POLI 142A. United States Foreign Policy

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Office: SSB 372  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10-12  
(TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM  
Office: SSB 372  
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Syllabus

This course provides a broad overview and analysis of U.S. foreign policy since the beginning of the twentieth century. No prior background in international relations is assumed. Students will broaden their understanding of the history of U.S. foreign policy, explore how the United States has influenced other countries, and develop analytic tools necessary to understand future U.S. foreign policy.

Lectures

This course will be taught in-person. All students will be required to follow campus rules on reducing COVID transmission. See https://returntolearn.ucsd.edu

Readings

The main text for this course is available at the UCSD bookstore and through Amazon here:


Other readings available online via Canvas. Note you will need a UCSD VPN connection to access journal articles.

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before each class (see below).

Grades

Grades for this course will be based primarily on three response papers (30% each), due on the dates on the schedule below. All papers will be inspected by Turnitin.com through the Canvas portal and subject to UCSD’s academic integrity standards. The essays can be answered using only materials assigned for this course and the lectures, though you are free to draw upon additional readings if you wish. When citing from the assigned readings, you need only identify the author and page number (for example: Kaufman, p.71), and no bibliography is required. When citing material from outside the course, please provide full citations in some standard format. Missed deadlines may be made up only after a Physician’s note is submitted explaining why you were too ill to submit the paper on time. No exceptions.
At the beginning of each class, there will be iClicker “warmup questions” on the reading assigned for that day (remaining 10% of course grade). The three lowest daily scores on the warmup questions will be dropped, with the remainder graded on the percentage of each day’s questions that are answered correctly. Dropping the three lowest scores allows for some absences; there is no makeup or extra credit if you miss more than three quizzes. **Students are required to purchase and bring their own iClickers to class every day.**

**Teaching Assistants**

Narmin Butt  
Email: nbutt@ucsd.edu  
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Office hours: Wednesday 10 AM to 12 noon  
Signup sheet: https://bit.ly/3m0gbOL

Yan Liu  
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Office: SSB 441  
Office hour: Thursday 3:45-4:45 PM  
Signup sheet: tinyurl.com/yzj6wbhf

**Course Webpage**

The Canvas page for this course is available at: https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/33834. All readings and paper assignments will be available from this page.

**Jan. 4: Introduction**

Kaufman, Chapter 1, pp.3-35

**Jan. 6 and 11: Theoretical Foundations**

Lake, *Indirect Rule*, Introduction and Chapter 1, pp.3-77

**Jan. 13 and 18: Informal Empire in the Caribbean**

Kaufman, Chapter 2, pp.39-60  
Lake, Indirect Rule, Chapter 3, pp.143-214

**Jan. 20: World War I and the Interwar Period**

Kaufman, Chapter 2, pp.61-69, and Chapter 3, pp.71-96

*First Response paper assigned on Jan. 20; due on Jan. 27 at 2 PM*

**Jan. 25: World War II and the Origins of the Pax Americana**
Lake, *Indirect Rule*, Chapter 2, pp.78-142

**Jan. 27 and Feb. 1: The Cold War**

Kaufman, Chapter 4, pp.101-132

**Feb. 3: The Vietnam War**

Kaufman, Chapter 4, pp.132-138

**Feb. 8: The End of American Hegemony**

Kaufman, Chapter 5, pp.141-155

**Feb. 10: The End of the Cold War**

Kaufman, Chapter 5, pp.156-164

*Second response paper assigned; no class on Feb. 15 (seventh inning stretch) due on Feb. 17 at 2 PM*

**Feb. 17: The New World Order**

Kaufman, Chapter 6, pp.169-187

Lake, *Indirect Rule*, Chapter 4, pp.215-288

**Feb. 22: The Backlash to Empire and the War on Terror**

Kaufman, Chapter 6, pp.188-193


**Feb. 24: Democracy Promotion and Statebuilding**

Lake, *Statebuilder’s Dilemma*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3 and 4, pp.1-100 & 153-194

**Mar. 1: The Iraq War and Aftermath**

Kaufman, Chapter 6, pp.194-206 and Chapter 7, pp.209-225
Lake, *Statebuilder’s Dilemma*, Chapter 4 and Conclusion, pp.101-152 & 195-208


**Mar. 3: America First**

Kaufman, Chapter 7, pp.225-261


**Mar. 8: The Rise of China**


**Mar. 10: The Future**

Kaufman, Chapter 8, pp.265-290

Lake, *Indirect Rule*, Conclusion, pp.289-311


Jeff D. Colgan and Robert O. Keohane, The Liberal Order is Rigged: Fix It Now or Watch It Wither, *Foreign Affairs*, 96, 3 (May/June 2017), pp.36-44.


*Third response paper assigned March 10, due March 17 at 3 PM*