inr4102 - American Foreign Policy
David Houghton

Course Home

Instructor Contact

Instructor	David Houghton
Office	Phillips Hall 311G
Office Hours	Tue and Thur, 9.30-10.30am and 12-1pm
Phone	407-823-6025
Class	Tue and Thur, 1.30-2.45pm, CL1 308
E-mail	david.houghton@ucf.edu

Introduction

This is the companion website to INR 4102 *American Foreign Policy*, Fall 2011. You'll find here a 'Course Mail' function (see menu on the left) which I will use to send you announcements and/or other materials between classes. I will also use the 'My Grades' function to post your grades for the two Midterms and the Final Examination once these become available.

It is absolutely vital that you check this website regularly (especially the course mail and schedule). Without doing this, you will miss any changes, announcements, documents or general messages I post or send to the class as a whole. I recommend that you check your course mail box at least twice per week (more often is better).

Course Description

This class is intended as a basic introduction to U.S. foreign policy. There are many ways to teach a course like this one. Some look at the *history* of U.S. foreign relations. Others examine the *institutions* which are integral to the making of our nation's foreign policy. Still others concentrate on the *ideas* behind U.S. foreign policy, while other courses of this type are primarily concerned with the contemporary challenges and *issues* which confront us today. This course is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to all four - history, institutions, ideas and issues - in a concise and accessible way.

This class examines the past, present and future course of American foreign policy, with a particular emphasis on the period since 1945. By the end of the class you should possess:

- An appreciation of the various dilemmas facing contemporary U.S. foreign policy, especially of the ways in which 9/11 has affected the approach of current policymakers towards foreign policy;
- An understanding of the various theories, traditions or 'logics' which have shaped America's behavior towards the rest of the world;
- An historical knowledge of the patterns and paths which American foreign policy has taken in the past, particularly since WWII;
- A knowledge of the key institutions involved in the formulation and implementation of American foreign policy, and of theories of decision-making relevant to these.

Required Text

You should rent or purchase the following book as soon as possible:

Steven Hook, *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*, third edition (Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2010).

This should now be available for rent or purchase at the UCF bookstore on campus. There is a handy website for the book, which you can access by clicking here. I will also make occasional use of other readings, which you will be able to access via a link on the course webpage called - appropriately enough - 'Additional Readings Box'. Additionally, I will sometimes use materials available online, such as video presentations accessed through the YouTube or CSPAN websites.

Rules of Assessment

The final grade will be composed of three elements:

- A Midterm I Multiple Choice Examination composed of 50 questions, drawn from the material covered to that point. It will be taken on Tuesday 4 October. This exam is worth 25% of your overall grade.

- A Midterm II Multiple Choice Examination composed of 50 questions, drawn from the material covered since the first Midterm. It will be taken on Thursday 10 November. This exam is worth 25% of your overall grade.
- A Final, comprehensive Multiple Choice Examination taken on Tuesday 6 December (1-3.50pm). This is worth 50%, and will consist of 100 questions drawn from all the material covered in the course.
- Makeup examinations and essay extensions will be offered *only in the very rarest of circumstances*. In order to be eligible to take a makeup exam or get an essay extension, you must give a *convincing written explanation*, backed up with proper medical or other documentation, as to why you were unable to meet the expectations required of other class members. Only where the instructor is fully satisfied that the student could not be expected to complete the original assignment/examination given his or her personal circumstances will any exceptions whatsoever be granted. Note also that any makeup examination *will not necessarily be of the same format as the original exam*.

  Finally, please note that ***no extra credit*** will be offered in this course; by continuing with the course, you are agreeing to abide by its rules of assessment and agreeing to accept the marks/grades assigned to your work. The grading scheme will be as follows:

  A 90 or above
  A- 88-89
  B+ 86-87
  B 82-85
  B- 80-81
  C+ 78-79
  C 73-77
  C- 70-72
  D+ 67-69
  D 63-66
  D- 60-62
  F Below 60

Academic Honesty

Cheating of any kind on an examination or other class component will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course). It may also be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend/break rules for one person in a way that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor *at the beginning* of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Schedule

The following readings may be subject to change as the course proceeds.

