United States Foreign Policy

Class Location: 112 Lillis
Time: 9:00-11:40 MTWU, 8/17-9/03 (3 weeks)

Course Description: What role should the U.S. play in the world and how is U.S. foreign policy made? This course examines U.S. foreign policy since World War II, with a special focus on critically examining several key events and turning points each week, as well as frequently discussing and critically evaluating domestic sources of U.S. foreign policy. Political science approaches to studying foreign policy introduced.

Course requirements:

1.) Students must attend class and read assigned materials in advance of class if possible. Readings complement lectures and films, and attending class will be essential for doing well on the weekly short exams, in-class informal debates and the brief research paper. Reading before class will help you understand the lecture.

2.) First two Thursdays there will be a 30 minute exam (2 exams, 20% each) on the week’s readings, lectures and films. (40% of final grade)

3.) One 4-6 page research paper will be assigned the first day, worth 20% of your grade. This paper will use the National Security Archive collection to examine newly found evidence on any event discussed in this class. The paper is due on 9/04.

4.) There will be a 2 hour final exam (with additional time if needed) worth 30% of your grade—scheduled for 9/03 @ 9:30am in the classroom. A review sheet of possible exam questions will be handed out in advance.

5.) Attendance, participation in the in-class debates and “over-the-top” research recognition will be factors in the final grade. (10%) Attendance will be taken in each session. Missing more than three class sessions will result in a major deduction for each subsequent session missed. The fewer you miss the better for your grade.

Required Reading:
1.) Steven W. Hook and John Spanier, *American Foreign Policy Since World War II* (Twentieth Edition—but 19th or 18th edition also acceptable.)

2.) Other brief readings will be assigned and fully available on CANVAS website.

Course Policies:
**Late or missed assignments will be penalized if not excused.** In many cases, arrangements can be made for conflicts with the paper deadlines with other deadlines—but PLAN IN ADVANCE. Advance planning is essential to being a responsible person.
DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. We will discuss this—but it is **your responsibility** to understand plagiarism and to make sure you do not do it.

**Week 1**
8/17: American Approach to Foreign Policy
Introduction to U.S. foreign policy; Paper assignment handed out and explained.

S & H: Skim ch. 1; Course approach discussed and compared to other approaches to the study of foreign policy discussed.
Film on the start of the Cold War.

8/18: The Cold War
S & H: Read ch. 2: “From World War to Cold War”—focus on “The Strategy of Containment”—what was it? Who was George Kennan? What is a Grand Strategy?

8/19: Containment: From Theory to Practice
S & H: ch. 3; Focus on “Domestic Pressures for a Global Crusade”; What was Eisenhower’s “New Look” in Foreign Policy?

8/20: North-South Tensions and The Vietnam War
S & H: Ch. 4; Focus on “The Cuban Missile Crisis” for today; Vietnam more fully discussed on Monday.

Short Exam—30 minutes beginning promptly at 11:05.

**Week 2**
8/24: Détente and World-Order Politics
S & H: ch. Ch. 5; Focus on Henry Kissinger; and “Carter’s Quest for World Order”

8/25: Breakthroughs in the Superpower Struggle
S & H: ch. 6; Focus on “Reagan’s Rhetorical Offensive;” “The Strategic Defense Initiative; we’ll watch “Visions of Star Wars”
8/26: The End of the Cold War
S&H: ch. 7; Focus on “Bush’s Management of the Soviet Collapse”; “The Contending Arguments in Perspective” – Ask yourself—why did the Cold War End?

8/27: The New World “Disorder”
S & H: ch. 8; “Great Expectations After the Cold War,” “Clinton’s Embrace of Geoeconomics”
QUIZ—30 minutes beginning promptly at 11:05.

WEEK 3
8/31: America under Fire
S & H: ch. 10; “The Growing Threat of ‘Sacred Terror’” and “A Grand Strategy of Primacy and Preemption” – What is preemption, and is preemption necessary?

9/1: Hot Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
S & H: ch. 11; “The Afghanistan Campaign” and “Renewed Hostilities in Iraq” especially “Making the Case for War” -- What role did “The Israel Lobby” play in starting the war with Iraq?

9/2: The Revival of Power Politics
S& H: ch. 14; Read all, esp. “Cold War II with Russia” and “Rethinking American Power”
Review for Final Quiz Show Game—in-class!

9/3: In-class final: 9:30-11:40. Paper due either in-class Thursday or Friday by 5 pm in mailbox marked “Cramer” on 9th floor of PLC.