

INR 4102/5105: American Foreign Policy

Fall 2019 (Section 82610)

2:30-3:45, TR 11/223

Office Phone: 474-3008

Office and Office Hours: Bldg 50/Rm 126, MW 1:00-2:15, 4-4:30; TR 1:00-2:15 or by appointment

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"Critics say that America is a lie because its reality falls so far short of its ideas. They are wrong. America is not a lie; it is a disappointment. But it can be a disappointment only because it is a hope."

- Samuel Huntington

"God created war so that Americans would learn geography." – Mark Twain

Americans seek to change the world and remain distinct from it. They energetically export their religious views, yet they officially support secular government. Americans denounce imperialism and coercion, yet they are accused of building a global empire and wielding astounding military power. And above all, Americans exert unparalleled influence and power in a globalized, increasingly democratic world that they helped create, yet they fret about relative decline and entertain plans for retrenchment and nationalism. This course, therefore, seeks to analyze how Americans view and pursue their relationship with the world as well as the foundations and conduct of their foreign policy. It considers the institutions and offices, interests and political culture, and international challenges (including security, economic and humanitarian issues) that shape American foreign policy outcomes. To understand these influences, our readings, lecture and discussion will combine scholarly theories and policy perspectives. We will especially focus on debates regarding America's role as a global leader. Students will complete two exams as well as a series of assignments that culminate in a final paper.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will evaluate the major theories and schools of thought regarding the origins and outcomes of US foreign policy.
- In small groups, students will identify and share multiple perspectives on key readings.
- Students will complete four homework assignments focused on formulating a topic, identifying sources and organizing analysis for a research paper.
- Students will demonstrate communication skills through written assignments and class presentations.

Topics

- The US progression from marginal state with limited international goals to a classic great power.
- Leading theories and frameworks seeking to explain processes and outcomes.
- The issues and regions that dominate the debates and decisions surrounding US foreign policy.
- A detailed focus on the GW Bush and Obama administrations' approaches to grand strategy and foreign policy.

Course Materials

- Walter Russell Mead (2002) *Special Providence* Routledge. ISBN: 978-0415935364
- Stephen Sestanovich (2014) *Maximalist: America in the World From Truman to Obama* Vintage Books. ISBN: 978-0-307-38830-8

COURSE GRADES: Undergrad

Participation	15%	Exam 1	20%
Memos (total)	40%	Exam 2	25%

94% or better	A	87% to 89%	B+	77% to 79%	C+	63% to 69%	D
90% to 94%	A-	83% to 86%	B	73% to 76%	C	60% to 62%	D-
		80% to 82%	B-	70% to 72%	C-	59% or less	F

*You MUST turn in your exams or you may receive a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty may also result in a failing grade for the assignment and the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS***Participation and Attendance***

In-class contributions and discussion comprise an important portion of this course. I prioritize considered, thoughtful contributions over many contributions. When in doubt, though, try to speak up at least once a week. You will be graded on materials you submit, your overall contributions to class and your attendance record.

Attendance: You may miss two class meetings with no penalty but will lose 3% from your final participation grade for each missed period after that. Absences due to illness, religious observance, emergency or university-sponsored activities will be excused with proper documentation. No need to contact me about missing class unless you have already missed two class periods and/or have documentation to present.

NOTE: Regular attendance will be recorded and is required to receive financial aid. I will circulate an attendance sheet for you to sign most class meetings.

Discussion Memos

You are to complete three discussion posts. These are assigned based on your choice of three separate course readings. I will circulate a sign-up sheet. In each, you will address these points in about one paragraph:

- A summary of the reading.
- The author's argument and your assessment of the quality of that argument.
- Your view about how this relates to *either* a) a course concept or b) a long-term trend or theme of US foreign policy.

You may select the readings; *however*, there are a few constraints:

- You must select from three *different* weeks.
- You must complete one selection each from Mead, Sestanovich and one other reading.
 - o You can select these in any order you like.
- The reading must be completed by *Wednesday*, 11:59 PM of the week we are meeting.

