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**POLS 435 United States Foreign Policy  
Spring 2012**

T/R: 2-3:15  
NTRS 108

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to examine the patterns and processes that shape U.S. Foreign Policy. Rather than merely accepting that American foreign policy-makers pursue the national interest, this course will examine how the "national interest" is perceived by different actors, including Presidents, the Congress, the Media, the Public, Interest Groups, and the Bureaucracy, to name a few, and then consider how these various actors influence foreign policy. The course is divided into four parts. First, we will explore the constitutional foundations of foreign policy powers and discuss theoretical approaches in the study of U.S. foreign policy. Next, we will consider how the various institutions of the U.S. government influence foreign policy. What are the constitutionally defined roles of these separate institutions, what incentives do political actors have to play a role in foreign policy, and can we distinguish between outcomes and policy process? Third, we will examine U.S. foreign policy in historical and regional context and evaluate U.S. policies toward Europe, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Lastly, we will discuss current and salient foreign policy issues confronting the U.S.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, you should be able to list the foreign policy powers defined in the U.S. Constitution, provide an overview of the history of U.S. foreign policy, define the primary role of the three branches of government and other various government institutions in the foreign policy process, and relate our discussion of U.S. foreign policy in particular regions and debates on current issues to the main institutional roles discussed earlier in of the course.

Central to the above objectives is recognition of the idea that as political scientists we are interested in identifying and responding to positive questions (which address how and why events occurred) rather than normative questions (which address what should be done). This is to say that we will, throughout, prioritize the maintenance of objectivity in our assessment of particular U.S. foreign policy issues.

**READINGS**

We will use the following book, available in the book store:

Ray, James Lee. 2007. *American Foreign Policy and Political Ambition*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.  
ISBN: 9781568028323.

To reduce costs, all other readings are available on RamCT. In addition, you are strongly encouraged to read the *New York Times*, the *Economist*, the *Wall Street Journal*, or the *Washington Post*.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

**Reading (5%)**

Completion of the reading assignments in advance of class is crucial for the completion of this course. For every class session, I will post one question on the reading on RamCt. These questions are meant to gauge whether you are keeping up on the reading as well as trying to provoke a reaction to the reading that you can bring into the class discussion. Responses to reading questions should be a paragraph long and will be

graded on a pass/fail basis. To receive full credit for this portion of your grade, you must complete 80% or more of all reading questions with a passing grade.

### **Participation=10%**

Active participation includes attendance, asking questions of clarification, offering insights relating to readings or discussions, prompting new directions in class discussions, participating in online discussions on RamCT, and attending office hours. It is expected that all students will be present for all class periods. Each student is permitted three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence beyond these three will incur a penalty of 1% (to a maximum of 10%) from your final grade. More than 10 unexcused absences will result in an "F" grade for the class. For the sake of clarity, excusable absences relate to official medical appointments/illness confirmed by a doctor's note, university commitments confirmed by a university request for absence, or a serious illness or death in the family.

### **Book Review =25% (Proposal 5%, Book Review 20%)**

The writing assignment in this course is to review a book on a recent issue in U.S. foreign policy. In this review, you will present a brief summary and overview of the book, critically analyze the main argument and evidence presented by the author(s), and connect the topics highlighted in the book to concepts discussed in class and course readings. I will provide students with a list of books to choose from. All students are required to submit a **proposal** of the book review at the beginning of class on **Mar 29**. This proposal must contain all of elements the final book review, albeit in abbreviated form. The proposal must be 2-3 pages long and double-spaced. Please note that you will NOT be allowed to change the book chosen after submitting the proposal. The **book review** must be 5-8 pages long, double-spaced, and is due on **May 3** at the beginning of class. Book reviews must be submitted in *both* of the following two formats: (1) a paper copy, due at the beginning of class (2) an electronic copy turned in via SafeAssign on RamCt. A list of books and more detailed instructions for book reviews and the submission process will be distributed later in the semester.

