American Foreign Policy

“This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose. To that high concept there can be no end save victory.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt’s address to Congress, January 6th, 1941

After World War I and II, American foreign policy was able to transform and shape the international system through wars, diplomacy, ideas and markets. American foreign policy championed the ideals of democracy and liberalism, made friends with dictators and authoritarian regimes, and displayed reluctance to subject itself to the rules of international organizations. The second half of the 20th century saw the rise and decline of the ‘unipolar moment”, in which the United States was able to exert its military, economic and political power with minimum restrictions. Stepping on the global stage after WWII, American foreign policy did not merely exert keen promotion of state-interests, but it also embodied a new world order agenda in which grand settlements, client states and American bases were primary features. The turn of the 21st century ushered new global challenges, new security threats, global economic downturn, and the beginnings of non-polarity.

This course will examine the drivers of American foreign policy, the evolution of American foreign policy from a non-interventionist to an interventionist policy, and how the new challenges of the 21st century (this course will focus on China and the Middle East) are affecting the orientation of American foreign policy, and hence American’s standing in the world.
The five central questions posed in this course are:

1) What is special about foreign policy making in a democracy?
2) Who are the key system, state and individual actors shaping American foreign policy? What are the various constrains within which each actor operates?
3) What does the rising global influence of China mean for the United States?
4) What does the changing political landscape in the Middle East mean for the United States?
5) What should America’s “grand strategy” be for the 21st century?

Course Objective: While developing analytical, critical and comparative skills, this class will develop the ability to analyze policy through clarifying goals, stating possible alternatives, determining the consequences of these alternatives, and then choosing. The emphasis in this course is initially on understanding the various explanations of foreign policy input, process and output, then understanding the critical decisions that have shaped American foreign policy over half a century. Furthermore, students will practice analyzing American foreign policy by engaging in current global developments, pertaining particularly to American foreign policy towards China and the Middle East.

The final evaluation of the course will be determined as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation, debates, group papers</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Quizzes (Pass/Fail)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper (6 – 8)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final- exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Please note that exceptional effort in one or more areas of the course may result in additional points being added to the student’s final evaluation.
**Attendance:**
Attendance will be taken each class. There will be a grade deduction penalty for students who missed more than two classes. Students must use the self-reporting absence system by going to the following website: [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) in addition to sending an email to the instructor before the missed class.

**Mailing List:** You will be subscribed to the course email list under your Rutgers email address. The list is meant for general announcements as well as to facilitate communication among students.

**Sakai:** There will be a link for this course on Sakai, where students can communicate, discuss and share current news updates. In addition, it is a place where students can find many of the course readings and periodical announcements.

**News and Current Events:** It is essential that you regularly read a newspaper with good international and economic coverage in general, and news outlets with a foreign policy focus. If you can read foreign-language newspapers, even better. By sharing what you read, you can help us compare different perspectives on the same event. Here are few possible foreign policy online sources:

- Foreign Policy Research Institute [www.fpri.org](http://www.fpri.org)
- Aljazeera [www.english.aljazeera.net](http://www.english.aljazeera.net)
- The Washington Post [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

**Academic Integrity** Students of this class are governed by the rules of Rutgers University regarding academic misconduct/dishonesty and plagiarism. [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml)
Careers in International Relations and Foreign Policy: Please visit the department’s website at www.polisci.rutgers.edu/undergrad/careers, for more information on careers, and graduate education in international relations and foreign policy.

Course Readings: All the readings listed in the syllabus are required readings. Additional readings (articles, news reports, etc.), although not required, will be sent to students and/or posted to Sakai throughout the semester.

Cases and Group Papers: On the days we have a “Foreign Policy Case (FPC)”, students are required to come to class on that day having prepared for the case, which was posted on Sakai a week earlier. On FPC days, students will work in groups to analyze the case and write a group report in class. All members of the group are expected to interact and contribute to the in-group debate. Attending FPC days is mandatory.

Quizzes: Ten five minute/one question pop quizzes. All quizzes are graded on a pass/fail, and you need to pass seven.

Books we will be reading from throughout the semester:


Class Schedule:

Friday, January 17th:
Course overview and syllabi distribution

Tuesday, January 21st  Introduction
Hook, chapter one
http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=331
Friday, 1/24 – Tuesday, 2/4 :  Part I - Theories and Debates

Tuesday 1/24 Explaining Foreign Policy (1)
Ikenberry, pp 13 – 34.


