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PSC 335.01: Foreign Policy

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Political Science 335
Foreign Policy

Summer, 2008 American
Office: LA 349
Office Hours: 11:40-12:30

Textbook:

John Spanier and Steven Hook, American Foreign Policy Since World War II (17th edition)

Course Objectives:

This course is a review of American foreign policy since World War II. It is not a history of American foreign policy nor does it, except indirectly, consider the making of foreign policy from an institutional perspective. Instead the course assesses foreign policy along three dimensions. The first dimension is the identification and description of the problems facing the US during the period and the policy options available to address them. The second dimension is a description of the policies that were actually implemented. The third dimension is an evaluation of the effectiveness of these policies.

Assessment:

Familiarity with the facts and details of American foreign policy since World War II will be assessed by means of four quizzes each consisting of ten identification-type questions. These quizzes will be on: May 29, June 5, June 12, and June 19. These exams will be OBJECTIVE in that they will consist ONLY of identification questions (names, dates, events, policies and the like). These questions can be answered in a page or less. USE BLUEBOOKS ONLY

Assessment of current American foreign policy will be accomplished through an essay on the following topic: "The foreign policy of the Bush administration is the most misguided since the Vietnam era." This is not a research paper but a statement of informed opinion. As such the essay should be supported with evidence. This essay should be approximately five pages or 1250 words. DUE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 19.

Grades: Quizzes (4 @ 20% each)= 80%

Essay = 20%

NOTE: Attendance is mandatory. Three absences will be permitted. Each absence beyond three will result in a 5% grade reduction.

The course will be organized according to the following topic

sequence. Please follow the reading assignments as indicated since class time will be involve considerable discussion and everyone is expected to participate.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
The US Approach to Foreign Policy	Spanier/Hook, Ch.1
US Policy Before WW II	
The World After World War II	Spanier/Hook, Ch.2
The Containment Doctrine	Spanier/Hook, Ch.3
The US and the Third World	Spanier/Hook, Ch.4
FIRST QUIZ	MAY 29
Vietnam	Spanier/Hook, Ch.5
Détente	Spanier/Hook, Ch.6
World Order Politics	Spanier/Hook, Ch.7
Cold War II	Spanier/Hook, Ch.8
SECOND QUIZ	JUNE 5
Post Cold War	Spanier/Hook, Ch.9
New World Order	Spanier/Hook, Ch.10
Globalization	Spanier/Hook, Ch.11
THIRD QUIZ	JUNE 12
American Imperium?	Spanier-Hook, Ch. 12
War on Terror	Spanier-Hook, Ch. 13
War in Iraq	Spanier-Hook, Ch. 14
FOURTH QUIZ	JUNE 19