### **Exams = 60% (3 exams, 20% each)**

There will be three exams in this class. Exams will be held on the following dates: **Feb 23, Apr 5, May 10**. Each exam consists of a combination of short-answer and essay questions. Exams are NOT cumulative.

### **Grading**

Grades for exams, written assignments, and final grades will be calculated as follows:

A 92.5 – 100	C+ 76.5 – 79.9
A- 90 – 92.49	C 70 – 76.49
B+ 86.5 – 89.9	D 60 – 69.9
B 82.5 – 86.49	F 0 – 59.9
B- 80-82.49	

If you have concerns about course grades, I hope you will speak to me. You may ask me to review your grade on assignments if you feel that it has been graded unfairly. However, such requests must be made in writing and include a detailed description explaining your disagreement with the assigned grade. In addition, requests must be made within a week of when the grade was assigned. Finally, keep in mind that a grade review may result in a lower, higher, or unchanged grade for the assignment.

### **CLASS POLICIES**

#### **Contact**

You can contact me by coming to office hours, calling during office hours, or via email. When you send email, I will do my best to respond within 48 hours on weekdays. If you do not hear from me within that time frame, feel free to send a follow-up message.

### **In-Class Behavior**

Be respectful to your fellow classmates and instructor. It is expected that those who are late and/or leaving early will sit in the back of the room and will make every effort to ensure it is not a regular occurrence. If you anticipate this being a recurring problem, please discuss the situation with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Please turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices before class begins. The use of laptops is allowed for academic purposes only.

### **Late Policy**

Assignments are due in class on the designated due dates and failure to submit assignments during class time means that the assignment is late and points will begin to be deducted immediately. A student's grade will be lowered by a letter grade (ten points) if a paper is submitted after the due date for each day late (including the day the assignment is due). In the case of an excused absence, late assignments will not be penalized but students must contact me immediately in order to advise an alternate due date and submit written documentation. For the sake of clarity, excusable absences relate to official medical appointments/illness confirmed by a doctor's note, university-sponsored activities confirmed by a university request for absence, or a serious illness or death in the family.

### **Make up Policy**

Make up exams are permissible only in the event of an unforeseen emergency (e.g. illness, death in the family, etc.) or when engaged in a university-sponsored activities confirmed by a university request for absence. Students must make every effort to make arrangements prior to the exam/due date and will be required to submit written documentation. Exams for which students are absent without an excuse will receive a failing grade.

### **Academic Integrity**

This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the CSU General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. CSU has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 p.1). Consequently, academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Cheating (using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work) and plagiarism (using another's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment) are serious offenses and may result in a failing grade for a particular assignment, failing grade for the course and/or disciplinary action by the university. Written assignments for this class must be submitted in electronic format and will be checked using RamCT plagiarism detection software. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to [Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services](#).

### **Use of Course Material**

Please note that CSU's Student Conduct Code prohibits unauthorized soliciting or selling in violation of the university solicitation policy. This prohibition includes the use of CSU email and/or RamCT to advertise lecture notes or any other course materials for sale. Violations of this policy are subject to university disciplinary action.

### **Class Discussion**

Part of what makes the study of political science interesting is the opportunity to engage in debates about controversial issues. In order to facilitate open debate and exchange, it is essential that students recognize and respect the right of each individual to "engage in discussion, to exchange ideas and opinions, and to speak, write and publish freely, in accordance with the guarantees and limitations of our state and national constitutions" (University General Catalog, p. 37).

**Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities**

Under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Colorado State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Those students with disabilities that may have some impact on their coursework and for which they may require accommodations should notify the Learning Assistance Center: <http://www.counseling.colostate.edu/LAC/index.htm> or Resources for Disabled Students: <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/RDS/>. The LAC/RDS and instructors will assist students in making appropriate accommodations with course instructors. It is important that the LAC/RDS and instructors be informed of any disability-related needs during the first two weeks of the semester.

