

# U.S. Foreign Policy: INTL 4250

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11a-11:50a MWF 212 Baldwin Hall  
Office Hours: W 2p-4p

**Course Description:** This course will focus on U.S. foreign policy from the end of World War II through today. The primary objectives are to provide you with the theoretical and analytical tools to understand the processes involved in U.S. foreign policy decision making, to appreciate the consequences of past policy decisions, and most important, to enable you to consider various arguments regarding issues of current and future U.S. foreign policy. While you may not readily consider the importance of U.S. foreign policy to your day-to-day life, the consequences of foreign policy decisions are pervasive. We experience the costs of foreign policy decisions in the lives that are lost fighting wars, in the resources used to pay for these wars, in the higher costs of imports that are not freely traded, and in the loss of jobs that move to cheaper labor markets abroad. The U.S. by virtue of its superpower status for the last 70 years significantly shapes international relations, and thus affects the experiences of people and states outside its borders.

Throughout the semester we will address the following questions:

1. What are the major goals of American foreign policy?
2. What are the primary means used to achieve these foreign policy goals?
3. What domestic and international actors influence U.S. foreign policy?
4. How can the U.S. best achieve its foreign policy objectives in the future?

The course is divided into three sections. First, we will review the history of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War and its legacy still evident in today's foreign policies. Next, we will discuss the roles and interactions of American institutions in influencing foreign policy. In the last part of the course, we will examine contemporary foreign policy issues. Student-led debates will play an integral role in explaining the history and opposing viewpoints on each side of these issues.

**Textbook:** Gaddis, John Lewis. 2005. *The Cold War: A New History*. Penguin Press. ISBN: 978-0143038276

### Grade Distribution:

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam                         | 25% |
| Final Exam                           | 30% |
| Debate (10% Presentation, 15% Paper) | 10% |
| Quizzes                              | 10% |

### Letter Grade Distribution:

|               |    |               |    |
|---------------|----|---------------|----|
| $\geq 93.00$  | A  | 73.00 - 76.99 | C  |
| 90.00 - 92.99 | A- | 70.00 - 72.99 | C- |
| 87.00 - 89.99 | B+ | 67.00 - 69.99 | D+ |
| 83.00 - 86.99 | B  | 63.00 - 66.99 | D  |
| 80.00 - 82.99 | B- | 60.00 - 62.99 | D- |
| 77.00 - 79.99 | C+ | $\leq 59.99$  | F  |

### Course Policies:

- **General**

- Students are **required** to stay up to date on foreign policy events. I suggest you browse the world news sections of the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, or the *Washington Post* on a daily basis. I also encourage you to sign up for the Council on Foreign Relations' daily email ([www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)).
- Computers are only to be used for taking notes. If you browse the internet or social media while in class, I will ask you to put your device away and use pen and paper for notes.
- Please set your phone on **silent**, not vibrate.

- **Exams & Quizzes**

- Lectures and class discussions are intended to supplement, not duplicate, the readings. Exams will draw upon both lectures and readings. You are expected to take notes on the debates held in class, and you are responsible for information in the readings, even if we have not discussed it in class.

- **Participation**

- I expect that students enrolled in this class have an active interest in American foreign policy and will thus take the initiative to ask questions and engage in class discussions. While the initial weeks of class will be lecture-heavy as we cover the Cold War, most of the course will rely on discussion and debates for which your participation is necessary. Simply showing up does not constitute participation. Your participation grade is based on your ability to draw insights from the readings, the depth/thoughtfulness of your questions/comments, and your participation in the Q&A section of the debates.

- **Debates**

- Each of you will lead a class debate on some foreign policy issue in the second half of the course. Students should email me their **top three preferences** for debate topics by **Friday, [DATE]**. I will assign debate topics and perspective (affirmative/negative) by **Wednesday, [DATE+5]**. In most cases, students will be in teams of two representing an affirmative or negative side; each debate will have one additional student to present a background on the debate. Within each team one student will be responsible for presenting the opening and response to challenge, while the other will present the challenge and closing. It is the responsibility of these students to lead the debate, but **all** students are required to engage and participate.
- Each student leading a debate will submit an **8–10 page paper** on their debate topic **in class one week prior to their actual debate**. This allows me to give you feedback before your presentation. Late papers will be penalized one point per day from our overall course grade. Grading rubrics for the paper will be posted online.

- **Attendance and Absences**

- Attendance is expected and will be taken each class. You are allowed to miss 2 classes during the semester without penalty. Any further absences will result in a 1 point final grade reduction per absence.
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials. You are free to ask anyone for their notes, but please do not ask me for any materials.

