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PSCI 335.01: American Foreign Policy

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American Foreign Policy

"Domestic policy can only defeat us; foreign policy can kill us" -- John F. Kennedy

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Course Number: PSCI 335

Class Location: Liberal Arts 337

Meeting Time: MWF 3:10-4:00 p.m.

Website: Moodle (<http://umonline.umd.edu>)

CRN (Add/Drop): 72880

You may schedule an appointment with me online at <http://tungle.me/erichines>

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop informed critics of **American foreign policy (AFP)**, the means by which the United States pursues its interests or ends abroad. To this end, it provides a toolkit allowing students to answer four interrelated questions:

- (1) What factors determine the choices America makes about the appropriate means and ends it pursues abroad and who makes those decisions?
- (2) Were past and current policies well-chosen to achieve America's objectives?
- (3) Were America's past and current objectives appropriate and if not, what are the appropriate objectives?
- (4) How might AFP be modified to be more effective, efficient, and/or acceptable?

As we build this toolkit, we will examine the historical and theoretical context of AFP and evaluate some of its historical successes and failures. We will then identify the major foreign policy problems confronting the United States at the dawn of the 21st Century and evaluate which alternative means and ends are appropriate for addressing them.

Prerequisites and required skills: To enroll, students must have junior or senior standing and have completed PSCI 230 (PSC 130).

PSCI 400. Political science majors can use this course with PSCI 400 to complete their major writing requirements. Please speak with the instructor if interested.

Course Learning Outcomes and Assessments

After this course, students will have the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to:

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>		<i>Assessment</i>
1	Define and identify the significance of key concepts in foreign policy and use them to describe AFP.	Midterm & Final Exams Policy Memo Portfolio
2	Explain AFP decisionmaking and evaluate its success using seven theoretical models.	Midterm & Final Exams Policy Memo Portfolio
3	Identify and describe the values informing the decisions of foreign policymakers on the means and end of AFP.	Policy Memo Portfolio
4	Describe the constraints key policy-makers face when making decisions about the means and ends of AFP.	Policy Memo Portfolio Policy Presentation
5	Evaluate alternative solutions to major foreign policy challenges using specific criteria that acknowledge existing political, economic, and social constraints.	Policy Memo Portfolio Policy Presentation
6	Make recommendations on the appropriate means and ends of AFP by choosing between alternative.	Policy Memo Portfolio Policy Presentation
7	Assess the reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and bias of information sources on AFP.	Library Assignment Policy Memos Portfolio Policy Presentation

Course Philosophy

Learning is more than memorizing facts and answering questions on a test. It is using information to gain an understanding of how things work and how to make them better.

In this course, learning will be defined as the process of enhancing your ability to:

- Ask the right questions and frame good problems.
- Acquire information and evaluate sources of information.
- Critically investigate and solve problems.
- Make choices among different alternatives.
- Explain abstract ideas to others both orally and in writing.
- Generalize to new situations.

Required Materials

There is three required textbooks available at the UC Bookstore or online:

Carter, Ralph G. 2007. *Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy: From Terrorism to Trade*. 4th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. ISBN: [978104267310](#).

Colon, Ernie, and Sid Jacobson. 2006. *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation*. New York: Hill And Wang. ISBN: [0809057395](#).

Jentleson, Bruce W. 2010. *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*, 4th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN: [9780393933574](https://www.wwnorton.com/9780393933574).

All other required resources are available on [Moodle](#).

Student Responsibilities

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Attend class regularly and complete all assigned readings before class.
2. Participate actively in class activities including class discussions.
3. Complete all assignments by the deadline given by the instructor.
4. Complete course requirements by the end of the semester.
5. Review all feedback from the instructor, including feedback posted online.
6. Ask for clarification if instructions or feedback are not fully understood.
7. Inform the instructor beforehand if they cannot fulfill these responsibilities.

Academic Misconduct Policy

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. It is available for review online at: <http://ordway.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/name/StudentConductCode>.

Statement On Disabilities

I strongly encourage students with documented disabilities to discuss appropriate accommodations with me. Because I am not qualified to make an assessment of your need for an accommodation, if feel you need accommodations please present me with a letter from Disability Services for Students (DSS), Lommasson Center 154 (243-2243), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

Course Requirements (% of Final Grade)

Participation and Attendance (15%). A portion of the course is devoted to the analysis of case studies through class and small-group discussion. Students will be evaluated on participation and attendance. Attendance will be taken during discussions and represents 70% of the participation and attendance grade. The remaining 30% will be determined through instructor and peer evaluations of the quality of participation.

