

INR 6107
Seminar in US Foreign Policy
Fall 2013
Professor Ronald W. Cox
Office: SIPA, Rm. 432
Hours: R, 10:00-12:00; F, 3:00-4:30, or by appt.
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Introduction

This course will explore a variety of analytical and thematic approaches to the study of US foreign policy. The first half of the course provides an overview of economic, liberal institutional, realist and constructivist approaches. The second half links US foreign policy analysis to a thematic range of topics, including the media and public opinion, interest groups, humanitarian intervention, oil politics, US hegemony, culture and international monetary policy.

Requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes, to read the assignments each week, and to engage in class discussion.

There will be an attendance grade of 100 points. Each class missed without a legitimate health (or other) excuse will result in a 10 point deduction from the attendance grade.

The participation grade, also 100 points, will involve an assessment by the instructor of the quality of your participation over the course of the semester.

In addition, all students are expected to complete three 10-12 page papers, worth 100 points each. In these paper assignments, students will be expected to answer questions formulated by the instructor that address key themes of the most recent set of course readings. The questions are included in the course schedule provided below.

The course grades will be broken down as follows:

Paper Assignments:	300 points
Discussion Grade:	100 points
<u>Attendance Grade:</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total:	500 points

Students attaining 93 percent or higher of the possible 500 points will receive an A; 90-92 percent an A-; 88-89 a B+; 83-87 a B; 80-82 a B-; 78-79 a C+; 73-77 a C; 70-72 a C-; 60-69 a D; and below 60 an F.

The FIU Code of Academic Integrity and all related university policies on cheating will be rigorously and strictly enforced at all times. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will result in an automatic F for the course and possible expulsion from the University.

Required Books

The following six books are required for this course, and may be purchased at the University Book Store.

- Bacevich, Andrew. *The New American Militarism*. Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Entman, Robert. *Projections of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion and US Foreign Policy*. University of Chicago Press, 2003.
- Gibbs, David. *First Do No Harm: Humanitarian Intervention and the Destruction of Yugoslavia*. Vanderbilt University Press, 2009.
- Layne, Christopher. *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present*. Cornell University Press, 2007.
- Skidmore, David. *The Unilateralist Temptation in US Foreign Policy*, Routledge Press, 2011.
- Stokes, Doug and Sam Raphael. *Global Energy Security and American Hegemony*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.

The other readings are scholarly articles, and they can be located online in full text versions available through the FIU library website. I recommend printing each of the articles and bringing them with you to class to facilitate discussion.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 30 **Introduction**
No Readings

Sep. 6 **Overview of Major Theoretical Perspectives**

- Melvin Leffler, “The American Conception of National Security and the Beginning of the Cold War, 1945–48,” *American Historical Review* 89, No. 2 (April 1984): 346–81.
- John Lewis Gaddis, “The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System,” *International Security* 10, No. 4 (Spring 1986): 99-142.
- Benjamin Fordham, “Economic Interests, Party and Ideology in Early Cold War Era US Foreign Policy,” *International Organization* 52, No. 2 (Spring 1998): 359-396.
- John Ikenberry, “Rethinking the Origins of American Hegemony,” *Political Science Quarterly* 104, No. 3 (Autumn 1989): 375-400.

Sep. 13

Domestic Political Economy

- Peter Trubowitz, "Sectionalism and American Foreign Policy: The Political Geography of Consensus and Conflict," *International Studies Quarterly* 36, No. 2 (June 1992): 173-190.
- Jeffrey Frieden, "The Economics of Intervention: American Overseas Investments and Relations With Undeveloped Areas, 1890-1950," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31, No. 1 (Jan. 1989): 55-80.
- Thomas Ferguson, "From Normalcy to New Deal: Industrial Structure, Party Competition and American Public Policy in the Great Depression," *International Organization* 38, No. 1 (Winter 1984): 41-94.
- Benjamin Fordham, "Domestic Politics, International Pressure and the Allocation of American Cold War Spending," *Journal of Politics* 64, No. 1 (Feb. 2002): 63-88.

Sep. 20

Realist Interpretations

- Christopher Layne, *Peace of Illusions*, all.

