

“American Foreign Policy”

A Historical Survey of U.S. Foreign Policy (1938-present) and Examination of the Implications for Current and Future Policy Making.

Political Science 427

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Preston

Fall Semester 2011

Office: 810 Johnson Tower

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11-12

Or by appointment (335-5225 or tpreston@wsu.edu)

Class Time: Tu/Thur 2:50-4:05 p.m., ABEL Rm201

Course Description and Objectives

This course examines U.S. presidential leadership and the making of American foreign policy during the period just prior to the Second World War up to the present.

Students are provided with a basic overview of the structures and actors comprising the foreign policy process, followed by a survey of U.S. foreign policy from 1938 to the present. Topics discussed in-depth include: the wartime alliances during WWII; the decision to use the atomic bomb on Japan; the wartime conferences (Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam) and their impact on the postwar environment; the origins of the Cold War and Containment policy; Korea; Vietnam; Detente; the end of the Cold War; the First and Second Gulf Wars, the ‘War on Terror’, and the Iraqi occupation. **Throughout the course, emphasis is placed not only upon the basic chain of events, but also upon the political context of the time and how the perceptions of policy makers shaped the foreign policy process.** The final three weeks of the course are devoted to engaging students in a policy simulation game in which they take on the roles of foreign policy makers to develop a response to a major foreign policy crisis. The goal of this simulation is to not only provide students with greater empathy for real policy makers, but to also allow applied understanding of the lessons learned from the historical survey section of the course.

Course Requirements

There will be two exams in this course (an in-class midterm exam on October 13th and a final exam on December 15th) each of which is worth 40% of your final grade. The foreign policy simulation game, *The Crisis in Russia*, is scheduled to take place between November 15th-December 9th. **Class participation and attendance account for 20% of your final grade.** Not only are students absolutely required to attend ALL gaming session days (in other words, **mandatory attendance for the simulation**), but the quality of your participation and engagement will be taken into account in assigning your grades!!! **For each simulation day you are absent (or more than 15 minutes late to class more than once), your final course grade will be reduced by one full letter grade!** Only extraordinary reasons will be accepted for missing a simulation day (to be left completely to the discretion of

the instructor). If you have such a problem, you must notify the instructor PRIOR to the class you miss in order to get clearance to be absent. **The final grade breakdown is as follows:**

Midterm Exam #1	40%
Final Exam	40%
Class Attendance & Simulation Participation	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Required Texts & Readings

This course has **one required book have been ordered for this course** and is now available at the bookstore. **You will also be required to have a subscription to *The New York Times*** this semester in order to keep up on current foreign affairs topics. You will be responsible for keeping up on events in Russia throughout the semester, you will be better prepared for the policy simulation game. All books should be paperback. Do not buy a hardback from the bookstore. Note that *The New York Times* is delivered here at WSU to the Bookie.

- 1. Thomas Preston. *The President and His Inner Circle: Leadership Style and the Advisory Process in Foreign Affairs*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. (ISBN: 0-231-11621-7)**
- 2. Subscription to *The New York Times* newspaper.**

If you are looking for additional background material to augment the lectures, I would strongly recommend Stephen Ambrose's, *Rise to Globalism*, as a supplemental (non-required) text. It is very readable and provides additional substance beyond what can be covered in the class lectures.

Code of Conduct

The University Student Handbook states that students have the right to freedom of expression but that **disruptive behavior in classes will not be permitted**. You are expected to participate in classroom activities in a professional manner. **Private discussions with other students, passing notes, reading newspapers, disruptive eating, sleeping, or persistently arriving late or leaving early constitute inappropriate classroom behavior**. If you demonstrate such behavior, you will be verbally warned in class to cease. If you persist in disruptive or distracting behavior, formal action, in accordance with WSU policy, will be taken. Expectations for student assignments and participation are set by the course syllabus and are not negotiable. Students who decline to fulfill those expectations should select another course.

Statement of Disability Policy

Reasonable accommodations are available for any student with a documented disability. Please notify your instructor, during the first week of this course, of any accommodations needed for this course. Late notification may cause requested accommodations to be unavailable. All accommodations must be approved through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Administration Annex 206. For more information phone 335-1566 (TTY also) or send E-mail to Mitchem@wsu.edu. To receive accommodation, students must have documentation of their disability on file with the DRC. The student must complete and sign an Accommodation Form with a DRC staff member and take it to each instructor

for signature. If a student requests an accommodation and does not present a signed and completed form, the student will be directed to the DRC.

Academic Dishonesty: WAC 504-25-015 and WAC 504-25-315

Academic Dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication in the process of completing academic work. The University expects that student organizations will accept these standards and that their members will conduct themselves as responsible members of the academic community. These standards should be interpreted by students as general notice of prohibited conduct. They should be read broadly, and are not designed to define misconduct in exhaustive forms. All clear instances of academic dishonesty shall be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. The first reported instance at WSU of academic dishonesty by a student will be treated as purely an academic matter unless, in the judgment of the responsible instructor, more serious action should be taken through the disciplinary process. Any allegation of subsequent academic dishonesty will be treated as a matter to be referred to the Office of Student Affairs.

