

**American Foreign Policy**  
**POL S 321**  
**Spring 2009**  
**Professor: Aseem Prakash**

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**Course Objective**

This course examines the evolution of American foreign policy since World War II. We will investigate the crucial decisions and debates that have shaped the course of America's dealings with the world to illuminate the change and the continuity in policies and policymaking. Hopefully, this course will provide you with the background and the perspective required to understand contemporary issues and future challenges for American foreign policy.

**Readings**

*Book:*

Steven W Cook and John Spanier. 2007. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*. 17<sup>th</sup> edition. CQ Press. ISBN: 1-033116-71-4

*Articles:*

The readings have been placed on E-reserves. To access them :

- Please go to the library homepage ([www.lib.washington.edu](http://www.lib.washington.edu)).
- Click on course reserves.
- Select instructor and fill in "Prakash."

(Please do not use course title or number as your search fields, as there might be another American Foreign Policy class being taught on campus.)

- after clicking on "Prakash Aseem" you should be able to click through to the relevant readings for this particular American Foreign Policy class. You will have to accept electronic copyright restrictions and enter your UW Net ID, etc., but after going through those screens, you will be able to access the readings.

## Course Expectations

This course explores various dimensions of American Foreign Policy since World War II. The idea is to sensitize you regarding the multiple challenges America has faced (and currently faces) in dealing with other nations and how it has sought (and is seeking) to cope with these challenges. I want you to appreciate both the continuities and changes in American foreign policy. By the end of the course, I hope all of you will develop a more nuanced understanding of American Foreign Policy and feel empowered to contribute to policy debates. Remember, participation by informed citizens in policy debates, including foreign policy debates, is essential for sustaining our democracy. Because America is the world hegemon (notwithstanding the serious economic and military problems it faces) and its policies significantly impact the course of politics in other countries, the effects of American foreign policy choices can be experienced well beyond its physical borders. Eventually, my hope is that this course and the broader UW experience will motivate you to think of politics and public service as your career. And if not as a career (yes, politics is not everybody's cup of tea), then this course should provide you with the confidence and background to examine complex policy issues in an informed way.

I adopt a non-traditional teaching style that includes (along with the traditional lectures) class discussions and audio-visual delivery of knowledge via documentaries. In essence, you are expected to be actively involved in the class. This course might be less useful for those who like the traditional format in which the professor lectures, the students take notes, and there is little discussion.

I strongly believe in the efficacy of visual delivery of knowledge. Our library has a fabulous collection of documentaries that are germane to the study of foreign policy and world politics. I will screen several documentaries which will provide you a better understanding of the past, which is extremely important to understand the current and future trajectory of American foreign policy. All documentaries will also be placed on course reserve. To create incentives for you to pay close attention to the information provided by the documentaries, we will have several unannounced quizzes. It would be a very good idea to be attentive while you watch these fascinating films. I will typically not allow make-up quizzes unless you have a documented medical emergency or you have taken TA's permission prior to the class regarding your absence from the class.

I strongly encourage (informed) class discussion. To maximize your learning from this course, you should read the required texts in advance and actively participate in the discussions in the class as well as in the quiz sections. Your performance will be graded on the basis of the following:

### *Paper 1*

How does the world think of the United States? Please identify a prominent newspaper (which has an English edition and is available online) in a foreign country. For one full week, keep a track of news items, editorials, or Op-Eds (articles in short) that examine or provide commentary on American policy in relation to the country or the region. Please make a list of these items. After reading these articles please summarize how, on average, this country views American policies. Identify both the negative and positive aspects of American policy (as it relates to this country/region) reported in this newspaper Your paper (eight pages, double-spaced) is due April 23.

