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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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**Phone:** 406.359.1660 (Cell/Voicemail)

**Course Number:** PSCI 335

**Class Location:** Liberal Arts 337

**Meeting Time:** MWF 1:10-2:00

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

**CRN (Add/Drop):** 74996

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

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## 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. This class has one prerequisite course (PSCI 230) and requires students to have a working knowledge of international relations theory. Prerequisite skills include the ability to work in small groups.

### Course Learning Outcomes and Assessments

After completing this course, students will have the knowledge and skills 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.	9/11 Analysis Policy Memos
2	Explain AFP decisionmaking and evaluate its success using seven theoretical models.	9/11 Analysis Policy Memos
3	Identify and describe the values informing the decisions of foreign policymakers on the means and end of AFP.	Policy Memos
4	Describe the constraints key policy-makers face when making decisions about the means and ends of AFP.	Policy Memos Policy Presentation
5	Evaluate alternative foreign policy options using specific criteria that acknowledge existing pconstraints.	Policy Memos Policy Presentation
6	Make recommendations on the appropriate means and ends of AFP by choosing between alternative.	Policy Memos Policy Presentation
7	Assess the reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and bias of information sources on AFP.	Library Assignment Policy Memos

### 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 are three required textbooks available at the UC Bookstore or online:

Carter, Ralph G. 2010. *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](#).

Hastedt, Gleen P. 2011. *American Foreign Policy*. Boston: Pearson. ISBN: [0205854729](#).

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/VPSA/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)

The following paragraphs outline the requirements for this course. Detailed information on each can be found on Moodle.

**Midterm: 9/11 Analysis (25%).** After reading the *The 9/11 Report*, students will write a 5-page midterm analyzing the process and structure of decision-making in AFP.

**Policy Memo and Library Research Assignment (5%).** Between Oct. 8-12, students will work on a preparatory assignment class that models the research practices needed when writing policy memos.

**Learning Group Policy Memos and Presentations (40%).** Students will be assigned randomly to learning groups of 3-4 students to work on five problems related to AFP. For each problem, groups must (1) define a specific policy problem to address and (2) write a policy memo recommending a solution to the problem. Twice during the semester, groups will also give a seven minute presentation on their problem/solution. Groups will share their grade for each policy memo and presentation, but individual grades will be adjusted using an online peer evaluation. Groups will also submit learning issues and problem statements to the instructor. They will not be graded, but incomplete or late submissions will result in a one-letter grade penalty applied to the policy memo grade.

**Policy Presentations Worksheets (5%).** 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 is due at the end of class.

**Workshops.** During certain identified class-days, students will work in groups to produce a document. This document is not graded, but students who do not participate in the workshop will have a half-letter grade deducted from their final course grade.

**Final Paper (25%).** Students will individually write a policy briefing outlining recommendations to the President of the United States on the content of a new National Security Strategy of the United States.

### 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 ...
Midterm: 9/11 Analysis	250	Oct 12, 2012	Moodle
Library Research Assignment	50	Oct 15, 2012	Moodle
Policy Memo #1	100	Oct 22, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #1	10	Oct 22, 2012	Class
Policy Memo #2	100	Oct 31, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #2	10	Oct 31, 2012	Class
Policy Memo #3	100	Nov 9, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #3	10	Nov 9, 2012	Class
Policy Memo #4	100	Nov 26, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #4	10	Nov 26, 2012	
Policy Memo #5	100	Dec 7, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #5	10	Dec 7, 2012	Class
Final Paper	250	Dec 10, 2012	Moodle

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.

**Peer Evaluations.** After each group assignment, students will complete an online peer evaluation awarding a share of the final product to each group member besides themselves. Students earning a higher or lower average share will have their grade adjusted. Students must complete their peer evaluations to receive credit for the policy memo being evaluated. Full details are available online.