Exams

Both midterm and final involve take-home essay questions. The final is not strictly cumulative, but it will draw upon major concepts developed in the first half of the course. Instructions will be distributed one

week before the exam. *Only students with documentation (such as a physician's note) of emergencies or other uncontrollable circumstances should contact me about make-up exams.*

Academic Conduct

PLAGIARISM and ACADEMIC DISHONESTY involve adding others' words to your text as if they were your own and will not be tolerated. For University policies on plagiarism and other misconduct, see the Student Code of Conduct: <http://uwf.edu/osrr/documents/BOTApprovedStudentCodeofConduct-2010edition.pdf>.

Assistance for Students with Special Needs

If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at <http://uwf.edu/sdrc/internal/>, which requires documented needs of the individual. For information, e-mail sdrc@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

Your Major

If you are interested in but not yet a major in **Political Science, Pre-Law, or International Studies** you should contact **The Department of Government at 474-2929 or govt@uwf.edu**. If you are undecided about you major you should contact your academic advisor or the Career Center at 850-474-2254.

COURSE SCHEDULE

*Readings not in assigned texts will appear in PDF form in Canvas under the module for that week. Some dates and assignments may be changed. I will announce these by email and in class.

<u>Week 1</u> Aug 27 Aug 29	<u>Introduction</u> - Jentleson, "The Four P's Framework" (see PDF) - Mead, ch 3
<u>Week 2</u> Sept 3 Sep 5	Traditions and Trajectories <u>Early Themes, Great Power</u> - Mead, ch 1-2
<u>Week 3</u> Sep 10 Sep 12	<u>Global Power</u> - Sestanovich, ch 1-3 - Mead, ch 4-5
<u>Week 4</u> Sep 17 Sep 19	<u>The Idea of American Foreign Policy</u> - Sestanovich, ch 4-5
<u>Week 5</u> Sep 24 Sep 26	Inputs <u>Institutions and Individuals</u> - Mead, ch 6-7

<u>Week 6</u> Oct 1 Oct 3	<u>Domestic Politics</u> - Abrams, "The Prince of the White House" - Sestanovich, ch 6
<u>Week 7</u> Oct 8 Oct 10	<u>International System</u> - Sestanovich, ch 7-8
<u>Week 8</u> Oct 15 Oct 17	<u>Cold War Transition</u> - Sestanovich, ch 9-10
<u>Week 9</u> Oct 22 Oct 24	Instruments <u>Security</u> - Andrew J. Bacevich "The Realist Persuasion" (2005) - Henry Nau <i>Traditions of the Eagle</i> Introduction (2013)
<u>Week 10</u> Oct 29 Oct 31	<u>Diplomacy and Economics</u> - Hastedt, ch 10-11 (PDF)
<u>Week 11</u> Nov 5 Nov 7	Catch-up and Review EXAM 1 DUE to eLearning dropbox by end of class time
<u>Week 12</u> Nov 12 Nov 14	Analysis <u>Administration: George W. Bush</u> - Sestanovich, ch 11 - George W. Bush, "Address to the Nation" George W. Bush, 2003 - Adam Garfinkle "An Innocent Abroad" (2010)
<u>Week 13</u> Nov 19 Nov 21	- <i>The War Behind Closed Doors</i> discussion on Canvas NO CLASS, Thanksgiving
<u>Week 14</u> Nov 26 Nov 28	<u>Administration: Barack Obama</u> - Sestanovich, ch 12 - Barack Obama Nobel Lecture (2009) - Barack Obama, Address to the UN (2013) - Shively "Pragmatic Internationalism" (2016)
<u>Week 15</u> Dec 3 Dec 5	<u>Administration: Donald Trump</u> - McMaster and Cohen, "America First Doesn't Mean America Alone" (2017) - Donald Trump, "Address to the United Nations" (2017 and 2018) - Shively, "Analyzing Trump's Grand Strategy" (2020)
<u>Week 16</u> Dec 10	EXAM 2 DUE by 4:30