Political Science 338:
Formulation of American Foreign Policy
Spring 2013

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Carter
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Class Time: T, TH: 9:30-10:45
Class Location: 243 Turner Hall
Office Hours: T, TH: 1:30-3:00

Course Description
This course offers students a critical analysis of American foreign policy. While we will dis-
cuss U.S. foreign policy both past and present, this is neither a history nor a current events
course. Instead the focus of this class is on the logic underlying the implementation of a
wide variety of U.S. foreign policies. By studying why the U.S. allies, sanctions, and/or
goes to war with some states but not others, students gain a set of analytical tools that will
provide them with a deeper understanding of both American foreign policy in particular and
international relations in general.

Learning Objectives
After completing this course you should

• know how U.S. foreign policy has changed over time.

• know the actors involved in the formulation of U.S. foreign policy.

• understand why, in a given situation, the U.S. implements certain policies but not
  others.

• be able to analyze current and future U.S. foreign policy behavior on your own.

Required Book
There is one required book. Regardless of where you get it from, do so quickly.

• American Foreign Policy and Political Ambition. James Lee Ray. 2007. Congressional
  Quarterly Press.

Nearly all other readings can be obtained through Google Scholar or the Library’s Website.
I’ll distribute readings not available through these channels via Blackboard.
Class Policies

**Class Attendance** Students are expected to attend all classes. If you are absent, you are responsible for what you missed in class that day. It will be very hard to do well in this class if you do not regularly attend. If coming to class will be too much for you, please give serious thought to dropping this course. Having said all of this, attendance will not be taken and there is no explicit punishment for missing class.

If you do come to class, you are expected to show up on time and stay for the entire period. It is distracting to everyone to have people coming and going throughout class. If you need to leave early please sit near an exit and leave as discreetly as possible.

**Make-Up Exams** In general, there will be no make-up exams. The only exception to this policy is in the case of an emergency. Unless something unforeseen occurs, the exam dates are listed on the syllabus. This gives you plenty of time to make sure you have nothing else planned during class when an exam is scheduled. If you miss an exam, it is completely up to my discretion if you will be allowed to make it up. If an emergency occurs and you need to miss an exam, you need to contact me as soon as physically possible to schedule a make-up. You will also have to provide appropriate proof of said emergency. If you miss an exam for an acceptable reason, you should take the make-up within seven days of the regularly scheduled exam. Make-up exams will not be given before the regularly scheduled exam.

**Academic Integrity** From *The M Book*: “The university is conducted on a basis of common honesty. Dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the university are regarded as particularly serious offenses ... In the College of Liberal Arts and in the schools of Accountancy, Business Administration, and Education, faculty members handle cases of academic dishonesty in their classes by recommending an appropriate sanction after discussion with the student. Possible sanctions include failure on the work in question, retake of an examination, extra work, grade reduction or failure in the course, disciplinary probation, or suspension or expulsion from the university.” (pg. 4). Of the various acts of academic dishonesty, plagiarism deserves special mention. At a very basic level, if you present someone else’s work (e.g., words, thoughts, answers, etc.) as your own, you have committed plagiarism. Please review *The M Book* for more details on plagiarism.

Put simply, don’t cheat. If it is determined you’ve violated the standard of academic integrity set forth by the University of Mississippi, you will be subject to the consequences.

**Disabilities** Per the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) website: “The University of Mississippi is committed to ensuring equal access to a quality education for qualified students with disabilities through the provision of reasonable academic accommodations which support University standards and academic integrity” [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds/](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds/).
If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for all students with disabilities, but it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor early in the term. Do not wait until just before telling me that you have a learning disability because accommodations must be arranged in advance. I will work with you if accommodations are needed for any reason.

**Cell Phones** Shut your cell phones off before coming to class. Or at least turn the sound off. And no text messaging or e-mailing. Additionally, leave the newspaper, cross-word puzzles, and any other non-Pol 338 work in your backpack.

**Laptops** Students are not allowed to use laptops in class. I recognize that some people like to take notes using their laptop. I also recognize that others enjoy checking e-mail, Facebook, Ole Miss recruiting web sites, and doing other things not related to the class. Such people aren’t paying attention and are a distraction to others. To make sure this doesn’t occur, you are not allowed to use a laptop in this class.

**Grading**

Grades for the class will be based on participation, quizzes, reaction papers, and three exams. The grading scale, description of each of the factors that go into the final grade and the due dates of the various class assignments are presented below. Please note that I will be using the “plus/minus” grading scale.

**Table 1: Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5 - 92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.5 - 89.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5 - 86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5 - 82.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76.5 - 79.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5 - 76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5 - 72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59.5 - 69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Table 2: Assignments and Due Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Every Class Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Random</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>February 19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>May 9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation.** Participation is worth 10% of your final grade. Your participation grade is primarily determined by your involvement in class discussions. Participation is not simply about quantity or quality. In other words, you will need to participate on a regular basis in a meaningful way to get a good participation grade. Your participation grade also takes into account how well you follow the class policies outlined in this syllabus. For example, if I see you texting or have to repeatedly tell you not to use your laptop it will impact your grade.

**Quizzes.** I will administer five unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be closed book and closed notes, but they will be easy if you did the reading. Cumulatively, the quizzes will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Reaction Papers.** Each student will have to turn in three reaction papers on non-textbook readings. Each reaction paper is worth up to ten points, so cumulatively they are worth 30% of your final grade. You will receive a hand-out containing further details about the reaction papers in the coming weeks.