*Important Note: No course earning a grade lower than a C will be permitted to fulfill Political Science Major requirements if the course is taken during or after the Fall Semester, 2004.*

### Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to be informed of schedule changes.

	Topic	Readings
<b>FOUNDATIONS</b>		
Jan 17	Overview	-
Jan 19	U.S. Foreign Policy and the Constitution	Federalist Papers 24, 64, 69 <a href="http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/">http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/</a> Henkin. 1987. "Foreign Affairs and the Constitution."
Jan 24	War Powers	Glennon. 1991. "The Gulf War and the Constitution"
Jan 26	Theories of Foreign Policy	Ray, chapter 3
Jan 31	Grand Strategy	Krauthammer, 2004. "In Defense of Democratic Realism" Drezner, 2011. "Does Obama Have a Grand Strategy?"
<b>THE FOREIGN POLICY PROCESS</b>		
Feb 2	Congress and Foreign Policy	Ray, chapter 6, pp. 139-144 Lindsay, 1992. Congress and Foreign Policy: "Why the Hill Matters."
Feb 7	Congress and Trade Policy	Bailey et al., 1997. "The Institutional Roots of American Trade Policy."
Feb 9	Foreign Policy Bureaucracy	Ray, chapter 6, pp. 117-138; 145-150
Feb 14	Foreign Policy Bureaucracy continued	Locher. 2006. "Has It Worked? The Goldwater-Nichols Reorganisation Act"
Feb 16	Public Opinion	Ray, chapter 5, pp. 86-102 Yankelovich, 2005. "Poll Positions."
Feb 21	Interest Groups	Ray, chapter 5, pp. 104-114 Vanderbush, 2009. "Exiles and the Marketing of U.S. Policy Toward Cuba and Iraq."
Feb 23	<b>EXAM I (covering material Jan 18-Feb 21)</b>	-
<b>U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN REGIONAL CONTEXT</b>		
Feb 28	Onset of the Cold War	Ray, chapter 7 Ray, chapter 2 (recommended)
Mar 1	U.S.-European Relations	Ray, chapter 9
Mar 6	The U.S. and Latin America	Ray, chapter 10
Mar 8	U.S.-African Relations	Ray, chapter 11
Mar 13	NO CLASS: Spring Break	-
Mar 15	NO CLASS: Spring Break	-
Mar 20	EVENING SESSION: Guest lecture by Dick Life	Location and time TBD, no reading
Mar 22	The Vietnam War	Ray, chapter 8
Mar 27	The U.S. and China	Ray, chapter 12
Mar 29	The U.S. and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict <b>BOOK REVIEW PROPOSALS DUE!</b>	Ray, chapter 13
Apr 3	NO CLASS – ISA Meeting	
<b>CURRENT ISSUES IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY</b>		
Apr 5	<b>EXAM II (covering material Feb 28-Apr 3)</b>	-

Apr 10	Intelligence and 9/11	Zegart, 2006. "An Empirical Analysis of Failed Intelligence Reforms Before September 11."
Apr 12	Intelligence and the Iraq War	Jervis, 2006. "Reports, Politics, and Intelligence Failures: The Case of Iraq."
Apr 17	Counterterrorism and the Law	Dorf. 2007. "The Detention and Trial of Enemy Combatants"
Apr 19	Torture and the War on Terror	Gronke, et al., 2010. "U.S. Public Opinion on Torture, 2001-2009."
Apr 24	Counterinsurgency in Pakistan and Afghanistan	Rubin and Siddique. 2006. "Resolving the Pakistan-Afghanistan Stalemate." Byman. 2007. "Do Counterproliferation and Counterterrorism Go Together?"
Apr 26	FILM: Charlie Wilson's War	-
May 1	Combating Piracy off the Coast of Somalia	Weir, 2009. "Fish, Family, and Profit."
May 3	Course Wrap-Up <b>BOOK REVIEWS DUE!</b>	Readings TBD
<b>May 10, 2-4 PM</b>	<b>EXAM III (covering material Apr 10-May 3)</b>	-