on Tuesday 8 am CST, after the written assignments (or essays of my choice) are posted, all the other students (e.g. not those who posted the written assignment) are required to read and post at least **one comment and one question** about each of the presentations by Thursday 5 pm CST. Students are also required to post **a final comment** about another student's comment or question **for each presentation** by the end of the day Friday CST.

These should be critical but constructive comments and questions. **Generally, the first set of comments (due by Thursday) should be about a full page in length.** Offensive or

inappropriate comments will be removed and your grade for this part of the course will be penalized. In addition, these questions must be challenging in nature. They cannot simply ask for a restatement of a point in the essay or a restatement of the written assignment. Also, students need to follow the thread of comments. You cannot post the same comment or question as a previous poster. You can address the question of a poster for your comment and even pose an additional question based on the comment or question of a previous poster OR you can pose a new comment or question about the original posted assignment, but you cannot repeat a question or comment that has already been posted (if you do, you will not receive credit for it). **You may also post more than the required number of posts throughout the week.** The student who posted the written assignment may respond to questions and comments but is not required to post the week in which they present.

Participation in the online discussion makes up the final 9 of 19% of the section grade. Students will be graded on the quality and creativity of their participation. Participation should be based on the readings, lectures, and current events in American foreign policy (i.e. you should keep up with current events by following the news). You will lose participation points if you post offensive or inappropriate comments. Please feel free to post more than once.

### **Collaboration**

CLAS would like all instructors to clarify collaboration in their classes. Collaboration on assignments is generally not allowed since your assignments are all evaluated as individual assignments and the expectation is that you completed the assignment. However, you can study together for exams and quizzes. Again, when you take the quiz, you are not allowed to collaborate on the actual quiz. For the research paper, you are welcome to share sources and ideas but again, the paragraph, outline, and final paper must be your own work. You cannot share text from each other's papers (this is plagiarism and will result in failing the final paper and being reported to CLAS). For your presentation, again, you are welcome to share sources and ideas but the final presentation must be done only by you. Copying someone else's presentation will also be considered plagiarism. You are welcome to talk to each other about the class and the assignments and to help each other study (this form of collaboration is okay and encouraged). However, all assignments must be the work of each individual student and cannot be based on the work of another student (this collaboration is prohibited and is plagiarism, which will result in an F (or a 0) on the assignment and reporting the incident to CLAS). If you are not sure what is appropriate collaboration, you are welcome to ask me.

### **Grades Used for the Class**

The following grades will be assigned at the end of the class (plus/minus policy):  
A,A-,B+,B,B-,C+,C,C-,D+,D,D-,F

A+ will not be assigned. An A (or 4.0) is the highest reported grade by the University to outside institutions and thus is the highest grade I will record.

## **Reading and Lecture Schedule:**

### **Week of August 26- Introduction to the Class and the Importance of Studying American Foreign Policy, 1776-1918**

ICON: Washington's Farewell Address  
Adam's Speech  
Monroe Doctrine  
Jentleson, pp. 89-98

### **Week of September 3 WWI and Interwar Period**

ICON: Truman Doctrine  
ICON: Sources of Soviet Conduct by X  
Jentleson, pp. 98-112

### **Week of September 9: WWII, Post war settlement, and the Cold War**

ICON Cold War by Lippman  
Jentleson, pp. 112-128

### **Week of September 16: Cuban Missile Crisis**

ICON: Eisenhower  
Jentleson, Chapter 5

### **Week of September 23 Vietnam and Post Vietnam Foreign Policy**

ICON: Johnson  
ICON: Nixon  
Jentleson, Chapter 6

### **Week of September 30 End of the Cold War and Post Cold War Foreign Policy**

ICON: Lake  
ICON: Bush, National Security Strategy

### **Week of October 7 Exam 1**

#### **Week of October 7 \_Realism**

Jentleson, Chapter 1

#### **Week of October 14 Liberalism/ US Exceptionalism and President**

Jentleson, Chapter 8  
Jentleson, pp. 27--40

#### **Week of October 21 Executive Agencies and Congress**

Jentleson, Chapter 7, 40-53

**Week of October 28 Courts, Public Opinion and Interest Groups**

Jentleson, pp. 56-70, Chapter 10

**Week of November 4 Wag the Dog**

Jentleson, pp.70-85, Chapter 11

ICON: Krugman Editorial

**Week of November 11 Test 2**

**Week of November 18 Grand Strategy and Terrorism**

ICON:

Excerpts from the US National Security Strategy

Walt, Stephen. 2019. "The End of Hubris: And the New Age of American Restraint." *Foreign Affairs*. 98(3):26-35.

Byman, Daniel. 2017. "How to Hunt a Lone Wolf" *Foreign Affairs*. 96(2): 96-105.

Byman Daniel and Ian Merritt. 2018. "The New American Way of War: Special Operations Forces in the War on Terrorism" *The Washington Quarterly*. 41(2): 79-93.

**Week of December 2 Middle East**

ICON: Nasr, Vali. 2018. "Iran Among the Ruins" *Foreign Affairs*. 97(2): 108-118.

Karlin, Mara and Tamara Wittes, Tamara. 2019. "America's Middle East Purgatory: The Case for Doing Less." *Foreign Affairs*. 98(1): 88-100.

**Week of December 9 Economic Issues and Proliferation**

ICON: Bown, Chad and Douglas Irwin. 2019. "Trump's Assault on the Global Trading System" *Foreign Affairs*. 98(5): 125-136.

Clarke, Richard and Rob Knake. 2019. "The Internet Freedom League." *Foreign Affairs*. 98(5): 184-192.

Moniz, Ernest and Sam Nunn. 2019. "The Return of Doomsday" *Foreign Affairs*. 98 (5): 150-161.

Cha, Victor and Katrin Katz. 2018. "The Right Way to Coerce North Korea". *Foreign Affairs*. 97 (3): 87-100.

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**  
**Information for Undergraduates**

**Absences and Attendance**

Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing their course absence policies, which will vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, including Holy Day obligations, unavoidable circumstances, or University authorized activities

(<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>). Students may use this absence form to aid communication; the instructor will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused

(<https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/ABSENCE%20EXPLANATION%20FORM2019.pdf>).

**Academic Integrity**

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#). Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

**Accommodations for Disabilities**

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at <https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>.

**Administrative Home of the Course**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and related policies. Other colleges may have different policies. CLAS policies may be found here: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

**Communication and the Required Use of UI Email**

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)).

**Complaints**

Students with a complaint about an academic issue should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course; students may next bring the issue to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information, see <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

**Final Examination Policies**

The final exam schedule is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. No

exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals. Visit <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies>.

### **Nondiscrimination in the Classroom**

UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity ([diversity.uiowa.edu](https://diversity.uiowa.edu)).

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, please see <https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>.