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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Assignments</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Grade</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance Grade</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500</td>
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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.


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**
Sep. 13 **Domestic Political Economy**

Sep. 20 **Realist Interpretations**
- Christopher Layne, *Peace of Illusions*, all.

Sep. 27 **Bureaucratic and Psychological Interpretations**

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**

Oct. 11 **Constructivist Approaches**

Oct. 18 Media and Public Opinion
• Robert Entman, Projections of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion and US Foreign Policy, all.

Oct. 25 Humanitarian Interventions
• David Gibbs, First Do No Harm: Humanitarian Intervention and the Destruction of Yugoslavia, all.

Nov. 1 Interest Groups

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.

Nov. 15 US Hegemony
Nov. 22  Strategic Culture

Nov. 29  Thanksgiving Holiday: University Closed

Dec. 6  International Monetary Policy

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?