

**US Foreign Policy:  
America's Role in the World**  
GOVT 384  
The Fund For American Studies  
The Engalitcheff Institute for Comparative Political & Economic Systems  
Georgetown University  
Summer 2010

**Instructor:** Gary Armstrong, William Jewell College

**Meeting Time:** Monday/Wednesday, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Friday 9:00-12:00 pm

**Course Description:** Since 9/11, American foreign policy has changed enormously. Think of some of the major signposts: the policies of "preemption," the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and their aftermath, the strategy to encourage democratization and liberalization, presidential support for nuclear weapons abolition. The changes have occasioned some of the most serious debates about the basic objectives of American foreign policy and about the foundations of American security. One of the most surprising elements of the debates is how much of it remains poorly informed about the history of American foreign policy. This course aims to engage students first in a series of "great episodes" in American foreign policy, aiming at relating them to current problems. The course will then examine national security policy since 9/11. Finally, the course will conclude with a "think-tank" exercise where students will consider major schools of thought about American "grand strategy" and relate them to a major policy problem which any new American administration is likely to face.

This course will presume no background in American diplomatic history or international relations.

**Course Objectives:** Students will 1) encounter two enduring views of America's role in the world, the Realist and the Wilsonian, 2) engage major episodes in American foreign policy highlighting the debates about American leadership in world politics; 3) participate in a "think-tank" exercise, adopting and defending a general strategic view against challengers and then applying it to policy options for the next President of the US.

**Course Readings:** All reading assignments are to be completed before the class period for which they are assigned. The required texts are:

- Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy* (Simon & Schuster, 1995)

In addition, some course material may be assigned and available through Internet materials or on the course Blackboard site (marked "BB").

**Course Requirements:**

1. Attend all classes
2. Register at course Blackboard site; submit some assignments through Blackboard and/or Turnitin.
3. Midterm exam: this exam will include multiple choice, "identifications," and an analytical essay.
4. Reaction Paper: students will react to one of the seminar session topics

5. Final Essay: students will defend the grand strategy perspective they find most persuasive.

Grading: Student grades will be based on the following:

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Midterm        | 30% |
| 2. Reaction Paper | 30% |
| 3. Final essay    | 40% |

Note: all assignments must be completed to pass this course.

### **Course Policies:**

1. Late work: Assignments may be submitted late only with prior authorization and will normally incur a significant penalty.
2. Academic Dishonesty: This class will have a "Zero Tolerance Policy." Cheating on quizzes or exams may result in a failing grade for the assignment or the course, or disciplinary action from TFAS. Plagiarism, or the unattributed borrowing of another person's ideas in written work, will constitute cheating and will be dealt with as such. This course will use Turnitin, an internet-based plagiarism detection program, for some course assignments. Students will submit papers to Turnitin.com, which then part of its database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.
3. Professorial Prerogative: The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus. Major changes will be made only after announcement in at least one class meeting.

### **Course Outline**

- I. Prisms: Realism & Wilsonianism
- II. Key Watersheds
  - a. The Founders
  - b. 1898: America & Empire
    - Special Problem: Empire & Democratization
  - c. Wilson's Moment: Building a New Order After First World War – What Went Wrong
    - Special Problem: National Self-Determination
  - d. Truman Revolution & Cold War: Building a New Order after Second World War – What Went Right
  - e. Cold War: Containment, Victory, & Democracy
    - Special Problem: Overthrowing Democracies (Debating 1953, 1954, 1973)
    - Special Problem: Human Rights & the Soviet Empire
- III. The Bush Revolution
  - a. Strategy, States, & Democratization
  - b. Comparing Obama's Change
- IV. Grand Strategy Agenda for the Next President
  - a. Primacy
  - b. Neo-Isolationism
  - c. Liberal Internationalism

### **Tentative Schedule of Assignments**

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|---|-----|--------------------------------------|
| M | 7/5 | I. Worldviews: Realists & Wilsonians |
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- Read: Kissinger, "The Hinge" (Chap 2)  
Seminar Session: 1898, Empire & Democracy
- W 7/7 II. Watersheds  
"Wilson's Moment"  
Read:  
  - Kissinger, "The New Face of Diplomacy: Wilson & the Treaty of Versailles" (Chap 9)
Seminar Session: America & The Problem of National Self-Determination  
  - Read on Kurdistan problem
- F 7/9 Truman Revolution  
Read:  
  - Kissinger, "The Success & Pain of Containment" (Chap 18)
Seminar Session: America & Overthrowing Democracies (1953, 1954, 1973)  
  - Tony Smith, "Eisenhower & His Legacy, 1953-77," pp. 180-99 (partial chapter) (BB)
- M 7/12 Competing Revolutions: Nixon & Reagan  
Read:  
  - Kissinger, "Foreign Policy as Geopolitics: Nixon's Triangular Diplomacy" (Chap 28)
  - Kissinger, "The End of the Cold War: Reagan & Gorbachev" (Chap 30)
  - "Defense Policy Guidance" (1992) (BB)
- W 7/14 III. Bush Revolution: Preventive War & Democratization  
  - Robert Kagan, "End of Dreams, Return of History," *Policy Review*, August 2007 (BB)
  - Recommended: Watch key chapters of "Bush's War" at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/bushswar/>
    - Chap 1 (length: 11:56), Chap 2 (9:43), Chap 3 (9:36), Chap 6 (7:49), Chap 8 (10:37), Chap 12 (11:35), Chap 13 (9:22), Chap 14 (9:31)
Seminar Session: Comparing the Bush Revolution & Obama's Change  
Reading TBA
- F 7/16 EXAM
- M 7/19 IV. Strategic Worldviews & America's Agenda  
A. Primacy: Leadership & Reform  
Read: Lieber, "Caveat Empire: How to Think About American Power" (pp.11-38) (BB)
- W 7/21 B. Neo-Isolationism

Read: Christopher Layne & Benjamin Schwarz, "A New Grand Strategy," *Atlantic Monthly*, Jan 2002 (BB)

- F 7/23 C. Liberal Internationalism  
Read: Joseph Nye
- Joseph Nye, "Recovering American Leadership," *Survival*, Feb-Mar 2008, pp. 55-68 (BB)
  - Nye, "Soft Power Skills," Carnegie Center lecture, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=to7VXeXtNVI>
  - Recommended: Nye, *Soft Power*, Preface, Chap 1 (BB)
- F 7/23 Seminar essay due
- M 7/26 Class Debate & Review
- W 7/29 FINAL ESSAY