✎ Edit

American Foreign Policy
PSCI 4830.001 (1914)
Fall 2025 (16wk)

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Prof. Andrew J. Enterline
Dept. of Political Science
Email: Canvas Email System Only

Tuesday & Thursday, 2-3:20 pm (Wooten Hall 112)

Course Description

This course is designed to engage the history as well as the intellectual debates central to American foreign policy. This course does not rely on a textbook to achieve this goal and it is not organized in the time honored tradition of lecture/exam, lecture/exam, etc. Rather, this course is grounded in careful consideration of ideas central to American foreign policy as they are discussed in a set of books. In turn, these ideas are discussed by the students and the instructor in small and large group settings each week. We will use this method to explore the evolution of American foreign policy from its founding to the present period. In doing so we underscore recurrent problems and dilemmas in American foreign policy. After working through the assigned books and four films, the student completes a take-home essay exam. In the final phase of the course, students participate in a simulation, an exercise that allows students to engage in bargaining and decision making on an issue familiar to American foreign policy.

Canvas

Student attendance, grades, etc., will be posted on the UNT Canvas system for the class. Additional information regarding upcoming course activities, adjustments to plans, etc., will also be posted on Canvas. Students are responsible for information posted therein. Hence, students should check their Canvas account for the course regularly. All communication will be through Canvas Email, so students should activate alerts so that they receive any email communication in a timely manner.

Required Materials

Six books are required for the course (listed in the order that they will be read and discussed.) They are available at the UNT bookstore, online, at local booksellers (new and used), and in most cases are available at local libraries. Although you need not have all six books in hand in the first week of the semester, you are expected to acquire each book with enough time to read it prior to our discussion of the book in class in the assigned week.

The required books are as follows (in the order that they will be taken up):

1. *Dangerous Nation: America's Foreign Policy from Its Earliest Days to the Dawn of the Twentieth Century*. Robert Kagan. Vintage. ISBN-13: 978-0375724916;
2. *American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis*. Adam Hochschild. Mariner Books. ISBN-13: 978-0358455462;
3. *The Cold War: A New History*. John Lewis Gaddis. Penguin Books. ISBN-13: 978-0143038276;
4. *Fascism: A Warning*. Madeleine Albright. Harper. ISBN-13: 978-0062856524;
5. *Into the Hands of the Soldiers: Freedom and Chaos in Egypt and the Middle East*. David D. Kirkpatrick. Penguin Books; Reprint edition. ISBN-13: 978-0735220638; and
6. *The Jungle Grows Back: America and Our Imperiled World*. Paperback. Robert Kagan. Vintage; Reprint edition. ISBN-13: 978-0525563570.

In addition to the course readings we will viewing four films during the semester. Like the aforementioned books, the films contain material that the student will employ in the semester exam. The films are viewed during the regular class session and will be announced on the day of the scheduled viewing.

Class Format

The foundation of this course is discussion of the course readings. Students are expected to arrive to class each Tuesday having read the appropriate readings for the week. Each Tuesday, students will discuss the weekly reading in small groups prompted by questions on the material provided by the instructor at the start of a given class. Each Thursday students and the instructor will discuss the readings and questions (and beyond) collectively in the large group setting.

Student Responsibilities

Weekly Meetings/Active Participation (30% of Final Course Grade)

Attendance will be taken for this course during the first few minutes of class (if you arrive after this point, it is your responsibility to alert me of this at the end of class so that it can be recorded correctly.) Attendance records will be reported in Canvas with a column marked by the class date and a value of ``1'' for attended. While I record your physical presence in the classroom, participation means actively engaging the course material, not merely attending and sitting quietly (or, departing after attendance is taken.) If you pursue the latter strategy, you will not receive credit for participation.

Contributions to group discussions on Tuesday and Thursday will account for 30% of a student's final grade. Midterm evaluation of student participation in the course will be reported on Canvas mid-October.