Tuesday 1/28 Explaining Foreign Policy (2)
Hook, chapter two

Friday 1/31 Explaining Foreign Policy (3)
Melvyn Leffler, “The American Conception of National Security and the Beginnings of the Cold War 1945-48, pp. 84-110. (Sakai)

Tuesday 2/4 Explaining Foreign Policy (4) The Three Main Visions
Realism: Ikenberry, pp.60 – 82. (Kenneth Waltz, “Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power”)
Liberalism: Ikenberry, pp. 204-234 (Samuel Huntington, “American Ideals versus American Institutions ”)

Friday 2/7 First FPC Day, Group Papers in Class
Case will be posted on Sakai.
Tuesday 2/11–Tuesday 2/25 Part II-Foreign Policy Decision Making and Actors

Tuesday 2/11 Decision-Making in Foreign Policy
Hook, chapter three

Friday 2/14 Foreign Policy in a Democracy, Shared Powers (1) The President
Hook, chapter four
Kissinger, Diplomacy, Chapter 15, “America Reenters the Arena: Franklin Delano Roosevelt”

Tuesday 2/18 Foreign Policy in a Democracy, Shared Powers (2) Congress
Hook, chapter five

Friday 2/21 Foreign Policy in a Democracy, Shared Powers (3) Bureaucracy
Hook, chapter six
Ikenberry, pp 396 – 435 (Graham Allison “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis”)

Tuesday 2/25 Foreign Policy in a Democracy, Shared Powers (4)
Public Opinion/Legitimacy/Interest Groups
Alexander George, “Domestic Constraints on Regime Change in U.S. Foreign Policy: The Need for Political Legitimacy,” pp. 333-356 (Sakai)
Hook, chapter seven
Friday 2/28–Tuesday 3/4

Part III National Interests and America’s Grand Strategy

Friday 2/28 Hegemony and The Interventionist Paradigm

Ikenberry, pp. 298 – 317 (Michael Roskin “From Pearl Harbor to Vietnam: Shifting Generational Paradigms in Foreign Policy”)

Ikenberry, pp. 111 – 131 (John Ikenberry, “Rethinking the Origins of American Hegemony”)

Tuesday 3/4 National Security and America’s Grand Strategy


Hook, chapter ten and eleven

Friday 3/7 – Tuesday 3/11 Part IV- American Foreign Policy and China

Friday 3/7 China: The Origins of a Rising Power

Henry Kissinger, “On China”, chapter one. (Sakai)


From Hostility to Engagement 1960 – 1998
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB19/

Tuesday 3/11 American Foreign Policy towards China

Kissinger “On China”, chapter eighteen (Sakai)


Hillary Clinton, “America’s Pacific Century” November, 2011

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Friday 3/14  The Future of US Chinese Relations


Tuesday 3/18–Friday 4/13

Part V - American Foreign Policy and the Middle East

Tuesday 3/18  The Middle East 1948 - 2003

Roy Licklider, “Political Power and the Arab Oil Weapon” chapter seven. (Sakai)


Friday 3/21  The Middle Eastern System

Raymond Hinnebusch, ”The International Politics of The Middle East” chapter 2. (Sakai)


Tuesday 3/25  Iraq: 2003 Invasion and Aftermath


Friday 3/28 Iran: Defiance, Resistance and Engagement

Anoushiravan Ehteshami “Middle Powers in a Penetrated Region” chapter three. (Sakai)


Tuesday 4/1 Second FPC Day, Group Papers in Class

Friday 4/4 Egypt: Past and Post-2011 Revolution (Mid-Term Papers are due)

Tuesday 4/8 Turkey: An Emerging Power in the Middle Eastern Region
Friday 4/11–Friday 4/27

Part VI America’s Grand Strategy for the 21st Century

Friday 4/11 Domestic and International Constrains

Ikenberry, pp.238 – 255, (Michael Mastanduno “The United States Political System and International Leadership: A Decidedly Inferior Form of Government?”)

Ikenberry, pp 575 – 586 (Arthur Schlesinger “America and the World: Isolationism Resurgent?”)

Tuesday 4/15 The Future of Democratic Peace


Friday 4/18 Transnational Policy Problems (1)

Hook, chapter twelve

Tuesday 4/22 Transnational Policy Problems (2)

Friday 4/25 Managing non-Polarity


Fareed Zakaria “The Post American World”

Final Exam: TBD