

Political Science 154—US Foreign Policy (Section 01)  
Fall 2009, TTH 7:30-8:45 AM HGH 116  
Prof. Danopoulos  
CH 449, TTH -10:15-12:00, 1:30-3:30, and by appointment  
Tel. 924-5555 Email: [cdanopou@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:cdanopou@email.sjsu.edu)

Course Description and Objectives/Goals:

The course is designed to familiarize students with the historical antecedents of American foreign policy as well as the processes of foreign policy making in the US. We will examine critical philosophical and concrete policy perspectives concerning America's role in world affairs. The first portion of the course will deal with the isolationist and internationalist impulses, realism and idealism, and national interests. These will be examined in light of America's historical experience as a world power. The post World War period will receive a more detailed treatment. The second portion will concentrate on foreign policy making. It will examine the role of US governmental institutions, as well as interest groups, the media, public opinion and so forth. In the process we will be examining American interests and actions to many critical issues confronting US policy makers in various parts of the world, such as Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. The on-going war in Iraq will be reviewed and evaluated. We will also devote time to terrorism, America's response, and its consequences. The course will consist of lectures, but will also feature student presentations.

Required Books:

James McCormick, *American Foreign Policy and Processes* 5<sup>th</sup> edition  
Steven M. Walt, *Taming American Power*  
Francis Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads*

Examinations, Papers, Grading:

Your course grade will be based on a midterm and a final examination. Both examinations will consist of the essay and short answer questions. Instructor will provide study questions for the essay portion of the exam a week the midterm and final examinations. The midterm examination is scheduled for **October 15**. Bring a large-size bluebook and black or blue pen—no pencil.

In addition each student will be required to do two book reviews (5-6 pages each). The Walt book will be reviewed first, and the report will be on **September 15**. The second book review (Fukuyama) will be due on **November 3**. Each book report should be 5-6 double-spaced pages long (typed) and must include a summary of the book and a critique. Papers must be typed and written in standard American English. Proofread your work and make sure it is free of spelling and other grammatical errors.

Grading: Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm Examination (essay) 25%  
Final Examination (essay) 25%

Book Reports (2) at 20% each (40% total)  
Class Participation 10%

Academic Integrity: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at SJSU, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you be honest in all your academic work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

*Cheating:* At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating includes but is not limited to: copying in part or in whole from another's test or other evaluation instrument; submitting work previously graded in another course unless approved by the course instructor; submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both instructors; altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abating in any of the actions defined above. Violations at the SJSU academic integrity policy will not be tolerated in this class. Students who commit such violations will receive a grade of "F" in the course or assignment and will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

*Plagiarism.* In our university the policy on plagiarism reads as follows: "At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: The act of incorporating ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own; and Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own." Sanctions for plagiarism can range from an oral reprimand to expulsion from SJSU. In other words, the potential costs outweigh the immediate benefits. **Do not do it.** Students plagiarizing automatically **Fail** the course. If you are unsure of the policy on Academic Integrity, please see the information on the university website: [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_concuct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_concuct)

Special Needs: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the professor or visit him during office hours as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must be registered with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Disclaimer: All above information may be subject to change with fair notice from the University, the Department of Political Science and/or the professor. The professor reserves the right to administer quizzes should a severe lack of attendance, especially at the beginning of the class each day, become an evident trend.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

*Part I. The Historical Evolution of US Foreign Policy*

1. The Setting  
Read, McCormick, ch 1
2. Historical Background: The Beginning to WWII  
Read: McCormick, ch 2
3. The Cold War Consensus: Containment  
Read: McCormick, ch 3

September 15, Walt paper due

September 22, Furlough Day—No Class and No Office Hours

4. Containment Challenged: Vietnam  
Read: McCormick, ch 4
5. The Cold War Ends  
Read: McCormick, ch 5
6. Terrorism and Response: The Bush Doctrine  
Read: McCormick, ch 6

**Midterm Examination:** October 15 (large-size bluebook and black or blue pen)

*Part II. The Process of Policy Making*

1. The Domestic Context: The Constitution
2. The President  
Read: McCormick, ch 7
3. The Congress  
Read: McCormick, ch 8

November 3, Fukuyama paper due

December 1, Furlough Day—No Class and No Office Hours

4. The Bureaucracy  
Read: McCormick, ch 9
5. The Military and Intelligence  
Read: McCormick, ch 10

6. The Media, Public Opinion, and Values  
Read: McCormick, chs 12&1

FINAL EXAMINATION: **Friday, December 11, 7:15-9:30** (bring large bluebook)