Exam (40% of Final Course Grade)

There will be one take-home, essay-style exam. The exam instructions will be distributed in class on Nov. 13, with the exam topic made available at 6 pm on Nov. 13. The exam is to be returned by the student via the UNT Canvas system by 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 23. The broad essay topic will be drawn from the material covered in the course materials, including films, and our in-class discussions. The exam contributes 40% toward the student's final grade.

Simulation & Paper (30% of Final Course Grade)

The simulation paper requires students to integrate ideas contained in the course readings and discussions with behavior observed during the simulation in a paper of approximately 10 double-spaced pages. The simulation paper is due during exam week on Wednesday, Dec. 10 by 11:59 pm via the UNT Canvas Assignment link. Additional information regarding the paper will be forthcoming as the semester progresses. The semester paper contributes 30% to each student's final grade.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) (e.g., ChatGPT) in Your Coursework

According to the UNT Academic Integrity Policy (**UNT Policy 6.003** ⤴ **(https://policy.unt.edu/sites/ default/files/06.003%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf)**), any form of "unauthorized assistance" constitutes cheating. As a result, use of any artificial intelligence is not authorized for assignments in this course. Please refrain from using any AI system to complete any of your coursework. If UNT Turnitin.com (built into Canvas) detects AI usage in your Exam or Simulation Paper, I reserve the right to query you in person regarding your writing before awarding a grade for a given assignment. If you are unable to convince me that the content is not AI-generated, then you will not receive credit for the assignment in question.

Winter Weather

As winter weather approaches in late November and December, please monitor your Canvas and MyUNT email accounts for messages from me regarding course meetings. Due to commuting hazards (me riding a motorcycle from the greater Fort Worth area), I may cancel class due to poor weather prior to any declaration by the UNT Registrar.

Course Calendar

Week 1 (Aug. 19): Course Introduction

(Aug. 21): No class (Reading Day; please read Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*, Chs. 1-4)

Week 2 (Aug. 26): Small Group discussion of Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*, Chs. 1-4

(Aug. 27): Large group discussion of Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*, Chs. 1-4

Week 3 (Sept. 2): Small group discussion of Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*, Chs. 5-8

Week 3 (Sept. 4): Large group discussion of Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*, Chs. 5-8

Week 4 (Sept. 9): Small Group discussion of Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*, Chs. 9-12

Week 4 (Sept. 11): Large group discussion of Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*, Chs. 9-12

Week 5 (Sept. 15/17): Hochschild, Part 1

Week 6   (Sept. 23/25): Hochschild, Part 2

Week 7   (Sept. 30/Oct. 2): Film Session #1 (film in class on Tuesday; film in class on Thursday)

Week 8   (Oct. 7/9): Gaddis, Chs. 1-3

Week 9   (Oct. 14/16): Gaddis, Chs. 4-7

Week 10   (Oct. 21/23): Albright, entire

Week 11   (Oct. 28/30): Film Session #2 (film in class on Tuesday; film in class on Thursday)

Week 12   (Nov. 4/6): Kirkpatrick, entire

Week 13   (Nov. 11/13): Kagan, *The Jungle Grows Back*, entire

Week 13   (Nov. 13): Simulation Instructions Distributed

Week 13   (Nov. 13): Exam Instructions & Topic Distributed Following Class via Canvas Assignment (6 pm)

Week 14   (Nov. 18): Simulation Session #1

Week 14   (Nov. 20): Simulation Session #2

Week 15   (Nov. 25/27): Fall Break/Thanksgiving (No Class This Week)

Week 15 (Sunday, Nov. 23): <u>Exam Due in Canvas by 11:59 pm</u>

Week 16   (Dec. 2): Simulation Session #3

Week 16   (Dec. 4): Simulation Debrief

Week 17 (Dec. 10): Exam Week. Simulation Paper Due in Canvas by 11:59 pm.

UNT Policies

Please familiarize yourself with the University's policies here: **UNT Policies (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/93884/pages/unt-policies)**

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Dec 11, 2024	📝 **Simulation Paper (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/131613/assignments/2769607)**	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 23, 2025	📝 **Semester Exam (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/131613/assignments/2769605)**	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Participation (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/131613/assignments/2769606)**	