**Exams.** There will be three exams in the class. Respectively, they are worth 10%, 15%, and 25% of your final grade. The final exam is cumulative but will focus on material covered after the second exam. Exams will be a combination of short-answer, short-essay, and long-essay questions. You will need to bring a blank blue book and a pen to class on exam day. Do not be late to the exam. You will not be allowed to take the exam if you show up after the first exam has been turned in to me. While grammar, spelling and penmanship are not explicitly graded, if any of the three prevent me from understanding your response you will miss that portion of the question.

**Grade Appeal.** I will not discuss changes in grades on exams or papers for 24 hours after an assignment has been handed back. If you feel that your exam or paper has been graded incorrectly, you may submit a one-page grade appeal to me outlining what I missed and why your grade should be changed. If you give me a grade appeal, I will re-grade the assignment. However, I will re-grade your entire assignment and not just the portion you think
was graded incorrectly. As a result (and this is important), your initial grade can either be raised or lowered as a function of a re-grade.

“C” Minimum Policy. Per departmental requirements, final grades lower than a “C” in Political Science courses will not be counted toward the Political Science major or minor. Phrased differently, political science majors or minors must receive at least a “C” in order for Pol 338 to count towards their degrees; a “C-” or lower will not count towards a political science major or minor.

Extra Credit. Inevitably, I give everyone a few points that they did not earn on each exam. Accordingly, everyone in this course receives extra credit. No one will receive “extra” extra credit.

Other Important Points

If you are struggling in the course for any reason let me know as soon as possible. Whatever the issue is, we will try to work on it to make sure you can do well in the class. Do not wait until a day or two before an exam to let me know you are having a problem.

If you did not attend the first day of class and/or added the class late, all class policies apply equally to you. It is your responsibility to find out any information gone over during the class periods you missed. Deadlines will not be adjusted because you weren’t in class.

I check my e-mail several times each day. It is the best way to get in touch with me. At the same time, I may not respond to e-mails immediately. Be patient and I will get back to you as soon as I have time. If you need to talk to me in person, I’m available during my office hours and most days immediately after class. If these times don’t work, e-mail me and we’ll schedule an appointment.

Two things are particularly important to your success in this class: 1) complete the readings before the class in which we will discuss them; and 2) participation. Not having completed the reading adversely affects your ability to participate in class and, subsequently, your grade. When you read, do so slowly and carefully. Take notes. Participating in class will not only help your final grade, but it will also give both you and your classmates a deeper understanding of the material.

Keep up with current international events. You won’t be quizzed on them, but you’ll be better informed and it will only help your grade in this class. A good place to start is the “World” section on the New York Times web site.

The last day you can withdraw from the course is March 4th.
Finally, an important caveat to the class policies. I’m a reasonable person. As with all rules, exceptions to the class policies can be made. Speak to me in private if you feel your personal circumstances warrant an exception and we’ll see what can be worked out.

Course Outline

Tuesday, January 22nd. Class Overview.

Thursday, January 24th. History of U.S. Foreign Policy.
  • Ray, Chapters 2 and 7.

Tuesday, January 29th. Theoretical Approaches to U.S. Foreign Policy - Part I.
  • Ray, Chapter 3 and pgs. 300-301.

Thursday, January 31st. Theoretical Approaches to U.S. Foreign Policy - Part II.
  • Ray, Chapter 3 and pgs. 300-301.

Tuesday, February 5th. The Presidency and U.S. Foreign Policy.
  • United States Constitution, Article II, Section ii. 1797. [http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html)
  • Ray, Chapter 6, 145-148.

Thursday, February 7th. Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy.
  • U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section viii. 1797. [http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html)
  • Ray, Chapter 6, 139-144.

Tuesday, February 12th. Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy.
  • Ray, Chapter 5, 86-98.

\(^1\) Any changes to this schedule will be announced verbally in class. It is the student’s responsibility to note changes and adhere to the new schedule.
Thursday, February 14th. Interest Groups, the Media, and U.S. Foreign Policy.

- Ray, Chapter 5, 96-113.

Tuesday, February 19th. Exam 1.

Thursday, February 21st. Analyzing U.S. Foreign Policy.


Tuesday, February 26th. Foreign Policy Substitutability.


Thursday, February 28th. Cooperation in an Anarchic World?


Tuesday, March 5th. Cooperation with the U.S.


Thursday, March 7th. When and with Whom Does the U.S. Cooperate? The Role of Leaders and Reputation.


***** Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th: Spring Break*****

Tuesday, March 19th. Domestic Sources of U.S. Trade Policy.

Thursday, March 21st. Foreign Aid.


Tuesday, March 26th. Economic Sanctions.


Thursday, March 28th. Exam 2.

Tuesday, April 2nd. The Strategic Logic of Choosing Force.


Thursday, April 4th. Public Opinion and the Use of Force.


Tuesday, April 9th. Diversionary Conflict and the Decision to Use Force.


Thursday, April 11th. Crisis Bargaining and U.S. Foreign Policy.


Tuesday, April 16th. When and Why Does the U.S. go to War?


Thursday, April 18th. Who Does the U.S. Fight?

Tuesday, April 23rd. U.S. Policy and the Prosecution and Termination of Interstate War.

- No Reading.

Thursday, April 25th. Terrorism.


Tuesday, April 30th. When Does the U.S. Intervene and What are the Consequences?


Thursday, May 2nd. Nuclear Proliferation and U.S. Policy.


Thursday, May 9th, 8:00 A.M. Final Exam.