INR 4102
American Foreign Policy
Fall 2016

Instructor: Andrew Boutton

Office: 302I Howard Phillips Hall

Office Hours: WR 3:00-4:00

Email: Andrew.Boutton@ucf.edu

Time: TR 1:30 - 2:45

Place: PSY 106

TA: Furkan Bayraktar

Overview

This course will cover the theory and practice of American foreign policy, with a particular focus on the post-1945 period. The goal is to provide students with a framework to which they can refer in order to understand past, ongoing, and future US foreign policy issues. The course will follow a mostly chronological path from the beginning of the Cold War to the present, examining how the American political system and features of the international system interact to shape the decisions and political incentives of US foreign policy makers. Are strategies and policies formulated with the sole aim of advancing US national interests? What other influences might factor into foreign policy decisions? What, if anything, can past foreign policy cases tell us about the present and future?

This is an upper-level course, and thus will be both reading- and writing-intensive. You should be prepared to keep up with the reading and written assignments throughout the semester. Stories and events related to US foreign policy are in the news on a daily basis, and we'll discuss a number of them directly in class. Therefore, you should keep up with current international events. This will put you in a better position to do well on exams and quizzes, and also to earn participation points. A good place to start is the *World* section of the New York Times website, but please ask me if you're interested in additional recommendations.

Objectives

This is not a history class, or even one about current events, although we will discuss both. The overarching goal of this class is to develop broad knowledge about general themes and trends in US foreign policy, and then be able to apply them to specific historical and contemporary cases. Specifically, by the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the primary foreign policy issues that have faced the United States since the end of World War II
2. Understand what motivates leaders' foreign policy actions and behavior

3. Apply general concepts learned in class to explain various US foreign policy crises and their outcomes
4. Draw upon historical examples in order to gain insight into current and future foreign policy issues (where possible and appropriate)
5. Evaluate policy alternatives using logic and evidence
6. Communicate and think critically about abstract ideas
7. Write an effective and coherent research paper

Materials

We will use the following textbook for this class:

James Lee Ray. 2008. *American Foreign Policy and Political Ambition.* Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Since this book is available online for free through the UCF library, I have not ordered hard copies for campus bookstores, although you may purchase it if you wish. To access the free online version, go here and scroll down a bit, click on "Sage Knowledge", enter your NID and password, then enter the title of the book in the search field. From there, you can either access the contents online, or download the chapters and read it later offline.

You will also need to acquire the following books:

George Herring. 2013 *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975 (5th edition).* New York: McGraw-Hill.

Paul R. Pillar. 2001. *Terrorism and US Foreign Policy* Washington DC: Brookings University Press.

They are in stock at university bookstores, but you may be able to find them for less on Amazon. Regardless of where you get them, do so quickly. The remainder of the readings will consist of academic articles, selections from books, or online newspapers. Links to some of them are found in the PDF of the syllabus, and I'll make the others available to you via Webcourses.

Grading:

This class will consist of three different types of assignments: exams (2), a research paper (1), and quizzes (5). These are explained in more detail below. The value of each assignment varies, but the total value of all assignments is 450 points. Thus, your final grade is based directly upon how many of the 450 points you earn throughout the semester.

Exams: 150 points (2 @ 75 points each)

There will be two in-class exams over the course of the semester: one mid-term and one final. They will consist of two sections. The identification section will present a list of 10-12 terms and concepts, of which you will choose 8-10 to explain. The concept should be correctly explained and then briefly applied to an actual example from the readings or from current events. The short-essay section will consist of 3-5 questions, from which you will choose 2-3 to answer. The format for the two exams will be identical. All material on the exams will come directly from the assigned readings, lectures, and in-class discussions, so those who attend class regularly and keep up with the reading will have the most success. The first exam will cover the first half of the class (roughly), while the final will cover the rest.

Research paper: 200 points (50 points for the proposal, 150 for the paper)

Each of you will produce a (roughly) 2,500-word research paper, which will cover a case or issue area of your choosing that is relevant to contemporary or historical US foreign policy. More specifically, you will analyze this case through the lens of the "political ambition" theory that serves as the framework for the Ray textbook. Does your case fit neatly within this framework, or do US actions and/or policies conflict with what political ambition theory would predict? Why and how does it fit? Does the policy or action that would most benefit the political career(s) of the relevant decision makers align with the national interest?

As part of this grade, you will need to submit a 1-2 page proposal that describes your case in detail. You can select any case or policy area you would like, but please clear it with me first. More specifics on the paper and proposal will be discussed in class.

You are welcome to choose any topic you would like, but please clear it with me, either in person or via email, by **September 22**.

The proposal will be due in class on **October 13.**

The final paper will be due on ***Friday, December 2, by 5:00 PM*** in the Political Science office (302 Howard Phillips).

Quizzes: 100 points (5 @ 20 points each)

There will be a total of five (5) quizzes throughout the semester that will be given in-class and without prior warning. These will typically consist of 2-4 short-answer questions taken directly from the reading assigned for that class day. Thus, you should read the assigned material, carefully, *before* the start of each class period. Each quiz will be worth 20 points.

Letter grade	Points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	<59

Attendance

As this is a relatively large class, I will not take attendance, and there is no direct penalty for being absent from class. However, lectures and class discussions will not be strictly from the assigned reading, and we will

often venture outside the readings during class. It is your responsibility to catch up on what you missed if you do not come to class on a particular day. Furthermore, not attending class will affect your ability to 1) take quizzes; and 2) participate in class (see below). Not doing any or all of these things will have a negative impact on your final grade in some way.