### 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 27	Review of Syllabus; Foreign Policy Simulation	• HW: "A Foreign Policy Machine"
Aug 29	Lecture: Frameworks for Thinking about AFP	• Hastedt, Ch. 1
Aug 31	Lecture: Frameworks for Thinking about AFP	• Hastedt, Ch. 9 • Reading TBA (M)
Sep 3	<b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Sep 5	Lecture: Global Context	• Hastedt, Ch. 2
Sep 7	Lecture: Ideational Context	• Hastedt, Ch.3
Sep 10	Lecture: Historical Context I	• Hastedt, Ch. 4
Sep 12	Workshop: National Security Surveillance	• Work, "Good night" (M) • Carter, Ch. 8
Sep 14	Lecture: Social Context	• Hastedt, Ch. 5
Sep 17	Lecture: Institutional Context I (Congress)	• Hastedt, Ch. 6
Sep 19	Lecture: Institutional Context II (President)	• Hastedt, Ch. 7
Sep 21	Workshop: The Imperial Presidency	• Carter, Ch. 2
Sep 24	Lecture: Institutional Context II (Bureaucracy)	• Hastedt, Ch. 8
Sep 26	Lecture: Means I (Diplomacy)	• Hastedt, Ch. 10
Sep 28	Lecture: Means II (Economic Statecraft)	• Hastedt, Ch. 11
Oct 1	Lecture: Means III (Big Wars)	• Hastedt, Ch. 12
Oct 3	Lecture: Means IV (Small Wars)	• Hastedt, Ch. 13
Oct 5	Workshop: The 9/11 Report	• Bring questions from <i>9/11 Report</i> to class.
Oct 8	Small Group Exercise: Defining Problem Statements	• Layne, " <a href="#">This Time It's Real</a> " (M) • <i>Policy Memo Handbook</i> on Moodle
Oct 10	Library Research Session: Meet at Student Learning Center, Mansfield Library	
Oct 12	Small Group Exercise: Defining Policy Criteria	• <b>9/11 Analysis Due</b>
Oct 15	Case: Iran (Learning Groups 1-5) Case: North Korea (Learning Group 6-10)	• Carter, Ch. 4 • Carter, Ch. 5 • <b>Library Research Assignment Due (M)</b> • <b>Learning Issues Due (C)</b>
Oct 17	Learning Group Work Session	• <b>Problem Statements Due (C)</b>
Oct 19	Learning Group Work Session	
Oct 22	Seven-Minute Policy Presentations	• <b>Policy Memo #1 Due (M)</b> • <b>Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)</b>
Oct 24	Case: Drug War (Learning Groups 1-4) Case: Immigration (Learning Group 5-7) Case: Cuban Embargo (8-10)	• Carter, Ch. 3 • Carter, Ch. 9 • Carter, Ch. 11

Date	Topic or Activity	Readings and Assignments
Oct 26	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	• <b>Problem Statements Due (C)</b>
Oct 29	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	
Oct 31	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	• <b>Policy Memo #2 Due (M)</b> • <b>Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)</b>
Nov 2	<i>Case: Russia</i> (Learning Groups 1-5) <i>Case: China</i> (Learning Group 6-10)	• Carter, Ch. 6 • Carter, Ch. 12 • <b>Learning Issues Due (C)</b>
Nov 5	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	• <b>Problem Statements Due (C)</b>
Nov 7	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	
Nov 9	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	• <b>Policy Memo #3 Due (M)</b> • <b>Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)</b>
Nov 12	<b>Veteran's Day (No Class)</b>	
Nov 14	<i>Case: ICC</i> (Learning Groups 1-5) <i>Case: Guantanamo</i> (Learning Group 6-10)	• Carter, Ch. 14 • Carter, Ch. 15 • <b>Learning Issues Due (C)</b>
Nov 16	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	• <b>Problem Statements Due (C)</b>
Nov 19	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	
<b>Thanksgiving Break: No Class November 21-23</b>		
Nov 26	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	• <b>Policy Memo #4 Due (M)</b> • <b>Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)</b>
Nov 28	<i>Workshop: Final Paper Peer Review</i>	• Bring paper outline to class.
Nov 30	<i>Case: Climate Change</i> (All Learning Groups)	• Carter, Ch. 13 • Busby, " <a href="#">Under What Conditions</a> " (M) • <b>Learning Issues Due (C)</b>
Dec 3	<i>Course Evaluations; Learning Group Work Session</i>	• <b>Problem Statements Due (C)</b>
Dec 5	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	
Dec 7	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	• <b>Policy Memo #5 Due (M)</b> • <b>Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)</b>
Dec 10		• <b>Final Paper Due @ 9:00 a.m.</b>