### *Paper 2*

President Obama is seeking to remake American Foreign Policy. Pick any two issue areas, one in which you expect him to broadly continue the policies of his immediate predecessor and one in which you

expect to see substantive changes (not merely symbolic changes). These policies might relate to a given issue area (e.g. arms control), a particular country (e.g. North Korea) or an international organization (e.g. the World Bank). On the basis of this comparison, speculate the reasons for continuity and change in American foreign policy. Think in terms of next 4 years (the first Presidential term). Your paper (eight pages, double-spaced) is due May 14. Please ensure that you cite the sources you have drawn on. Please note that Wikipedia is not an acceptable source in academic work

### Discussion/Quiz Section

Discussion sections provide a small group setting to discuss the text, the documentaries, and current events relevant to class topics. You have very talented Teaching Assistants who will structure and coordinate the discussion (and grade your participation as well - and this is important). How to make the best use of this great opportunity? First and foremost, please carefully review the assigned readings and turn up for the discussion section. For every session, students should review a national newspaper known for its international coverage (such as *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*). To maximize your learning from this course, you must participate energetically in the Quiz section.

In the discussion section, you will be involved in a group project (3-4 students per group) which includes an in-class presentation and a written report. The presentation will be scheduled in the last two weeks of the quarter. The group report should be turned in on the last day/meeting of your quiz section. Your project may pertain to the following two themes.

- The first theme deals with U.S. foreign policy during the various presidencies since Woodrow Wilson. You will examine continuities and changes in key policies and identify the key crises or decision moments. Finally, provide a sense about the “success” of the president you are studying in the realm of foreign policy.
- The second theme deals with contemporary US foreign policy in specific policy domains such as foreign aid, refugee policy, global warming, and trade liberalization. Examine the key challenges President Obama faces in dealing with these issues and how has his administration responded to them.

### Evaluation

Paper 1	20 points
Paper 2	20 points
Pop Quizzes	30 points
Quiz section participation	20 points
Group project	10 points
Total	100 Points

### Late submissions

Typically, I don't accept late submissions with two exceptions. First, there is a documented medical emergency. Second, for some compelling reason you anticipate not turning in your paper on the due date and you have taken your TA's permission in advance (merely sending an email informing that you will not turn in the paper on time will not suffice). The TAs have full discretion whether or not to accept late submissions.

## Plagiarism

I will follow UW's policy on plagiarism:

<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm#plagiarism>

## Syllabus changes

I reserve the right to change the syllabus without prior notice.

## Class Schedule

### Tuesday, March 31

Introduction

### Thursday, April 2

#### World in Crisis?

- Simon Johnson. 2009. The Quiet Coup. *The Atlantic*,  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200905/imf-advice>
- Andrew Leonard. 2009. Simon Johnson's Crusade Against the Oligarch's of the Wall Street,  
[http://www.salon.com/tech/htww/2009/03/31/the\\_imf\\_and\\_the\\_quiet\\_coup/index.html](http://www.salon.com/tech/htww/2009/03/31/the_imf_and_the_quiet_coup/index.html)

### Tuesday, April 7

#### Overview

- Chapter 1: The American Approach to Foreign Policy
- I will review various IR approaches (no readings)

### Thursday, April 9

#### The Cold War

- Chapter 2: From World War to Cold War
- George Kennan, 1947, The Sources of Soviet Conduct, *Foreign Affairs*, July  
<http://www.historyguide.org/Europe/kennan.html>
- CNN Volume 2(3): Reds (Videorecord WHV 125)

### Tuesday, April 14

#### Origins of US-Soviet Rivalry

- Chapter 3: Containment
- Jean Edward Smith. 2009. How to End a War, Eisenhower's Way  
<http://100days.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/11/how-to-end-a-war-eisenhowers-way/>
- CNN Volume 2(2): Korea (Videorecord WHV 125)

### Thursday, April 16

#### Clash of Ideologies

- Chapter 4: Developing Countries in Cross-Fire
- Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation, January 17, 1961  
<http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/indust.html>
- CNN: Volume 6(1): Backyard (Videorecord WHV 125)

**Tuesday, April 21**Developing World

- Chapter 5: Vietnam and the Cost of Containment
- CNN Volume 6(2): Good Guys Bad Guys (Videorecord WHV 125)

**Thursday, April 23**Berlin Wall

- Guest Speakers Hans & Anita Amrhein will narrate their experiences in this regard.
- CNN Volume 3(3): The Wall, 1958-1963 (Videorecord WHV 125)

**Tuesday, April 28**How Individuals Matter?

- Chapter 6: Détente and World Order politics
- Documentary: The Trials of Henry Kissinger (DVD FRF 024)

**Thursday, April 30**End of the Cold War

- Chapter 7: Revival of Superpower Confrontation.
- Chapter 8: The End of the Cold War.
- CNN Volume 8(2)The Wall comes down (Videorecord WHV 125).