Participation points & extra credit

Participation is not part of the 450 points needed for your final grade. In other words, you will not be penalized even if you choose to sit in silence during class discussions for the entire semester. However, you will be able to earn up to 50 bonus points simply by participating regularly, consistently, and thoughtfully in class discussions. This means asking and/or answering questions, commenting on the readings or some recent news story, or responding to a classmate's comment or question. These bonus points will be added onto your final grade. There are no hard and fast rules, **but as a rough point of reference, someone wishing to earn the full 50 points should participate about once per class period.** I'm good with names and faces, and will keep track of this throughout the semester.

While non-participation will not be penalized *per se*, both you and your classmates will almost certainly get more out of this class if you participate actively in discussions. We will be dealing with some abstract and, at times, intense subject matter, and both your understanding of the material and the quality of your experience this semester will depend almost entirely on how much you engage in this class.

Late work

You may submit late work without a university excuse up to four (4) days after the due date, but with a **15% deduction per day from your grade** on that assignment. I will not accept anything beyond four days past the deadline.

Make-up policy

If you are unable to take an exam due to an emergency or a university-approved scheduling conflict, you must let me know as soon as possible and provide the relevant documentation. I will try to be as accommodating as possible for students with legitimate conflicts, but as a general rule, I will only consider allowing make-up exams if you contact me ahead of time (email is fine). Make-up exams should be taken within one (1) week of the original exam date, and will not be given before the exam date.

Grade rounding

Final grades will be rounded up to the nearest whole number if and only if the grade is within 0.5 points of the next highest whole number. For example, a grade of 89.5 will be rounded to 90, but a grade of 89.49 will not be. There will be no discussion on this point. I realize this may be frustrating in some cases, but you are all adults, and the line must be drawn somewhere. One additional consequence of my participation policy (discussed above) is that I will not entertain ***any*** end-of-semester requests for extra credit or for grades to be rounded up.

Plagiarism

The penalty for plagiarism and "cheating" of any kind may vary, but as a general rule, plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment and may result in an F for the entire class, depending on the severity of the case. Particularly egregious instances may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct if further action is needed. Despite what some students seem to think, plagiarism is quite easy to detect. Fortunately, it is also easily avoidable by following citing your sources correctly. For this class, please follow the Chicago Manual of Style's citation guide.

EMAIL

I am generally available via email to answer questions about the class, readings, or assignments. You can email me directly at (Andrew.Boutton@ucf.edu) or get in touch via the email feature in Webcourses. ***If you email me directly, please put the course number in the subject line***. The TA for the course, Furkan Bayraktar (`f.f.bayraktar@gmail.com`) will also be able to answer questions that pertain specifically to grading. I will make every effort to respond to emails within 48 hours of receiving them.

Course Schedule:[1]

August 23: Course intro

August 25: Theoretical framework

- Ray, Ch 3

August 30: History of US foreign policy

- Ray, Ch 2

September 1: The presidency & congress

- Ray, Ch 6
- The War Powers Act

September 6: Interest groups

- John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt. 2007. "The Israel Lobby". *London Review of Books*, 28(6)

September 8: The media

- Ray, pp 98-104

September 13: Public opinion

- Ray, pp 86-98
- Adam Berinsky. 2007, "Assuming the costs of war: Events, elites, and American public support for military conflict" *Journal of Politics* 69(4)

September 15: Carrots & sticks

- Patricia Sullivan. 2007. "War aims and war outcomes: Why powerful states lose limited wars" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(3)

September 20: Carrots & sticks II

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith. 2007. "Foreign aid and policy concessions" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51(2)

[1] The reading assignments are subject to change slightly. I will make you aware of any changes well in advance.

September 22: Allies, cooperation, & empire

- *****Clear your paper topic with me by today!!*****
- David Lake. 2007. "Escape from the state of nature: Authority and hierarchy in world politics" *International Security* 32(1)
- SKIM: Dan Nexon and Thomas Wright. 2007. "What's at stake in the American empire debate?" *American Political Science Review*, 101(2)

September 27: Nation-building and democracy promotion

- Arthur Goldsmith. 2008. "Making the world safe for partial democracy? Questioning the premises of democracy promotion" International Security 33(2)

September 29: The Cold War

- Ray, Ch 7
- George Kennan. 1947. "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" (http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3629)

October 4: The Cold War II

- John Lewis Gaddis. 1986. "The long peace: Elements of stability in the postwar international system" *International Security* 10(4)

October 6: Nuclear weapons and deterrence

- watch *Dr. Strangelove* in class

October 11: Vietnam I

- Herring, Ch 1-2

October 13: Vietnam II

- *****Paper proposal due in class!!*****
- Herring, Ch 3-4

October 18: Exam 1

October 20: Fog of War

- No assigned reading

October 25: Vietnam III

- Herring, Ch 5-6

October 27: Vietnam IV

- Herring, Ch 7-8

November 1: Terrorism & counterterrorism I

- Pillar, Ch 1-2

November 3: Terrorism & counterterrorism II

- Pillar, Ch 3-4

November 8: Terrorism & counterterrorism III

- Pillar, Ch 6-8

November 10: US policy in Africa

- Ray, Ch 11

November 15: US policy in Latin America

- Ray, Ch 10

November 17: US policy in Asia

- Ray, Ch 12

November 22: US policy in Europe

- Ray, Ch 9

November 24: Thanksgiving

- No class

November 29: US policy in the Middle East

- Ray, Ch 13

December 1: US policy in the Middle East, II

- Timur Kuran. 1991. "Now out of never: The element of surprise in the East European revolution of 1989" *World Politics*, 44(1)
- ****Final paper due in 302 Howard Phillips by 5:00 PM on Friday, December 2****

December 6: Final exam (1:00-3:50 PM)

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you are writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

University Policies

Academic Conduct Policy Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University

Note to students with disabilities:
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 who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, Phone: (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.