

**American Foreign Policy**  
**Political Science 482**  
**California State University, Long Beach - Spring 2018**  
**Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 - 12:15 p.m.**  
**Classroom: SPA 209**

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 12:30-1:30 p.m.

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**Overview**

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has enjoyed a “unipolar moment,” a period in which it has been the most powerful and wealthy country in the international system. Although many pundits predicted that unipolarity would usher in an era of perpetual peace around the globe, the United States has faced a host of new challenges since the collapse of the Soviet Union including the emergence of transnational terrorist organizations, destabilizing civil wars, “rogue” states, genocide, and climate change. In addition, as the result of the Great Recession and domestic political partisanship, for the first time in decades analysts are discussing the possibility that the U.S. is a “nation in decline” and the prospect that other countries, including China, may soon surpass the U.S. in global influence and prestige. How should the United States confront the global challenges it faces today? How has the United States reacted to foreign policy challenges it faced in the past?

In this class, we will examine the process through which the United States formulates its national objectives, identifies challenges to these objectives, and develops specific policies in an effort to address challenges and achieve its goals. We will examine three broad eras of United States history: 1) the U.S. as a “rising power” (1898-1945); 2) the Cold War (1945-1991), 3) U.S. global hegemony (1991-present). In each period, we will look at specific foreign policy decisions made by the United States and critically evaluate these decisions.

At the conclusion of this course, students will possess a set of analytical skills that allow them to be informed, critical consumers of United States foreign policy decisions and global affairs.

**Learning Objectives and Analytical Skills**

The course has five primary learning objectives: 1) students will learn to identify the relationship between international relations theory, the concept of national interest, and foreign policy decisions; 2) students will learn the importance U.S. foreign policy decisions have on global politics; 3) students will understand different viewpoints concerning the behavior of

organizations and states in international relations; 4) students will be able to identify domestic sources of U.S. foreign policy; 5) students will understand the ways in which relations between countries and consequent U.S. policy-making processes have changed over the last century.

In addition to achieving these learning outcomes, students in POSC 482 will develop two key skills essential for the practical application of what they learn: 1) students will demonstrate skills in research by gathering and assessing information from sources such as the internet, newspapers, and academic journals; 2) students will learn to clearly express assessments of U.S. foreign policy decisions in both oral and written assignments.

### **Required Books, Readings, and Beach Board**

There is one required book for this course:

- Bruce W. Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Articles from journals, newspapers, and magazines will be assigned in addition to readings from the course textbook. These articles will be posted either to Beachboard or made available to students through URL links in the syllabus. Students are required to have an e-mail account that receives Beach Board e-mail. In addition, all students are required to regularly check the Beachboard class site for announcements and course information.

Students are expected to complete all assigned reading before class on each day the class meets. Lectures will help clarify the readings and will be much more useful to students if they have already begun to grapple with concepts presented in the readings.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

- I. Tests (30%) - There will be two in-class tests, each test will count for 15% of the final grade
- II. Final Exam (20%) - The cumulative final exam will count for 20% of the final grade
- III. Papers (40%) - Two papers, each will count for 20% of the final grade.
- IV. Class participation (10%) – class participation consists of well-reasoned thoughts or critical questions about course material. *Simply attending class is not sufficient to receive full credit for the class participation component of the grade.*

### **Grading Scale**

A = 90-100 (student demonstrates outstanding proficiency in relevant course objectives)

B = 80-89.99 (student demonstrates advanced proficiency in relevant course objectives)

C = 70-79.99 (student demonstrates proficiency in relevant course objectives)

D = 60-69.99 (student demonstrates partial proficiency in relevant course objectives)

F = 0-59.99 (student demonstrates little to no proficiency in relevant course objectives)

### **Class Policies**

#### *I. Academic Integrity*

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Do not plagiarize the work of others and do not copy the work of your peers. Please read CSULB policies on academic integrity, which can be accessed at the following link:

[http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic\\_information/cheating\\_plagiarism.html](http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_information/cheating_plagiarism.html)

Confirmed cases of cheating and/or plagiarism will be dealt with through serious disciplinary action that may include a failing grade on an assignment, failing the class, and potential expulsion from the university.

#### *II. Late Assignments / Make-Up Exams*

Late assignments and make-up exams will be permitted only in cases of documented medical emergency, religious holidays, or university business.

#### *III. Class Participation and Attendance*

Students are required to attend class and demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings.

Late arrivals and early departures will not be allowed. Students arriving more than five minutes after the designated start of class will not be allowed to attend lecture. If a student leaves class without permission prior to the official end of a class session, their overall course average will be reduced by one point.

#### *IV. Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*

Students with disabilities who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the course instructor. If a student with a disability feels that modifications, special assistance, or accommodations offered are inappropriate or insufficient, s/he should seek the assistance of the Director of Disabled Student Services on campus.

## V. *Withdrawal Policy*

Weeks 1 - 2: Withdrawals may be made without instructor approval. Credit for registration fees may be obtained during this period.

Weeks 3 - 12: Withdrawals require approval from the instructor and the chair of the department. Except in medical emergencies filed by the end of Week 8, credit for registration fees may not be obtained.