**Tuesday, May 5**1990s and Beyond

- Chapter 9: America's Unipolar Moment.
- Chapter 10: Tensions in a New Order.
- Chapter 11: The shifting European Landscape.
- Chapter 12: America under Fire.

**Thursday, May 7**Iraq and Afghanistan

- Chapter 13: Hot wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Richard Haas and Martin Indyk. 2009. Beyond Iraq. *Foreign Affairs*, 88(1).
- Stephen Biddle. 2005/2006. Allies, Airpower, and Modern Warfare: The Afghan Model in Afghanistan and Iraq. *International Security*, 30(3).
- CNN Volume 7 (2): Soldiers of God (Videorecord WHV 125)

**Tuesday, May 12**Humanitarian Crises

- Samantha Power. 2001. Bystanders to Genocide, *The Atlantic Monthly*, September  
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/power.htm>
- Samantha Power, 2004, Dying in Darfur, *New Yorker*,  
<http://www.shailahproductions.com/NewYorker-Dying-Darfur.pdf>
- Documentary: The Ghosts of Rwanda (DVD PSHV 005)

## **Thursday, May 13**

### Terrorism and Failed States

- Robert Trager and Dessislava Zagorcheva. 2006. Deterring Terrorism: It Can Be Done. *International Security*, 30(3).
- Peter Neumann. 2007. Negotiating With Terrorists. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February.
- Gal Luft and Anne Korin. 2004. Terrorism Goes to the Sea, *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.
- Fareed Zakaria. 2009. Learning to Live with Radical Islam, *Newsweek*, <http://www.newsweek.com/id/187093/page/1>

## **Tuesday, May 19**

### Environment

- Ruth Greenspan Bell. 2006. What to do About Climate Change. *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006
- Gwyn Prins and Steve Rayner. 2007. Time to Ditch Kyoto. *Nature* 449(October).
- David Victor, 2006. Recovering Sustainable Development. *Foreign Affairs*, Jan-Feb.
- Alan Zarembo. 2009. Non-Skeptical Heretics, *LA Times* <http://articles.latimes.com/p/2008/mar/26/science/sci-adapt26>
- Freed Zakaria. How to Escape the Oil Trap, *Newsweek* <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9024768/site/newsweek/>

## **Thursday, May 21**

### Foreign Aid

- Hans Morgenthau, 1962. A Political Theory of Foreign Aid. *The American Political Science Review*, 56(2).
- Ronald Ingelhart and Christian Welzel. 2009. How Development Leads to Democracy. *Foreign Affairs*, 88(2).
- Nicholas Kristof. Foreign Aid: Can It Work? <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/19374>
- Documentary: The Price of Aid (PUBLIC AFFAIRS 533)

## **Tuesday, May 26**

### Public Health

- Laurie Garrett, 2005, The Lessons of HIV/AIDS, *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.
- Laurie Garrett, 2007. The Challenge of Global Health, *Foreign Affairs*, January/February.
- Documentary: A Closer Walk [DVD DCL 001](#).

## **Thursday, May 28**

### Cartoons and Foreign Policy

- Robert Leiken. 2005. Europe's Angry Muslims. *Foreign Affairs*, 84(4).
- Human Rights Watch. 2006. Questions and Answers on the Danish Cartoons and Freedom of Expression. <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/02/15/denmar12676.htm>
- Ibn Warraq. 2006. Democracy in a Cartoon <http://service.spiegel.de/cache/international/0,1518,398853,00.html>
- Michael Karadjis. 2006. Danish cartoons: racist provocation or 'free speech'? <http://www.greenleft.org.au/back/2006/659/659p12.htm>

## **Tuesday, June 2**

### Future

- Presentation by Galen Takamura on National Security and the 21st Century Army.
- Chapter 14, A World of Trouble
- Francis Fukuyama, 2004. The Imperatives of State Building. *Journal of Democracy*, 5(2).
- The Mercenary Debate, *American Interest*, Summer 2009.  
Please read the articles by Deborah Avant, Max Boot, and Jörg Friedrichs & Cornelius Friesendorf, pages 32-48.

