

American Foreign Policy
PSCI 4830.001
Fall 2012
TR, 6:30–7:50 p.m.

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Course Description

At a time when world politics appears, and perhaps is, in a period of transition, it is important that we examine the theoretical underpinnings of American foreign policy. This course is designed to achieve this goal by engaging the intellectual debates on American foreign policy. This course does not rely on a textbook, and is not organized in time honored tradition lecturing from a textbook. Rather, this course is grounded in careful consideration of ideas central to American foreign policy as they are discussed in books by contemporary authors; in turn, these ideas are discussed by the students and the instructor in small and large group formats. We will use this approach to explore the evolution of American foreign policy from its founding to the present.

Reading Materials

The following books are required for the course (listed in the order that we will be considered for discussion). They are available at the UNT bookstore:

1. *Dangerous Nation: America's Foreign Policy from Its Earliest Days to the Dawn of the Twentieth Century*. (Paperback) Robert Kagan. Vintage (November 6, 2007). ISBN-13: 978-0375724916
2. *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*. Walter Russell Mead. Routledge. (2002) ISBN: 0415935369.
3. *Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America's Imperial Dream*. Gregg Jones. [Hardcover] NAL Hardcover (February 7, 2012). ISBN-13: 978-0451229045
4. *The Violence of Peace: America's Wars in the Age of Obama*. Stephen Carter. [Paperback]. Beast Books; First Trade Paper Edition edition (December 6, 2011). ISBN-13: 978-0984295180
5. *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*. Andrew Bacevich. [Paperback] Holt Paperbacks; First Edition edition (April 28, 2009). ISBN-13: 978-0805090161

6. *No One's World: The West, the Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn*. Charles Kupchan. Oxford University Press, USA (March 1, 2012). ISBN-13: 978-0199739394.
7. *Full Body Burden: Growing Up in the Shadow of a Secret Nuclear Facility*. Kristen Iversen. [Paperback] Crown; 1 edition (June 5, 2012). ISBN-13: 978-0307955630
8. *Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power*. Zbigniew Brzezinski. [Hard-cover] Basic Books (January 24, 2012). ISBN-13: 978-0465029549

Class Format

The foundation of this course is discussion of 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; each Thursday, students and the instructor will discuss the readings collectively.

UNT Blackboard

Student attendance, grades, etc., will be posted on the UNT Blackboard system. Additional information regarding upcoming course activities, adjustments to plans, etc., will also be posted on Blackboard *students are responsible for this information*. Hence, students should check their Blackboard account frequently each week.

Student Responsibilities

Weekly Meetings

Attendance will be taken for this course during the first 5 minutes of class. *Participation* means actively engaging the course material, not merely showing up in the classroom and sitting quietly. If you pursue the latter strategy, you will not receive credit for participation. Contributions to group discussions on Tuesday and collective discussions on Thursday will account for 30% of a student's final grade. Midterm evaluation of student participation will be reported on Blackboard on Oct. 17.

Exam

There will be an essay-exam on November 13. The question(s) will be drawn from the material covered in the course readings and in-class discussion. The exam contributes 40% toward the student's final grade.

Simulation & Paper

A simulation will be conducted on Nov. 20 (preparation), 27, 29, and Dec. 4 (debriefing.) Attendance is *required* during all simulation days, so be aware that the simulation straddles the Thanksgiving holiday and you must attend on Nov. 20. The paper requires students to integrate ideas contained in the course readings and discussions with behavior observed during the simulation in an analysis of approximately 10 double-spaced pages. The semester paper is due on Wednesday Dec. 12 by midnight via an upload to the UNT Blackboard system. Additional information regarding the paper will be forthcoming as the semester progresses. The semester paper will contribute 30% to each student's final grade.

Winter Weather

When winter weather approaches in late November and December, please monitor your Blackboard and MyUNT email accounts for messages from me regarding lecture. Due to commuting hazards, I may cancel lecture prior to any declaration by the UNT Registrar (this usually involves freezing precipitation).

Calendar

30 Aug.	Course Introduction
4/6 Sept.	Kagan, Ch. 1–6
11/13 Sept.	Kagan, Ch. 1–12
18/20 Sept.	Mead
25/27 Sept.	Jones
2/4 Oct.	Carter
9/11 Oct.	Bacevich
16/18 Oct.	Kupchan
23 Oct.	Iversen
25 Oct.	NO LECTURE
30 Oct./1 Nov.	Brzezinski
6/8 Nov.	Exam Preparation
13 Nov.	EXAM
15 Nov.	NO LECTURE (Brain Rest)
20 Nov.	Simulation Preparation
22 Nov.	NO LECTURE (Thanksgiving)
27/29 Nov.	Simulation
4 Dec.	Simulation
6 Dec.	NO LECTURE
Thursday, Dec. 13 Simulation Paper Due	

UNT Dept. of Political Science Statement of ADA compliance

The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request to Enterline on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second week of classes.)

UNT Dept. of Political Science Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty. Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams. Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

UNT Dept. of Political Science Policy on Academic Integrity

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), located at:

<http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/>

and file: 7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT The UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 "Student Standards of Academic Integrity." Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional

forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Related Resources

Additional resources pertaining to course enrollment and student rights and responsibilities may be found here:

- Course drop: <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html>
- Academic dishonesty: <http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>