Weeks 13 - 15: Withdrawals require approval from the instructor, the Chair of the department, and the Dean of the college. Students also must withdraw from all other classes. Credit for registration fees may not be obtained.

## VI. *Computer and Cell Phone Etiquette*

Students are expected to arrive for class on time and to refrain from using cell phones for any reason. Students using phones during class will be asked to leave the classroom. Laptops are permitted in the class for taking notes and referencing class readings only. Please refrain from using the internet to check e-mail, surf the web, or access social media.

## VII. *Respect for Diverse Opinions*

This class presents an open environment for students to discuss their opinions on some of the most contentious issues in American politics today. Students are encouraged to present their thoughtful and reasoned views on issues related to the class topic. For the class to function properly, students must treat their peers with respect. Dismissive statements or intolerance towards anyone in the class will not be permitted.

## VIII. *E-mail Etiquette*

E-mails sent to the professor and to teaching assistants should be written clearly, concisely, and courteously and must come from an e-mail address that clearly indicates student's full name.

## IX. *Changes to Syllabus*

Professor Mahoney reserves the right to alter the syllabus over the course of the semester.

## **Week 1 – Foreign Policy and International Relations Theory**

*Tuesday, January 23 - Course Overview and Expectations*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 1 (pp. 2-6)

*Thursday, January 25 - Foreign Policy and IR Theory (Part 1)*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 1 (pp. 6-24)
- Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." Article available on Beach Board.

### **Week 2 – Formulating and Assessing U.S. Foreign Policy**

*Tuesday, January 30 – Foreign Policy and IR Theory (Part 2)*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 2

*Thursday, February 1 – Making and Assessing American Foreign Policy*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 3 (pp. 56-66)
- David A. Baldwin, "Success and Failure in Foreign Policy." Article available on Beach Board

### **Week 3 – U.S. Foreign Policy from 1898-1917**

*Tuesday, February 6 - The Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Ch. 4 (pp. 89-95; p. 117)
- Thomas G. Paterson, "United States Intervention in Cuba, 1898." Article available on Beachboard.
- Paul A. Kramer, "The Philippine-American War as Race War." Article available on Beachboard

*Thursday, February 8 - United States Intervention in World War I*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Ch. 4 (pp. 100-118)
- Ross Kennedy, "Woodrow Wilson, WWI, and an American Conception of National Security." Article available on Beachboard.

### **Week 4 – World War II and the Origins of the Cold War**

*Tuesday, February 13 - The United States and WWII*

- Henry Kissinger, "Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Coming of World War II," in Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, pp. 250-257.
- Warren Kimball, "Franklin D. Roosevelt and World War II." Article available on Beachboard.

*Thursday, February 15 - The Cold War, Containment, and the Korean War*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 5.
- William Stueck, "The Korean War as International History."

### **Week 5 – Test #1 and Covert Operations During the Cold War**

*Tuesday, February 20 - Test #1*

- Test #1 in class

*Thursday, February 22 - U.S. Covert Operations in Iran and Guatemala*

- Stephen Streeter, "Interpreting the 1954 U.S. Intervention in Guatemala." Article available on Beachboard.
- James Risen, "Secrets of History: The CIA in Iran." Article available on Beachboard

### **Week 6 – Cold War: The Vietnam War and Nixon's Foreign Policy**

*Tuesday, February 27 - The Vietnam War*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 6 (pp. 167-173)
- Fredrik Logevall, "Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam." Article available on Beachboard.
- Excerpts from the documentary *The Fog of War*, directed by Errol Morris (IN CLASS)

*Thursday, March 1 - Nixon, Kissinger, and Chile*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 6 (pp. 176-192)
- Joan Hoff, "A Revisionist View of Nixon's Foreign Policy." Article available on Beachboard.
- Gil Merom, "Democracy, Dependency, and Destabilization: The Shaking of Allende's Regime." pp. 75-95. Article available on Beachboard

### **Week 7 – Reagan and the End of the Cold War**

*Tuesday, March 6 – Reagan's Foreign Policy*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 6 (pp. 194-212)
- Fareed Zakaria, "The Reagan Strategy of Containment." Article available on Beachboard.

*Thursday, March 8 - The End of the Cold War*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 7 and 8
- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History." Article available on Beachboard.

### **Week 8 – The U.S. and the International System Following the Cold War**

*Tuesday March 13 - Globalization and Post-Cold War Options for U.S. Grand Strategy*

- \*\*\*PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS\*\*\*
- Barry Posen and Andrew Ross, "Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy." Article available on Beachboard.

*Thursday, March 15 - The Clinton Doctrine and Humanitarian Intervention*

- Council on Foreign Relations, "The Dilemma of Humanitarian Intervention." Available at the following link: <http://www.cfr.org/humanitarian-intervention/dilemma-humanitarian-intervention/p16524>
- Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide." Link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/09/bystanders-to-genocide/304571/>

### **Week 9 – Terrorism and the Iraq War**

*Tuesday, March 20 - What is Terrorism?*

- Boaz Ganor, "Defining Terrorism." Article available on Beach Board.
- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 11 (pp. 455-467)
- George W. Bush, "Pre-Emption and National Security Strategy," in Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, pp. 643-644.
- Max Abrahms, "Does Terrorism Work?" Article Available on Beachboard.