## **Thursday, June 4**

### Presentations by:

- Amanda Clayton, Microfinance Impact Assessment: Female Agency and Banking in Rural Bangladesh.
- Josh Eastin, Economic Development and Women's Rights.
- Hyo Won Lee, Power of Nations and Dispute Settlement in the WTO.
- Rebecca Szper, Is Sunlight the Best Disinfectant? Charity Watchdogs and the Limits of Information-Based Regulation.

**Grading Rubric**  
**Paper Assignment 1**  
**Due Date: April 23, 2009**

**Topic: How does the world think of the United States?**

Please identify a prominent newspaper (which has an English edition and is available online) in a foreign country. For one full week, keep a track of news items, editorials, or Op-Eds (articles in short) that examine or provide commentary on American policy in relation to the country or the region. Please make a list of these items. After reading these articles please summarize how, on average, this country views American policies. Identify both the negative and positive aspects of American policy (as it relates to this country/region) reported in this newspaper. The following criteria should serve as a guideline:

**Grading Criteria:**

Overall Assessment: On average, does the newspaper portray American policies in a positive or negative light and why so?	5
Positive aspects of U.S. Foreign Policy	5
Negative aspects of U.S. Foreign Policy	5
Organization and Style	5
<u>Total</u>	20

Each of these categories will be graded based on the following scale:

5=Excellent    4=Good    3=Fair    2= Needs Work    1= Poor

Your grade will also reflect how well you execute the following elements of good writing while completing your paper:

**Argument/Evidence** – All elements of the assignment are completed with an in-depth examination of the issues. The essay contains a clear thesis that is adequately supported by evidence. The student thoroughly addresses the counterarguments, and the central claims of the paper are well supported. Also, the student delineates between short-term and long-term foreign policy goals for each policy area.

**Quality of Research** – Evidence comes from a variety of academic sources that are properly cited. The essay has a complete bibliography at the end. Please note that Wikipedia is not an acceptable source in academic work.

**Structure/Style** - The paper is well organized: paragraphs have clearly defined topic sentences and logically follow from and build on each other. Paper is well-written and largely free of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.

It is highly recommended that you have your final paper reviewed by the departmental writing center. Their website also has tips for writing a political science paper, and can be found at <http://depts.washington.edu/pswrite/>.

## Paper Assignment 2

Due Date: May 21, 2009

### Topic: President Obama's Foreign Policy

President Obama is seeking to remake American Foreign Policy. Pick any two issue areas, one in which you expect him to broadly continue the policies of his immediate predecessor and one in which you expect to see substantive changes (not merely symbolic changes). These policies might relate to a given issue area (e.g. arms control), a particular country (e.g. North Korea) or an international organization (e.g. the World Bank). On the basis of this comparison, speculate the reasons for continuity and change in American foreign policy. Think in terms of next 4 years (the first Presidential term). The following criteria should serve as a guideline:

#### Grading Criteria:

Coverage of Issue Area #1	4
Reasons for continuity	4
Coverage of Issue Area #2	4
Reasons for change	4
Organization and Style	4
<u>Total</u>	20

Each of these categories will be graded based on the following scale:

4=Excellent    3=Good    2=Fair    1= Needs Work    0= Poor

Your grade will also reflect how well you execute the following elements of good writing while completing your paper:

**Argument/Evidence** – All elements of the assignment are completed with an in-depth examination of the issues. The essay contains a clear thesis that is adequately supported by evidence. The student thoroughly addresses the counterarguments, and the central claims of the paper are well supported. Also, the student delineates between short-term and long-term foreign policy goals for each policy area.

**Quality of Research** – Evidence comes from a variety of academic sources that are properly cited. The essay has a complete bibliography at the end. Please note that Wikipedia is not an acceptable source in academic work.

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It is highly suggested that you have your final paper reviewed by the departmental writing center. Their website also has tips for writing a political science paper, and can be found at <http://depts.washington.edu/pswrite/>. You may also want to consult the following website: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/PoliticalSci/classes/amforpol.html>

Your paper (eight pages, double-spaced) is due May 21. Please ensure that you cite the sources you have drawn on. Please note that Wikipedia is not an acceptable source in academic work.