

Carleton University
Winter 2019
Department of Political Science

PSCI 3809 B
Selected Topics in Political Science: US Foreign Policy
Thursdays at 14:35 – 17:25
Please see Carleton Central for location

Instructor: Hamed Mousavi
Office: B641
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 – 14:30
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext 3052
Email: hamedmousavi@cmail.carleton.ca

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the history, goals, successes and challenges of American foreign policy. The course begins by introducing possible theoretical frameworks that can be used to analyze US foreign policy. After providing some historical context, we examine the rise of the United States as a global superpower and US national security strategy during the Cold War. Subsequently we analyze several contemporary issue areas and regions where the US has faced important challenges and obstacles in the past two decades. Finally, the course examines ongoing structural changes to the international order and how this has affected US foreign policy. The principle goal of the course is twofold: 1- Provide you with an analytic framework and historical context for understanding US foreign policy particularly during the past two decades, and 2- Improve your capacity to evaluate competing theories and arguments about US foreign policy.

Text

Mandatory:

Cox, M. and Stokes, D. (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Supplementary:

Russell Mead, W. (2002). *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World*, New York: Routledge.

The mandatory textbook for this course will be available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore. Other mandatory readings will be provided in class.

Evaluation

Requirement	Percentage of final grade	Due date
Attendance and Class Participation	12%	-
Quiz	13%	February 28
Research Paper	35%	March 28
Final Exam	40%	TBA

Attendance and Class Participation: It is expected students will have read all the required readings before coming to class. Participation grades will be based on the quality and quantity of your class participation. Attendance is a pre-requisite for participation. In addition to attending class, it is expected that you will participate in an informed and consistent manner in weekly discussions. One point will be awarded for attending each class and engaging in discussions.

Quiz: An in-class quiz consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions will be held on **February 28st**. Attending classes and reading the required course materials will be sufficient to do well on the quiz. There will be no make-up quiz. Students who are unable to take the quiz on the specified date, due to a documented family or medical emergency, will have to make alternate arrangements with the course instructor.

Research Paper: All students will complete a research paper on an issue or debate in US foreign policy. The paper can also use a theoretical framework discussed in class to examine a question of American foreign policy. More instructions will be provided in class. The research paper is a **mandatory** requirement of the course, which must be completed in order to achieve a passing grade.

The paper will be 12 pages in length, typed and double-spaced (12 point font size). Papers must include a proper citation style and have a complete and organized bibliography. The research paper must integrate course readings as well as sources derived from your own research.

Assignments should be submitted to the instructor during class on **March 28th**. Assignments sent by email will not be accepted. Please do not slide assignments under the instructor's office door under any circumstances. Late assignments must be deposited in the Department's drop-box. The drop-box is emptied **every weekday at 4 p.m.** and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date.

Late assignments: To ensure fairness extensions will not be granted except on medical grounds, with appropriate documentation. Late assignments will be penalized by one third of a letter grade (e.g. from A- to B+) per calendar day. Assignments submitted more than 7 days late will receive a grade of zero.

Final exam: The exam is comprehensive. It covers the material for the entire term. Further details about the exam will be provided during the term. It will take place during the official exam period and the University will determine the exact date.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the course (January 10)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 1

Week 2: Theories of US Foreign Policy (January 17)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 2

Recommended reading:

Burchill, S. and Linklater, A. (2013) Introduction. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, Chapter 1.

Week 3: From Unilateralism to Engagement, 1977-1920 (January 24)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 4: pages 41-50

Week 4: The Rise of a Superpower, 1920-1945 (January 31)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 4: pages 50-56.

Recommended readings:

Russell Mead, W. (2002). *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World*, Chapters 1 and 2.

Week 5: American Foreign Policy During the Cold War (February 7)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 6.

Recommended reading:

Lewis Gaddis, J. (2005) *The Cold War: A New History*, Chapters 1, 3, 6, 7

Week 6: The Challenges of the Post-Cold War Era (February 14)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 7.

Recommend readings:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 8.

Mastanduno, M. (Spring 1997). Preserving the Unipolar Moment: Realist Theories and U.S. Grand Strategy after the Cold War. *International Security*, 21:4, pp. 49-88.

Posen, B.P. & Ross, A.L. (Winter 1996/97). Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy. *International Security*, 21: 3, pp. 5-53.

Nye, J. (2011) *The Future of Power*, New York: Public Affairs. Chapters 1-4.

Week 7: US Foreign Policy in the Middle East (February 28)

Mandatory readings:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 12.

Mearsheimer, J. and Walt, S.M. (2006). The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy, *Middle East Policy*, 13(3), 29-87.

Recommended reading:

Bacevich, A. (2017). *America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History*, New York: Random House, Chapters 1-3.

Week 8: The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks and the Foreign Policy of George W. Bush (March 7)

Mandatory readings:

Waltz, K. N. (2012). Why Iran should get the bomb: nuclear balancing would mean stability. *Foreign Affairs*, 2.

Mearsheimer, J. (2008). The U.S. should act as an honest broker. *Palestine - Israel Journal of Politics, Economics, and Culture*, 15 (1), 147-152.

Recommended Reading:

Bacevich, A. (2017). *America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History*, New York: Random House, Chapters 12-18.

Week 9: US Foreign Policy During the Obama Years (March 14)

Mandatory readings:

Three articles:

1- Foreign Affairs Symposium (Sept/Oct 2015), "Obama's World"
Rose, "What Obama Gets Right",

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/what-obama-gets-right>

2- Foreign Affairs Symposium (Sept/Oct 2015), "Obama's World"
Stephens, "What Obama Gets Wrong",

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/what-obama-gets-wrong>

3- Jeffrey Goldberg interview with President Obama, "The Obama Doctrine," The Atlantic, April 2016 cover story,
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-obama-doctrine/471525>

Recommended readings:

Nye, J. (Winter 2002-2003). Limits of American Power, *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 117, No. 4.

Braumoeller, B.F. (2010). The Myth of American Isolationism, *Foreign Policy Analysis* 6(4), 349-371.

Week 10: Donald Trump and the End of the Transatlantic Alliance? (March 21)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 23.

Recommended readings:

Walter Mead, R. (2011). The Tea Party and American Foreign Policy. *Foreign Affairs*, Mar/April: 28 -44.

Vaisse, Trump's International System: A Speculative Interpretation, December 29, 2016,

<https://warontherocks.com/2016/12/trumps-international-system-a-speculative-interpretation/>

Week 11: The American Liberal Order, From Creation to Crisis (March 28)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 22.

Week 12: The Future of US Foreign Policy (April 4)

Mandatory reading:

Cox and Stokes (2018). *US Foreign Policy*, 3rd edition, Chapter 24.

Recommended reading:

Russell Mead, W. (2002). *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World*, Chapter 9.

Academic Accommodations

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6

85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society

"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.