I.) The Foreign Policy Process: It's Structure, Actors, and Process.

Week 1 (8/23 & 8/25) - Introduction to the Structures and Actors in U.S. Foreign Policy: *An Overview of the Powers of the President, Congress, State and Defense Departments and NSC; The Impact of Presidential Leadership Style on American Foreign Policy Decision Making.*

Required Readings

The President and His Inner Circle (2001): "Introduction: Understanding the Mosaic of Presidential Personality and Leadership Styles," pp.1-4; "Presidential Personality and Leadership Style," pp.5-31.

*Class Handout

II.) - Historical Overview of American Foreign Policy, 1938-2003.

Week 2 (8/30 & 9/1) - American Foreign Policy Prior to 1945: *Isolationism and Economic Nationalism in American Foreign Policy; The Outbreak and Aftermath of World War Two (1917-1945).*

Required Readings

None

Week 3 (9/6 & 9/8) - The Truman Years: *Truman's Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb, The Origins and Rise of the Cold War, The Truman Doctrine, Containment, McCarthyism, The Korean War and the Decision to Cross the Thirty-Eighth Parallel (1945-1953).*

Required Readings

The President and His Inner Circle (2001): "Harry S. Truman and the Korean War," (pp.32-63).

Weeks 4 & 5 (9/13, 9/15, 9/20) - The Eisenhower Years: *The New Look, Massive Retaliation, Rollback Policies in the Third World (Guatemala, Iran, & Vietnam), and Dien Bien Phu (1954-1960).*

Required Readings

The President and His Inner Circle (2001): "Dwight D. Eisenhower and Dien Bien Phu," (pp.64-96).

Weeks 5, 6, & 7 (9/22, 9/27, 9/29, 10/4) - The Kennedy & Johnson Years: *The Bay of Pigs, Berlin, The Alliance for Progress, Operation Mongoose, Cuban Missile Crisis, and U.S. Policy in Vietnam (1960-1964); The Gulf of Tonkin, the Decision to Intervene, Rolling Thunder, Tet, and the Decision to Halt the Bombing (1964-1968).*

Required Readings

The President and His Inner Circle (2001): "John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis," (pp.97-136); "Lyndon Johnson and the Partial Bombing Halt in Vietnam, 1967-1968," (pp.137-189.)

Weeks 7 & 8 (10/6, 10/11, 10/13) - The Nixon Years: *Detente with the Soviets, SALT, An Opening to China, and the End of the Vietnam War (1968-1975).*

Required Readings

None

1st Midterm Exam – Thursday, October 13th

Week 9 (10/18 & 10/20) - The Carter Years: *Camp David, The Panama Canal Treaty, SALT II, Afghanistan, and the Iran Hostage Crisis (1976-1980).*

Week 10 (10/25 & 10/27) - The Reagan Years: *Revival of a Cold War, Star Wars, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Grenada, INF, and the Iran-Contra Scandal (1980-1988)*

Required Readings

None

Week 11 (11/1 & 11/3) - The Bush and Clinton Years: *The End of the Cold War, The New World Order, START, Panama, China, Somalia, and the Gulf War (1988-1992), Somalia, North Korea, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo (1993-2000).*

Required Readings

The President and His Inner Circle (2001): "George Bush and the Gulf War," (pp.190-218); "A Bridge to the Twenty-first Century: The Leadership Style of Bill Clinton," (pp.219-250).

Week 12 (11/8 & 11/10) - The George W. Bush and Barack Obama

Years: *9/11, the 'War on Terror', the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, the long occupation, North Korea and Iran.*

Required Readings

*Paul R. Pillar, "Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.85, No.2, March/April 2006: 15-27.

*Chaim Kaufmann, "Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas: The Selling of the Iraq War," *International Security*, (Summer 2004): 5-48.

*Kevin Woods, James Lacy, and Williamson Murray, "Saddam's Delusions: The View From the Inside," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006.

Foreign Policy Simulation: "Crisis in Russia"

Week 13 - 'Crisis in Russia' Policy Simulation (11/15, 11/17)

THANKSGIVING BREAK (11/21-11/25)

(class attendance unexpected, unnecessary, & unfulfilling)

Week 14 - 'Crisis in Russia' Policy Simulation (11/29, 12/1)

Week 15 - 'Crisis in Russia' Policy Simulation and Debriefing Session (12/6, 12/9)

FINALS WEEK (12/12-12/16)

**Final Exam – Thursday, December 15th, 10:10a.m.-
12:10p.m. in same classroom**