Date	Class	Reading/Activity
Tuesday 23 August	**Introduction To The Course**	Overview of course and summary of course requirements. Please ensure that you have rented or purchased the course text *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*, by Steven Hook. The third edition is the one you will need. I recommend skimming through it to familiarize yourself with its overall content and focus.
Thursday 25 August	**The Seven Sins of American Foreign Policy**	Read Loch Johnson, 'The Seven Sins', which you can find on the main course webpage inside the link labelled 'Additional Course Readings Box'.
Tuesday 30 August	**The United States in a Turbulent World**	Read Steven Hook, *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*, Chapter 1.
Thursday 1 September	**No Class Held**	Instructor at conference. If you get the chance, you may want to attend Anthony Shadid's talk on the 'Arab Spring' this afternoon. It will be held from 3.00-4.30pm in the Cape Ballroom, UCF Student Union.
Tuesday 6 September	**Soft Power**	Read Joseph Nye, 'Soft Power' (see Additional Readings Box); video, interview with Nye on soft power, which you can see here.
Thursday 8 September	**The Expansion of U.S. Power I**	Hook, Chapter 2.
Tuesday 13 September	**The Expansion of U.S. Power II**	Hook, Chapter 2.
Thursday 15 September	**Mars and Venus in the Post-Cold War World**	Read Robert Kagan, 'Power and Weakness' (see Additional Readings Box); video, selection from CSPAN *Booknotes* interview with Kagan. You can watch the whole program here.

Tuesday 20 September	**Dynamics of Decision-Making I**	Hook, Chapter 3.
Thursday 22 September	**Dynamics of Decision-Making II**	Hook, Chapter 3.
Tuesday 27 September	**The Dilemmas of Decision-Making: Johnson's Vietnam Anguish**	Video, selection from the PBS documentary *LBJ*, available online here.
Thursday 29 September	**Review Session**	No new reading assigned.
Tuesday 4 October	**Midterm Examination I**	50 multiple choice questions. Bring a brown scantron and pencil.
Thursday 6 October	**Nixon's Realism**	Video, PBS documentary *Nixon's China Game*, currently available online here. You can read a transcript of the entire program here.
Tuesday 11 October	**Presidential Power I**	Hook, Chapter 4.
Thursday 13 October	**Presidential Power II**	Hook, Chapter 4.
Tuesday 18 October	**Congress Beyond the "Water's Edge" I**	Hook, Chapter 5. Guest lecturer.
Thursday 20 October	**No Class Held**	Instructor at conference.
Tuesday 25 October	**Congress II**	Hook, Chapter 5.
Thursday 27 October	**Reagan and the Iran-Contra Scandal**	Video, selection from the PBS Frontline documentary *The Secret Government*, currently available online here.
Tuesday 1 November	**The Foreign-Policy Bureaucracy**	Hook, Chapter 6.
Thursday 3 November	**No Class Held**	UCF football game – university closes early.
Tuesday 8 November	**Review Session**	No new reading assigned.
Thursday 10 November	**Midterm Examination II**	50 multiple choice questions. Bring a brown scantron and pencil.
Tuesday 15 November	**Public Opinion at Home and Abroad**	Hook, Chapter 7.
Thursday 17 November	**The Impact of Mass Communications**	Hook, Chapter 8; Livingston and Eachus, 'Humanitarian Crises' and Robinson, 'The CNN Effect' (Additional Readings Box).

Tuesday 22 November	**Social Movements and Interest Groups**	Hook, Chapter 9.
Thursday 24 November	**No Class Held**	UCF closed for Thanksgiving Day.
Tuesday 29 November	**Review Session**	No new reading.
Thursday 1 December	**No Class Held**	Use the spare time to prepare for Tuesday's exam.
Tuesday 6 December	**Final Examination, 1-3.50pm**	Comprehensive final exam, 100 multiple choice questions. Bring a brown scantron and pencil.