

Political Science 315
American Foreign Policy

Professor: Dr. Andrew Essig
Office: Rm. 205 Tucker House
Office Hours: MWF 9:00-9:50am
 T, Th. 11:00am-12:20pm
 or by appointment

Spring 2011
Class: T, Th. 9:30 – 11:00am
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Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an advanced understanding of American foreign policy. Throughout the semester you will be introduced to the range and complexity of interactions between the United States and other international actors. The goal is to enhance your ability to form critical, informed judgments on foreign policy issues. This course will focus on historical and contemporary events and their impact on America's ever-continuing search to find its place in the world. Grand strategies, revisionism/traditionalism, and the democratic peace thesis are a small sample of what will be discussed in this class.

By the end of this course I expect you to acquire the intellectual skills to view foreign policy more critically, and to understand the most significant challenges facing the United States and how it meets these challenges. Upon completing this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the types of evidence utilized by policy-makers and academics in their analysis of foreign policy.
2. Incorporate into your working vocabulary a number of terms and concepts used by scholars, policy-makers, and other actors in the area of foreign policy.
3. Acquire a working knowledge of current events in international affairs.
4. Express your knowledge of American foreign policy through written and oral communication.

This will require patience and fortitude on your part. If you are having difficulty with the material, the assignments, or simply want to talk about the course, please do not hesitate to take advantage of my office hours. If you cannot make regularly scheduled office hours, I will be happy to make an appointment with you.

Required Readings

The readings listed in the course schedule below should be read prior to class. Because of limited lecture time, the lectures will not necessarily repeat the readings. I will presume you have done the reading and will concentrate the lectures on clarifying key concepts and hitting analytic highlights.

1. Gaddis, John Lewis. Surprise, Security, and the American Experience, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004). ISBN 0674011740
2. Ikenberry, G. John. American Foreign Policy, Theoretical Essays: 6th Edition, (New York: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2011). ISBN 9780547198286
3. The international section of the *New York Times* and *The Economist* are required reading for this course. These will provide you with excellent coverage of current events in the world. It is important to get into the habit of reading the newspapers and weekly journals on a daily basis if you wish to stay informed. Major current events will be material for exam questions.

Student Obligations and Grading Procedures

As noted above students are required to have all reading assignments complete prior to class.

Attendance requirements are outlined in the 2009-2011 *Undergraduate Catalog*, p. 21. For upperclassmen, for every class missed over the permitted limit your final grade will be reduced by one full point.

Students are also required to follow those guidelines outlined in the 2009-2011 *Catalog* in relation to plagiarism, cheating, and other inappropriate behaviors, pp. 29-30.

Please turn off cell phones, attend class on time, and no text-messaging during class!

Your grade for this course will be based on the components listed here and explained in greater detail below:

1. Participation – 10% of final grade
2. 2 In-Class Exams – each worth 20% of your final grade
3. 1 major paper – 20% of your final grade
4. Final Exam – worth 30% of your final grade

Total = 100%

Participation. Active participation is strongly encouraged during each class. Debate and discussion are important aspects of learning and should help you attain a firm grasp on the course material. If at any time during the lecture you would like to contribute to the discussion, or you have a question, or something is unclear, please feel free to raise your hand.

Exams. You will have two in-class exams, and one final exam for this course. The format for each exam will be discussed prior to the designated exam period.

NOTE: Make-up exams will not be given unless you present evidence of a university-approved absence, and make arrangements for the make-up in advance of the regularly scheduled exam.

Major Paper. One major paper (8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, standard 1" margins, 12 point font size) is required for this course. The assignment will be an essay-type question for which you must present a clear thesis and support it using coherent arguments and evidence. This paper will focus on analytical concepts and theories from the course, and ask you to apply those concepts to some current problem in American foreign policy. The assignment will be handed out approximately four weeks before the paper is due. Late papers will be graded down **one full letter grade** for each day late.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	Below 60

DISABILITIES: Students with a documented disability who wish to request course accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Learning and Disability Services (Dooling Hall, Room 26, extension 1453)

CoursEval: CoursEval is replacing ICES as the method of evaluating courses at DeSales University. If this course is selected for evaluation, the instructor will notify the students in a timely fashion. Students will be required to take this online survey towards the end of the semester. Upon completing the survey students **must** turn in a receipt of completion to the instructor. Anonymity will be maintained. All students who complete the survey will receive two points of extra credit on their final exam. All students should **make sure** that their DeSales email account is not full and that they do not forward their DeSales emails to their personal accounts (this may result in a garbled survey).

Course Schedule: Please note that this schedule is subject to change, so please pay attention to announcements made in class.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Week 1 18 Jan. – 20 Jan.	Introduction Major Documents	Major Documents
Week 2 25 Jan. – 27 Jan.	Historical Documents	Major Documents
Week 3 1 Feb. – 3 Feb.	Historical Documents Grand Strategies	Ikenberry, Intro
Week 4 8 Feb. – 10 Feb.	Levels of Analysis Traditionalism/Revisionism	Nye article Holsti, pp. 12-30
Week 5 15 Feb. – 17 Feb.	Realism v. Liberalism In-Class Exam #1 17 February	Reisman, pp. 36-57
Week 6 22 Feb. – 24 Feb.	Determinants of Foreign Policy American National Security	Waltz, pp. 54-73 Leffler, pp.75-95
Week 7 1 Mar. – 3 Mar.	Hegemonic Stability Economics and Foreign Policy	Jervis, 118-125 Frieden, pp. 128-149
Week 8 8 Mar. – 10 Mar.	Spring Break	
Week 9 15 Mar. – 17 Mar.	<u>Surprise, Security, and the American Experience</u>	John Lewis Gaddis

Week 10 22 Mar. – 24 Mar.	America and Europe Divergent Course?	Robert Kagan “Power & Weakness”
Week 11 29 Mar. – 31 Mar.	In-Class Exam #2 29 March Globalization	Waltz article
Week 12 5 Apr. – 7 Apr.	Values and Democracy Democratic Peace Thesis	Huntington, pp. 220-247
Week 13 12 Apr. – 14 Apr.	Bureaucratic Politics Major Paper Due In-Class 14 April	Alison, pp. 402-436
Week 14 19 Apr.	Liberal Order Building HAPPY EASTER!!!	Ikenberry, pp. 580-596
Week 15 26 Apr. – 28 Apr.	Return to History	Kagan, pp. 613-631
Week 16 3 May – 5 May	Review	