### **Academic Honesty Policy Summary:**

In addition to skills and knowledge, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

### **Tentative Course Outline:**

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

| Week   | Content   |
|--------|---|
| Week 1 | <p>Wednesday: <b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Course Overview and Online Learning System Setup</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Tools and Aims of Foreign Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nye, Joseph. 2006. “Think Again: Soft Power.” <i>Foreign Policy</i>.</li> <li>– Haass, Richard. 2000. “Five Not-so-Easy Pieces: the Debates on American Foreign Policy.” <i>Brookings</i>.</li> <li>– “A Cluster Bomb Made in America Shattered Lives in Yemen’s Capital”. Washington Post 10 July 2016.</li> </ul>  |
| Week 2 | <p>Monday: <b>Theoretical Lenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Morgenthau, Hans. 1952. “What is the National Interest of the United States?” <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 282(1): 1-7.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Cold War and Containment: Origins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gaddis, prologue to p. 30.</li> <li>– X. 1947. “The Sources of Soviet Conduct”. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Communist Containment in Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gaddis pp. 30-75.</li> <li>– <i>Last day to email me debate preferences!</i></li> </ul> |
| Week 3 | <p>Monday: <b>NO CLASS: MLK DAY</b></p> <p>Wednesday: <b>Nuclear Deterrence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gaddis pp. 75-104.</li> <li>– Waltz, Kenneth N. “Nuclear Myths and Political Realities.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 84(3): 730-745.</li> <li>– “As U.S. Modernizes Nuclear Weapons, ‘Smaller’ Leaves Some Uneasy”. New York Times 22 January 2016.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Decision Making and the Cuban Missile Crisis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Graham, Allison T. 1969. “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 63(3): 689-718.</li> </ul>             |

| Week   | Content   |
|--------|---|
| Week 4 | <p>Monday: <b>Containment and the Vietnam War</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gaddis pp. 104-148.</li> <li>– Simon, Doug. 1998. "Twenty Years After Tet: A Vietnam Retrospective." Available on course website.</li> <li>– Read <a href="#">Eisenhower's description of Domino Theory</a> from a press conference on 4 August 1953. From Andrew Glass at Politico 8/4/2017.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>The Vietnam War and its Aftermath</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Janis, Irving L. 1982. "Escalation into the Vietnam War: How could it Happen?" in G. John Ikenberry, ed., <i>American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Addison-Wesley, pp. 544-567.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>History of U.S. Foreign Policy: Catch-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Geography Quiz</b></li> <li>– Debates overview</li> </ul> |
| Week 5 | <p>Monday: <b>Detente &amp; the end of the Cold War</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gaddis pp. 149-214.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>The end of the Cold War and its Consequences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gaddis pp. 215-266.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>9/11 and the Bush National Security Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lieber, Keir A., and Robert J. Lieber. 2002. "The Bush National Security Strategy." <i>US Foreign Policy Agenda</i> 7(4): 32-35.</li> <li>– Crawford, Neta C. 2003. "The Best Defense: The Problem with Bush's 'Preemptive' War Doctrine." <i>Boston Review</i>.</li> </ul>   |
| Week 6 | <p>Monday: <b>The War in Afghanistan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Barfield, Thomas. 2011. "Afghanistan's Ethnic Puzzle: Decentralizing Power before the U.S. Withdrawal." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>The 2003 Iraq Invasion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Houghton, David Patrick. 2008. "Invading and Occupying Iraq: Some Insights from Political Psychology." <i>Peace and Conflict</i> 14(2): 169-192.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>No End in Sight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Watch <i>No End in Sight</i> documentary. Available for \$2.99 on Amazon Prime.</li> <li>– Complete movie quiz by 10pm Saturday.</li> </ul>  |

| Week   | Content  |
|--------|--|
| Week 7 | <p>Monday: <b>The War on Terror Today</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Khan and Gopal. 2017. “The Uncounted.” <i>New York Times</i>.</li> <li>– Monaco, Lisa. 2017. “Preventing the Next Attack: A Strategy for the War on Terrorism.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> <li>– Masters, Jonathan. 2013. “Targeted Killings” Backgrounder. <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. 23 May.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Looking toward the Future: Forever Wars?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wyne, Ali. 2018. “The Risks of Permanent War.” <i>RAND blog</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b></p>   |
| Week 8 | <p>Monday: <b>Domestic Actors &amp; Institutions: Presidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wildavsky, Aaron. 1966. “The Two Presidencies.” <i>Trans-Action</i> 4: 7-14. Also read Peppers’ critique.</li> <li>– Friedman, George. 2008. “Foreign Policy and the President’s Irrelevance.” <i>STATFOR</i> 5 February 2008.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Domestic Actors/Institutions: Presidents &amp; Advisors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Saunders 2016. “Mitch McConnell thinks you don’t need Experience to be President. Here’s why he’s wrong.” <i>Monkey Cage</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Domestic Actors/Institutions: Congress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lindsay, James. 2003. “Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy.” <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> 33(3): 530-546.</li> <li>– Howell and Pevehouse. 2007. “When Congress Stops Wars.” <i>Foreign Policy</i>.</li> </ul>   |
| Week 9 | <p>Monday: <b>Domestic Actors/Institutions: Intelligence Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– “National Security Inc.” <i>Washington Post</i>. August 2010.</li> <li>– Johnson 2014. “The Myths of Covert Action.” <i>Virginia Policy Review</i> pp. 52-64.</li> <li>– “The Secret Government: The Constitution in Crisis.” Documentary.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Domestic Actors/Institutions: Public Opinion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Baum and Potter. 2008. “The Relationships between Mass Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy: Toward a Theoretical Synthesis.” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 11: 39-65.</li> <li>– “Conflicting Partisan Priorities for U.S. Foreign Policy.” <i>Pew Research Center</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Domestic Actors/Institutions: Lobbies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Newhouse 2009. “Diplomacy, Inc.: The Influence of Lobbies on U.S. Foreign Policy.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> </ul> |

