POLI 142A: UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

Course Description: This course is designed to expose students to the framework and history of American foreign policy from the American Revolution to the present. We will also investigate the actors, beliefs, institutions, and other factors which shape American foreign policy. Although this course expects no prior knowledge in the field of foreign policy, familiarity with the concepts presented in POLI 12 (Introduction to International Relations) or POLI 145C (International Relations after the Cold War) will be useful.

Course Objectives: This course will provide the tools necessary to become a discerning consumer of information as it relates to US foreign policy and at the end of the quarter, students will be able to:

1. Trace the historical evolution of United States foreign policy.
2. Examine the internal and external factors which shape US foreign policy.
4. Develop a framework with which to evaluate US foreign policy.
5. Become more discerning consumers of political media.
6. Improve written and oral communication skills.

Course Grading/Assignments: The grade for this course will be calculated as follows:
   Participation/Attendance: 10%
   Midterm: 45%
   Final Examination: 45%

Participation: Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the assigned reading and able to participate in course discussions. Current events discussion will occur at the beginning of each lecture, so students are strongly encouraged to be on time and ready to participate. Students are particularly encouraged to read the Economist or another reputable news source on a regular basis. Please note that this list is not exhaustive:

   Economist Online (http://www.economist.com)
   Financial Times (http://www.ft.com)
   CNN (http://www.cnn.com)
   BBC News (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
   Al Jazeera English (http://english.aljazeera.net)
**Course Papers:** The midterm and final examination will be 6-8 pages in length. Materials relating to format of the midterm and final examinations will be placed on the course website and will also be discussed in class. A handout for writing social sciences papers will be made available.

**Late Assignments/Turnitin.com:** Barring documented emergencies, **no late assignments will be accepted.** Students should notify me prior to an assignment’s deadline of any emergency which may preclude them from submitting an assignment on time (i.e., I will NOT typically entertain any emergency requests received after the paper is due). Additionally, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will not be accepted. All assignments in this course require both a hard copy and an electronic copy to be submitted into turnitin.com before the deadline. **Under NO circumstances will we grade an assignment which does not include both a hard copy and an electronic submission.** Subsequently, if you do not submit both you will receive a zero on the assignment and you will fail the course. Please be advised that it is your responsibility to ensure that both submissions are appropriately completed and that issues of fairness preclude us from deviating from this policy.

**Academic Integrity:** While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures. Please be advised that credit will NOT be given for any work found to violate university policies on academic integrity.

**Course Conduct:** We are aware that students face a variety of pressures during their academic careers. While we are sympathetic to the frustrations which arise from time to time we will **NOT** tolerate threatening, disrespectful or violent behavior aimed at the teaching staff, departmental staff, and/or other students. Please be aware that **ANY** behavior which violates university policy will be forwarded to relevant administrator or campus police for investigation.

**Books (required):**
- Cox, M and D. Stokes. *U.S. Foreign Policy.* 2nd Ed.
- Beasley et al. *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective.* 2nd Ed.
- Reserve readings

**Course Readings:** As this is an upper division course, required readings are extensive (although it is nothing compared to what you will see in any graduate program). As course examinations will draw heavily from course readings and lecture material, students are strongly discouraged from depending solely on lecture material for course assignments as course assignments that show little evidence of familiarity with course readings will be penalized. Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at: [http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf](http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf). Electronic versions of all readings from *Foreign Affairs* can be obtained via ROGER using the following URL: [http://ucelinks.cdlib.org:8888/sfx_local?sid=SCP;SCP&genre=article&__char_set=utf8&issn=0015-7120](http://ucelinks.cdlib.org:8888/sfx_local?sid=SCP;SCP&genre=article&__char_set=utf8&issn=0015-7120). Please be advised that electronic versions of courses readings must be accessed from a UC location or through a proxy network. Please refer any questions regarding electronic access to Geisel articles via ROGER to library staff.