Midterm Exam (10%). Students will take an online examination through Moodle that is due by midnight, Oct. 17. The exam features identification questions, short answer questions, and an essay question.

Policy Memo and Library Research Assignments (5%). On Oct. 12, the class will meet at the Mansfield Library to complete an assignment modeled on the research practices needed when writing policy memos. The worksheet is available on Moodle.

Policy Presentations and Presentation Worksheets (10%). During the semester, each student will give a 5-6 minute speech to persuade the audience to adopt a specific foreign policy alternative. The date and order of the presentation will be assigned randomly. At the end of each set of presentations, all students will submit a presentation worksheet in which they identify the recommended policies, indicate if they accept or reject the recommendation, and indicate the reason for their decision. The worksheet and schedule are available on Moodle.

Policy Memo Portfolio and Problem Statements (60%). Each student will write five 2-page policy memos that they will submit in a single document at the end of the semester. Each memo will identify a major problem in American foreign policy, evaluate alternative policy solutions to the problem, and recommend a preferred solution. Students will submit a statement of the problem for each memo on dates throughout the semester for instructor feedback and evaluation. The guidelines for the policy memos and the problem statements are available online.

Class Debate. During the final class session, Dec. 9, the class will engage in a debate on the success or failure of the Obama administration's foreign policy. Students will read at least three readings from a list available on Moodle and complete a debate preparation worksheet. The worksheet is available on Moodle and is due at the end of class. This will be scored as part of the participation and attendance grade.

Grading

Grades are based on a 1000 pt. scale with points and deadlines distributed as follows:

Assignments/Assessments	Pts. Possible	Due Date	Submitted in/on ...
Participation and Attendance (I)	50	Sep 30, 2011	N/A
Library Research Assignment	50	Oct 14, 2011	Moodle
Problem Statement #1	20	Oct 14, 2011	Moodle
Midterm Exam	100	Oct 17, 2011	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #1	5	Oct 26, 2011	Moodle
Problem Statement #2	20	Oct 26, 2011	Class
Participation and Attendance (II)	50	Nov 2, 2011	N/A
Presentation Worksheet #2	5	Nov 7, 2011	Moodle
Problem Statement #3	20	Nov 7, 2011	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #3	5	Nov 18, 2011	Class
Problem Statement #4	20	Nov 18, 2011	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #4	5	Dec 5, 2011	Class
Problem Statement #5	20	Dec 5, 2011	Class
Presentation Worksheet #5	5	Dec 7, 2011	Class
Debate Worksheet	N/A	Dec 9, 2011	Class

Assignments/Assessments	Pts. Possible	Due Date	Submitted in/on ...
Participation & Attendance (III)	50	Dec 9, 2011	N/A
Policy Memo Portfolio	500	Dec 12, 2011	Moodle
Policy Presentation	75	Variable	Class

The plus/minus grading system will be used with grades based on the total points: A = 1000-930, A- = 929-900, B+ = 870-899, B = 830-869, B- = 800-829, C+ = 770-799, C = 730-769, C- = 700-729, D+ = 670-699, D = 630-669, D- = 600-639, F = <600.

Course Schedule

This class will feature lectures, class discussions, debates, and student presentations as outlined below. I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule if necessary.