| Week    | Content   |
|---------|---|
| Week 10 | <p>Monday: <b>Domestic Institutions and Accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Yingling 2010. “The Founders’ Wisdom.” <i>Armed Forces Journal</i>.</li> <li>– Kreps 2018. “Just put it on our Tab: War Financing and the Decline of Democracy.” <i>War on the Rocks blog</i>.</li> <li>– Davidson 2017. “Congress needs to Stand Up and Reclaim its Authorities on Making War.” <i>War on the Rocks blog</i>.</li> <li>– “House Declares U.S. Military Role in Yemen’s Civil War Unauthorized.” <i>Politico</i> 13 Nov 2017.</li> <li>– “Senate Votes to end U.S. Support for War in Yemen, Rebuking Trump and Saudi Arabia.” NPR 12 Dec 2018.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Foreign Policy, Hypocrisy, and State Sovereignty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Finnemore, Martha. 2009. “Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity: Why being a Unipole isn’t all that it’s Cracked up to be.” <i>World Politics</i> 61(1): 58-85.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Debate 1: Should the U.S. Abolish the Use of Weaponized Drones?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Horowitz et al. 2016. “Separating Fact from Fiction in the Debate over Drone Proliferation.” <i>International Security</i> 41(2): 7-42.</li> <li>– Zenko, Micah. 5 July 2016. “Do not believe the U.S. Government’s Official Numbers on Drone Strike Civilian Casualties.” <i>Foreign Policy</i>.</li> </ul> |
| Week 11 | <p>Monday: <b>Humanitarian Intervention &amp; Right to Protect (R2P)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Western and Goldstein 2011. “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia and Libya.”</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Neoliberalism &amp; Democratization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Brinkley, Douglas. 1999. “Democratic Enlargement: the Clinton Doctrine.” <i>Foreign Policy</i>.</li> <li>– Reid, Michael. 2015. “Obama and Latin America: a Promising Day in the Neighborhood.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Catch-up Day</b></p>  |

| Week    | Content  |
|---------|--|
| Week 12 | <p>Monday: <b>Economic Tools of Foreign Policy: Trade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Kucik and Menon 2017. “What Trump gets wrong about the WTO.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> <li>– Lake and Weiss 24 Sep 2018. “The Trump Administration Wrongly Assumed China would Capitulate in a Trade War. What happens now?” <i>Monkey Cage blog</i>.</li> <li>– Rickard 10 Dec 2018. “Why did Trump agree to a Temporary hold on further Chinese Tariffs?” <i>Monkey Cage blog</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Debate 2: Is China’s Rise Threatening the U.S.?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Allison, Graham. 2017. “China vs. America: Managing the next Clash of Civilizations.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> <li>– Nye 25 Jan 2013. “Work with China, Don’t Contain it.” <i>New York Times</i> editorial.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Economic Tools of Foreign Policy: Aid &amp; Sanctions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– McNeil 25 Aug 2014. “AIDS Progress in South Africa is in Peril.” <i>New York Times</i>.</li> </ul> |
| Week 13 | <p>Monday: <b>Economic Tools of Foreign Policy: Sanctions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Early, Bryan. 2018. “U.S. Sanctions against Iran just got Tougher: What happens now?” <i>Monkey Cage blog</i>.</li> <li>– Haggard, Stephen. 2018. “The North Korean Sanctions may be Working. Here’s Why.”</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Debate 3: Does a Resurgent Russia pose a Serious Threat to the U.S.?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Daalder, Ivo. 2017. “Responding to Russia’s Resurgence.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Debate 4: Should the U.S. Launch a Preventive Attack against Korea?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Albert, Eleanor. 2017. “North Korea’s Military Capabilities.” <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i> backgrounder.</li> </ul>  |
| Week 14 | <p>Monday: <b>Middle East: Strategic Interests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Kitchen, Nicholas. 2012. “After the Arab Spring: Power Shift in the Middle East?” <i>LSE Ideas</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Middle East: Syria &amp; Yemen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In-class videos; no reading</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Debate 4: Should the U.S. Support Israel at all Costs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Walt, Stephen, and John Mearsheimer. 2006. “The Israel Lobby.” <i>London Review of Books</i> 28(6): 3-12.</li> </ul>  |