**UNIT ONE: EVOLUTION OF US FOREIGN POLICY**

**Week 1 (9-13 January): Approaches to US Foreign Policy**
- Cox and Stokes CH 1 and 2
- Walt (Foreign Policy November 2011): https://goo.gl/ug3zcL
- Friedman and Mandlebaum (Foreign Policy 2011): https://goo.gl/hclFjF
Week 2 (16-20 January): Historical Context
Cox and Stokes CH 3-5

16 JANUARY: NO LECTURE-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

UNIT TWO: SHAPING US FOREIGN POLICY

Week 3 (23-27 January): Institutions Shaping US Foreign Policy
Cox and Stokes CH 7, 9 and 10

UNIT THREE: US FOREIGN POLICY AND WORLD POLITICS

Week 4 (30 January – 3 February): US Foreign Policy Post 9/11
Cox and Stokes CH 21

Terrorism and US Foreign Policy
Cox and Stokes CH 19
Pape (Suicide Terrorism): http://bit.ly/4MsXJ7
Pape (It’s the Occupation Stupid): http://atfp.co/1ZhKDR4

MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED

Week 5 (6-10 February): US Foreign Policy and the Middle East
Cox and Stokes CH 12 AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASES:

US-Israel: Does the “Special Relationship” Serve US Interests?
Drake*
Walt and Mearsheimer: http://bit.ly/1AJqHK
Ratnam: http://atfp.co/1BfLzcB
Runkle: http://atfp.co/1vDjk3n
Gramer: https://goo.gl/4I88Z1

US-Iran: Does the Nuclear Deal Serve US Interest?
Beasley CH 10
Zarif (Foreign Affairs-May/June 2014)
Ganji (Foreign Affairs-September/October 2013)
Cohen, Edelman and Takeyh (Foreign Affairs-January/February 2016)
BBC News (Key Points): http://bbc.in/1J0zKxe
Council of Foreign Relations (Trump and Iran): https://goo.gl/RWjztv

Week 6 (13-17 February): US Foreign Policy and Europe (UK, France, and Germany)
Cox and Stokes CH 13
Beasley CH 2, 3 OR 4
US-Europe: Is There a Future for the Transatlantic Relationship?
Moravcsik (Foreign Affairs-July/August 2003)
Moïsi (Foreign Affairs-November/December 2003)

MIDTERM DUE

Week 7 (20-24 February): US Foreign Policy and Asia (Japan and China)
Cox and Stokes CH 15 AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASES:

US-China: Managing a G-2 World?
Beasley CH 6
Leonard (Foreign Affairs-September/October 2013)
Economy and Segal (Foreign Affairs-May/June 2009)
Pei (Foreign Policy July/Aug 2009) http://bit.ly/zdNFDo
Shambaugh (Foreign Affairs July/August 2015)

US-Japan: Is it Time to “Re-Think” the US/Japan Alliance?
Beasley CH 7
Packard (Foreign Affairs March/April 2010)
Curtis (Foreign Affairs March/April 2013)
Miller and Yokota (Foreign Affairs January 2013)
Brooks et al. (Foreign Affairs-January/February 2013)

20 FEBRUARY: NO LECTURE-PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY

Week 8 (27 February – 3 March): US Foreign Policy and Russia
Cox and Stokes CH 14
Beasley CH 5

US-Russia: Are We Witnessing a “New Cold War”?
Trenin (Foreign Affairs-November/December 2009)
Mearsheimer (Foreign Affairs-September/October 2014)
Levgold (Foreign Affairs-July/August 2014)
Sarotte (Foreign Affairs-September/October 2014)
CFR (Trump and Russia): https://goo.gl/oSCd6i

Week 9 (6-10 March): US Foreign Policy and the Americas
Cox and Stokes CH 16

US-Mexico: Managing NAFTA
Snarr*
Castañeda (Foreign Affairs-January/February 2014)
Shifter: https://goo.gl/eDtK6V

FINAL DISTRIBUTED
UNIT FOUR: HEGEMONY AND US FOREIGN POLICY

**Hegemony and the Security Trap**  
Cox and Stokes CH 22  
Goldberg (The Obama Doctrine): http://theatlntc/1UUZ50W  
Luttwak (Enough Hysterics. Trump’s Foreign Policy…): https://goo.gl/f6Pu4g  
Kitfield (The Knowns and Unknowns of Donald…): https://goo.gl/HSmx5O

**Week 10 (13-17 March): Prospects for US Hegemony**

**Perspectives on Hegemony**  
Cox and Stokes CH 23

AND CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:
Ferguson (Colossus)*  
Bacevich (Limits of Power)*  
Joffe (Foreign Affairs-September/October 2009)  
Haass (Foreign Affairs-November/December 2014)  
Kagan (End of Dreams): http://hvr.co/1A67Rxo

**FINAL EXAMINATION DUE: 3:00-5:59 PM ON 20 MARCH 2017**  
Location TBA on Tritonlink.

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.