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PSC 335.01: American Foreign Policy

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The University Of Montana

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Political Science 335
American Foreign Policy

Summer, 1997
Office: LA 349
Office Hours: 8-9

Textbook:

John Spanier, American Foreign Policy Since World War II (13th edition)

Course Requirements:

This course consists of three elements: the substance of American foreign policy, i.e., the facts; analysis and interpretation of the effectiveness of foreign policy in terms of national self-interest and broader ethical issues; and writing. The first part (the facts) will be covered in two one-hour exams. The first will be on July 16 and the second on August 1. 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 one or two paragraphs.

This is a "W" course so major emphasis will be placed on writing. The second and third elements of the course will be addressed in three short papers (approximately 5 pages each) all of which should focus on the same common theme. (Some examples: a geographical focus such as US policy toward Latin America, economic policy, alliance policy, human rights policy.) These papers are to be analytical and interpretive dealing with the issues of national interest and ethics. After the papers have been graded and returned, they will be combined into a larger final paper. This paper, in addition to integrating the three short papers (with corrections), will afford an opportunity for refining critical judgement.

The short papers are due on the following schedule: 1st paper due on June 7; 2nd paper due on June 14; 3rd paper due on June 21. Final paper is due June 28.

The material for these papers is to come primarily from the textbook but may also include additional sources as you wish. PLEASE RETURN THE THREE SHORT PAPERS ALONG WITH THE FINAL PAPER.

Grades: Short papers (10% each) = 30%
 Final paper = 25%
 First exam = 15%
 Second exam = 15%
 Attendance/discussion = 15%

NOTE: Three absences will be permitted. Each absence beyond three will result in a 1% grade reduction.

The course will be organized according to the following sequence. Please follow the reading assignments as indicated since there will be primary emphasis upon discussion rather than lecture:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
The Bases of Foreign Policy	Spanier/Hook, Ch. 1
US Policy Before WW II	Spanier/Hook, Ch. 2
Cold War I	Spanier/Hook, Ch. 3-6
Human Rights Issues	Spanier/Hook, Ch. 7-8
FIRST EXAM	July 17
Cold War II	Spanier/Hook, Ch. 9-10
Post Cold War	Spanier, Ch. 11
Conclusion	Spanier, Ch.12
SECOND EXAM	August 1