*Tuesday, March 22 - U.S. Intervention and Occupation in Iraq*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 11 (pp. 467-480)
- Brian C. Schmidt and Michael C. Williams, "The Bush Doctrine and the Iraq War," Article Available on Beach Board
- Frontline Documentary – *Bush's War* - Available at the following link: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/bushswar/>

## **Week 10 – Spring Break**

*Tuesday, March 27 – Spring Break*

- No class meeting

*Thursday March 29 – Spring Break*

- No class meeting

## **Week 11 – Drone Warfare and Cyber Warfare**

*Tuesday, April 3 – Drone Warfare in Afghanistan and Pakistan*

- Barack Obama, “Speech on Drone Policy at the National War College.” Text and video available at the following link:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/24/us/politics/transcript-of-obamas-speech-on-drone-policy.html?pagewanted=all>
- Jane Mayer, “Torture and Obama’s Drone Program.” Available at the following link:  
<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2013/02/torture-and-obamas-drone-program.html>
- Hassan Abbas, “Are Drone Strikes Killing Terrorists or Creating Them?” Available at the following link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/03/are-drone-strikes-killing-terrorists-or-creating-them/274499/>
- New America Foundation, “The Drone War in Pakistan.” Available at the following link:  
<https://www.newamerica.org/in-depth/americas-counterterrorism-wars/pakistan/>

*Thursday, April 5 – Cyber Warfare and Top Secret America*

- Lucas Kello, “The Meaning of the Cyber Revolution.” Article Available on BeachBoard
- Ralph Langner, “Stuxnet’s Secret Twin.” Article available at the following link:  
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/11/19/stuxnets-secret-twin/>
- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 11 (pp.490-498)
- Dana Priest and William Arkin, “Top Secret America.” Available at the link below:  
<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/top-secret-america/>

## **Week 12 – Challenges in the Middle East**

*Tuesday, April 10 - Challenges in the Middle East: Iran and Syria*

- “The Worst Deal Ever that Actually Wasn’t.” Available at the following link:  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/07/iran-nuclear-deal-two-years/533556/>



- Wyn Bowen and Matthew Moran, “The Implications of Iran’s Nuclear Strategy.”
- Fred Lawson – “Syria’s Mutilating Civil War and Its Impact on Turkey, Iraq, and Iran.”

*Thursday, April 12 – Challenges in the Middle East: ISIS*

- Audrey Kurth Cronin, “ISIS is Not a Terrorist Group: Why Counterterrorism Won’t Stop the Latest Jihadist Threat.” Article Available on Beachboard.
- Graeme Wood, “What ISIS Really Wants,” Article Available on Beachboard

### **Week 13 - Russia and China: Challenges to U.S. Hegemony?**

*Tuesday, April 17 - Putin’s Russia*

- John J. Mearsheimer, “Why the Ukraine is the West’s Fault.” Article Available on Beachboard
- Niall Ferguson, “The Russian Question.” Article available at the following link: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/12/23/the-russian-question-putin-trump-bush-obama-kissinger/>

*Thursday, April 19 - China and U.S. Foreign Policy in East Asia*

- Bruce Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Chapter 10
- Nien-Chung Chiang Liao, “The Sources of China’s Assertiveness.” Article available on Beachboard.
- Joseph Nye, “Work with China, Don’t Contain It.” Article available at the following link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/26/opinion/work-with-china-dont-contain-it.html>

### **Week 14 – Test #2 and North Korea**

*Tuesday, April 24 – Test #2*

- *Test #2 in Class*

*Thursday, April 26 – North Korea and Nuclear Proliferation*

- Mark Bowden, “How to Deal with North Korea.” Article available at the following link: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/07/the-worst-problem-on-earth/528717/>
- Niv Farago, “Washington’s Failure to Resolve the North Korea Nuclear Conundrum.” Article available on Beachboard.

## **Week 15 – Transnational Challenges to Global Order**

*Tuesday, May 1 - Climate Change*

- Patrick Doherty, “A New U.S. Grand Strategy.” Available at the following link: [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/01/09/a\\_new\\_US\\_grand\\_strategy](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/01/09/a_new_US_grand_strategy)
- Robert Falkner, “The Paris Agreement and the New Logic of International Climate Politics.”

*Thursday, May 3 – Global Finance and Liberal World Order*

- Randall Germain, “Financial Order and World Politics: Crisis, Change, and Continuity.” Article available on Beachboard.
- Stephen Walt, “The Collapse of the Liberal World Order.” Article available at the following link: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/06/26/the-collapse-of-the-liberal-world-order-european-union-brexit-donald-trump/>

## **Week 16 – Paper #2 and Review for Final Exam**

*Tuesday, May 8 – Analysis of Current Policy Issues*

- Readings TBA

*Thursday, May 10 - Review for Final Exam*

- Paper #2 Due in Class
- In-class review session for final exam