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Spring 2-1-1998

### PSC 335E.01: American Foreign Policy

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
Department of Political Science

Political Science 335E  
American Foreign Policy  
Spring Semester, 1998

F.L. Grieves  
Office: LA 350  
Hrs.:

The purpose of this course is to provide a review of major elements of U.S. foreign policy since World War II.

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate 1) factual knowledge of post-World War II American foreign policy, its significance in international politics and a sense of enduring ethical themes; 2) familiarity with important foreign policy literature and research sources; and 3) competence in preparing a range of written tasks typically required in scholarly work in political science.

Political Science 335E will be taught as an experimental undergraduate seminar. In addition to a substantive examination of American foreign policy, the seminar will stress research and writing skills. Seminar sessions will be conducted on a discussion basis under the direction of the instructor, whose role will be to guide discussion. A seminar situation presupposes mature students who are willing to work on their own, come to grips with ideas on their own, and then examine these ideas collectively with seminar colleagues. Individual students bear a large share of the burden for the collective success of a seminar.

TEXTBOOKS

- Spanier/Hook, American Foreign Policy Since World War II (14th ed)
- Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (6th ed)

Discussion will revolve around the following:

- 1) assigned readings from the texts
- 2) oral and written assignments based on outside readings and research
- 3) collective critique, defense and evaluation of ideas suggested by the readings and research
- 4) writing problems encountered in preparing class assignments

Evaluation of seminar performance will be based upon:

- 1) attendance and active class participation (15% of final grade)
- 2) one paraphrase/summary (5%) of an article in a professional journal (1-3 pages); all written assignments double-spaced (see exceptions), typed, uneven right margin, copied for class distribution and due no later than 11:00am on Thursday preceding seminar meeting for which work is listed as due on the syllabus; assignments due in LA 350; late papers will NOT be graded. Instructor's copy to be placed in faculty mail box.

- 3) two book reviews (10% ea.), 3-5 pages; copies for class
- 4) one book-related essay (3-5 pages; copies for class) plus one book review of the same book (3 pages; copy for instructor only) (15%)
- 5) one prospectus (5%), 1 page; copy for instructor only
- 6) one research paper (10-15 pages, including endnotes & bibliography for instructor, 20%) and one abstract of the paper (1 page, single-spaced, for class, 5%). Copy of research paper due no later than the Tuesday following oral presentation. Abstract (copies for class) due on Thursday preceding oral presentation.
- 7) Academic journal: Due March 3 and April 14 (single-spaced, typed, 10%)
- 8) Ethics essay: Due April 28 (2 pages, double-spaced, 5%)

The seminar will be divided into two groups (A and B). Each week, in addition to assigned readings for the entire seminar, one group will have a written assignment/oral presentation due and the other group will assume responsibility for commentary/evaluation. At least one of the written assignments will be re-written. The mechanics of seminar operation and the guidelines for written work will be explained in class.

Papers are graded on the basis of use of scholarly resources, organization and clarity of prose (including grammar, punctuation and spelling), and formal paper mechanics (Turabian manual, class handouts). Grading scale: 90s = A, 80s = B, 70s = C, 60s = D, 59 and below = F

- (Tues)
- January 27: INTRODUCTION: ETHICS AND FOREIGN POLICY
- February 3: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY & ETHICS IN FOREIGN POLICY  
-Spanier & Hook, Ch. 1  
-Criteria for moral judgments & choice of foreign policy goals  
-The state as actor, national interest, rationality & morality
- 10: COLD WAR  
-Spanier & Hook, Ch. 2  
-A, Paraphrase/Summary
- 17: CONTAINMENT AND SPHERES OF INFLUENCE  
-Spanier & Hook, Chs. 3 & 4  
-B, Paraphrase/Summary
- 24: THIRD WORLD AND VIETNAM  
-Spanier & Hook, Chs. 5 & 6  
-A, Book Review; B, Prospectus

- March            3:    DÉTENTE  
                      -Spanier & Hook, Ch. 7  
                      -B, Book Review; A, Prospectus  
                      -A & B, Academic Journal (Chs. 1-7)
- 10:    WORLD-ORDER POLITICS  
                      -Spanier & Hook, Ch. 8  
                      -A, Book Review
- 17:    SPRING BREAK
- 24:    REVIVAL OF SUPERPOWER CONFRONTATION  
                      -Spanier & Hook, Ch. 9  
                      -B, Book Review
- 31:    ENDING THE COLD WAR  
                      -Spanier & Hook, Ch. 10  
                      -A, Book-Related Essay
- April            7:    OLD TENSIONS AND NEW FRONTIERS  
                      -Spanier & Hook, Chs. 11 & 12  
                      -B, Book-Related Essay (April 14 Group A Paper  
                              Abstract DUE April 9!)
- 14:    AMERICA AT THE MILLENIUM  
                      -Spanier & Hook, Ch. 13  
                      -A & B, Academic Journal (Chs. 8-13)  
                      -A, Paper Abstract, Papers (oral presentations  
                              start)
- 21:    RESEARCH PAPERS  
                      -A, Papers  
                      -B, Paper Abstract
- 28:    RESEARCH PAPERS  
                      -B, Papers  
                      -A & B, Ethics Essay
- May             5:    RESEARCH PAPERS  
                      -A & B, Papers
- 13:    RESEARCH PAPERS (Finals Week, WED., 8:00-10:00)  
                      -Remaining Papers  
                      -Conference

NOTE: Monday, March 9: last day to drop classes or change  
grading option