Date	Topic or Activity	Readings and Assignments
Aug 29	Review of Syllabus;	
Aug 31	<i>Lecture:</i> Frameworks for Thinking about AFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lovell, "Imaginary Ideal Machine" • Jentleson, Chapter 1
Sep 2	<i>Class Discussion:</i> How should the national interest be defined? How do we achieve it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 198-215
Sep 5	LABOR DAY	NO CLASS
Sep 7	<i>Lecture:</i> The Domestic Context of American Foreign Policy (Institutions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 2, pgs. 27-49 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 216-222
Sep 9	<i>Lecture:</i> The Domestic Context of American Foreign Policy (Society)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 2, pgs. 49-68 • Reading in Jentleson, pgs. 223-230
Sep 12	<i>Case:</i> <i>The United States vs. Terrorism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter, pgs. xi-xv, 1-37
Sep 14	<i>Lecture:</i> The Historical Context of American Foreign Policy, Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 3, pgs. 72-103
Sep 16	<i>Lecture:</i> The Historical Context of American Foreign Policy, Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 3, pgs. 103-111 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 231-245
Sep 19	<i>Case:</i> <i>National Security Surveillance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter, pgs. 229-258
Sep 21	<i>Mini-Lecture:</i> AFP in the Cold War <i>Class Discussion:</i> Who started the Cold War?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 4 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 246-262
Sep 23	<i>Mini-Lecture:</i> The Aftermath <i>Class Discussion:</i> Was AFP in the Cold War a Success or Failure? How do we know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 5 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 263-278
Sep 26	<i>Lecture:</i> Foreign Policy Strategy in a New Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 6, pgs. 280-320 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 644-655
Sep 28	<i>Mini-Lecture:</i> Post-Cold War Politics <i>Class Discussion:</i> Meeting New Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 6, pgs. 320-341 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 644-655
Sep 30	<i>Case:</i> <i>The Imperial Presidency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter, pgs. 38-73
Oct 3	<i>Lecture:</i> Geopolitics after the Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jentleson, Chapter 7 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 656-662

Date	Topic or Activity	Readings and Assignments
Oct 5	<i>Case: The United States vs. North Korea</i>	• Carter, pgs. 138-166
Oct 7	Lecture: The Middle East	• Jentleson, Chapter 8
Oct 10	<i>Case; Cuba; Small Group Exercise: How to define a Problem Statement</i>	• Carter, pgs. 333-353 • <i>Policy Memo Handbook</i> on Moodle
Oct 12	<i>Library Research Session</i> (Meet at Student Learning Center, Mansfield Library)	• Library Research Assignment
Oct 14	<i>Small Group Exercise: How to Define a Policy Criteria</i>	• Library Research Assignment Due • Problem Statement #1 Due
Oct 17	No Class Today; Midterm Online	• Midterm (M)
Oct 19	<i>Case: The United States and Iran</i>	• Carter, pgs. 108-137
Oct 21	Lecture: The Politics of Intervention	• Jentleson, Chapter 9
Oct 24	<i>Case: The Response to Rwanda</i>	• Powers, "Bystanders to Genocide"
Oct 26	Six-Minute Policy Presentations (Group 1)	• Problem Statement #2 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due
Oct 28	Lecture: Globalization	• Jentleson, Chapter 10
Oct 31	<i>Case: The Global Financial Crisis</i>	• Carter, pgs.
Nov 2	<i>Case: U.S.-Sino Trade Policy</i>	• Carter, pgs. 354-385
Nov 4	<i>Case: Politics of Climate Change</i>	• Carter, pgs. 386-415
Nov 7	Six-Minute Policy Presentations (Group 2)	• Problem Statement #3 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due
Nov 9	<i>Case: The International Criminal Court</i>	• Carter, pgs. 416-443
Nov 11	<i>Case: Maritime Piracy</i>	• Carter, pgs. 200-228
Nov 14	Lecture: <i>The Democratic Century?</i>	• Jentleson, Chapter 11 • Readings in Jentleson, pgs. 702-719
Nov 16	<i>Case: The Rights of Detainees</i>	• Carter, pgs. 444-469
Nov 18	Six-Minute Policy Presentations (Group 3)	• Problem Statement #4 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due
Nov 21	<i>Case: Immigration Policy</i>	• Carter, pgs. 259-291
Thanksgiving Break: No Class November 23-25		
Nov 28	<i>Case: September 11 (Part One)</i>	• Colon and Jacobson, pgs. 1-34
Nov 30	<i>Case: September 11 (Part Two)</i>	• Colon and Jacobson, pgs. 35-68
Dec 2	<i>Case: September 11 (Part Three)</i>	• Colon and Jacobson, pgs. 69-116
Dec 5	Six-Minute Policy Presentations (Group 4)	• Problem Statement #5 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due
Dec 7	Six-Minute Policy Presentations (Group 5)	• Policy Presentation Worksheet Due
Dec 9	<i>Instructor Evaluations; Class Debate: Has Obama's foreign policy Been successful?</i>	• At Least 3 Readings from List on BB • Debate Preparation Worksheet Due
Dec 12		• Policy Memo Portfolio Due @ Midnight