Sep. 27

Bureaucratic and Psychological Interpretations

- Valerie Hudson and Christopher Vore, "Foreign Policy Analysis: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," *Mershon International Studies Review* 39, Vol. 2 (Oct. 1995): 209-238.
- Graham Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *American Political Science Review* 63/3 (September 1969): 689-718.
- Eben Christensen and Steven Redd, "Bureaucrats Versus the Ballot Box in Foreign Policy Decision-Making," *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48, No. 1 (Feb. 2004): 69-90.

Sep. 27

Paper Due: Analyze the levels of analysis of the theoretical perspectives discussed in the course so far by addressing the following questions: Can the divergent approaches to understanding US foreign policy be reconciled with each other toward a kind of methodological pluralism? Or do the approaches remain separated by fundamentally different assumptions about how the foreign policy process operates?

Oct. 4

The Political Economy of US Militarism

- Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*. Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Doug Stokes, "The Heart of Empire? Theorizing US Empire in An Era of Transnational Capitalism," *Third World Quarterly* 26, No. 2 (2005): 217-236.

Oct. 11

Constructivist Approaches

- Wesley W. Widmaier, "Constructing Foreign Policy Crises: Interpretive Leadership in the Cold War and War on Terrorism," *International Studies Quarterly* 51/4 (December 2007): 779-94.

- Richard Jackson, “Culture, Identity and Hegemony: Continuity and the (lack of) change in US counterterrorism policy from Bush to Obama,” *International Politics* 48 (2011): 390-411.

Oct. 18 **Media and Public Opinion**

- Robert Entman, *Projections of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion and US Foreign Policy*, all.
- Benjamin Goldsmith, Yusaku Horiuchi, Takashi Inoguchi, “American Foreign Policy and Global Opinion: Who Supported the War in Afghanistan?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 9, No. 3 (June 2005): 408-429.
- Benjamin Page and Jason Barabas, “Foreign Policy Gaps Between Citizens and Leaders,” *International Studies Quarterly* 44/3 (Sep. 2000): 339-364.

Oct. 25 **Humanitarian Interventions**

- David Gibbs, *First Do No Harm: Humanitarian Intervention and the Destruction of Yugoslavia*, all.

Nov. 1 **Interest Groups**

- John Mearshimer, Stephen Walt, Geoffrey Wheatcroft, William Pfaff, Daniel Levy, Joseph Massad, Noam Chomsky and Mark Mazower, “The Israeli Lobby,” *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Spring 2006): 83-114.
- Michael C. Dreiling, “The Class Embeddedness of Corporate Political Action: Leadership in Defense of the NAFTA,” *Social Problems*, Vol. 47, No. 1 (Feb. 2000): 21-48.
- Ronald W. Cox, “Transnational Capital, the US State and Latin American Free Trade Agreements,” *Third World Quarterly*, 29:8 (2008): 1527-1544.

Nov. 1: How do the authors of the books and articles discussed since Oct. 4 interpret the role of domestic and international interests in the making of US foreign policy? In your answer, assess the different levels of analysis employed by the authors to understand and to identify the articulation of interests in US foreign policymaking. Are some of the authors more persuasive than others? Why or why not?

Nov. 8 **Oil Politics**

- Doug Stokes and Sam Raphael, *Global Energy Security and American Hegemony*, all.
- Michael Klare and Daniel Volman, “America, China and the Scramble for Africa’s Oil,” *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol. 33, No. 108 (June 2006): 297-309.

Nov. 15 **US Hegemony**

- David Skidmore, *The Unilateralist Temptation in US Foreign Policy*, Routledge Press, 2011, all.

Nov. 22

Strategic Culture

- Mohiaddin Mesbahi, "Trust and US-Iran Relations: Between the Prisoners' Dilemma and the Assurance Game," *Iranian Review of Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 4, No. 1, (Spring 2013): 7-51.

Nov. 29

Thanksgiving Holiday: University Closed

Dec. 6

International Monetary Policy

- Susanne Soederberg, "The Transnational Debt Architecture and Emerging Markets: The Politics of Paradoxes and Punishment," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 6, 2005: 927-949.
- Daniel W. Drezner, "Bad Debts: Assessing China's Financial Influence in Great Power Politics," *International Security*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Fall 2009): 7-45.

Dec. 9

Paper Due: Analyze how the authors assigned since Nov. 8 define and develop the concept of US hegemony. Does US hegemony suffer from its own internal contradictions? Why or why not?