

USFP Syllabus Spr 12

San José State University Department of Political Science

POLS 154: U.S. Foreign Policy

Spring 2012

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Office Hours:	Monday/Wednesday 3-4.30 pm, Tuesday 9.30-10.30 am
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday 12 pm to 1:15 pm
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Course description and objectives

This course focuses on the foreign policy of the United States in the post-Cold War international environment. The forces driving American foreign policy, including domestic politics, economics and culture, will be assessed. We will examine the policy-making process – the relationship between the Executive, Congress, the State and Defense departments, and the media. Four topics will be studied in depth: relations with the Islamic world, nuclear weapons, American competitiveness in the global economy, students will have the opportunity to choose the fourth. In addition, the course has the goal of developing various skills (for example, oral presentation and writing) that will stand you in good stead in the workplace.

Course organization

This is a seminar-style class, therefore students are expected to complete the readings prior to class, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussions.

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1. Readings and website

There is no textbook for this class, and readings have been chosen from a variety of sources to fulfill the course objectives. Please note that in some cases you are NOT required to read all of the pages in the PDF document that has been posted online. The precise page numbers that you are responsible for are indicated in the syllabus. This will be a reading-intensive class but we will discuss techniques that you can use to skim the texts and retain the information that you need.

The class will rely heavily on Desire2Learn, the course management software, where all readings will be posted and can be downloaded by registered students. Students should be aware that announcements, assignments and general information (including possible modifications to the syllabus) may be posted on the course website on a daily basis. Announcements may also be made in class. For those who are interested, a reader is available for purchase—details will be provided on D2L.

2. Evaluation

The diverse assignments are designed to develop different skills that are required in the workplace.

Skill	Assignment	Points	Due date
Oral presentation	Mock Congressional hearings	30	Indicated below
Writing short reports	Short paper	10	April 23
Knowledge of key facts about history, geography and politics	Exams	15 + 20	February 15, final exam date tba
Analytical writing with diverse sources	Long paper	25	May 14

a. Oral presentations

You will appear in three mock Senate hearings: US relations with political Islam, nuclear weapons, and American competitiveness in the global economy. In the first week of class you will be divided into three groups. Each group will play ‘senators’ once during the semester, with assigned question areas to focus on. During the other two hearings, you will be ‘experts’ giving testimony to the Senate Committee. Each appearance at a hearing is worth 10 points and I will grade you on both style and substance (detailed grade rubric will be provided).

b. Short paper

This assignment, worth 10 points, is designed to give you the opportunity to express your views on a current topic relating to Asia. You will write an op-ed to a newspaper, or a memo for a CEO of a major US corporation, or a policy paper to the US President. The word limit is 1000 words and you will not need to provide citations.

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c. Exams

Both prelim and final exams are in-class closed-book exams. The prelim will have questions from the first section of the course which deals with the historical foundations and organizational structure of foreign policy. It features short answer questions as well as map marking (map and places to be marked will be provided weeks in advance). **Please note that a few questions will be drawn from this syllabus/greensheet.** The final exam tests your knowledge of 20 key terms in the study of US foreign policy—a list of 40 terms will be provided weeks in advance.

d. Long paper

This paper provides you the chance to research a topic comprehensively and expand on your ideas. I strongly recommend that you work on the same topic for the short paper and the long paper. This paper has a word limit of 2000 words and must use a standard citation style.

Final letter grades are based on this scale

A plus	95-100
A only	90-94
A minus	85-89
B plus	80-84
B only	75-79
B minus	70-74
C plus	65-69
C only	60-64
C minus	55-59

3. Classroom Protocol

Please see the document, “Student Responsibilities and Course Policies,” posted on the course website.

4. Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/

The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>

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University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The [LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

Writing

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the

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page in the source from which it was taken. Ideas from others must also be referenced although quotations marks are inappropriate. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm

The SJSU Writing Center (Room 126 in Clark Hall) is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. It is your responsibility to arrange a time to meet with the instructors. Consult with your professor in advance to determine whether you need assistance with your writing. Their website is <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

Arguably the best way to improve your own writing is to read quality material on a regular basis. To that end, students are encouraged to read articles from scholarly sources and quality newspapers such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*. These publications also contain articles of direct relevance to our class.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. The website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>

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<u>date</u>	<u>topic</u>	<u>readings</u>
30-Jan	<i>Structure and process</i>	Herring 538-54
1-Feb		Herring 555-94
6-Feb		Gaddis 7-33
8-Feb		Reus-Smit 40-68
13-Feb		Glain 346-406
15-Feb		Exam
20-Feb	<i>Islamic world</i>	Scheuer 58-96
22-Feb		Mearsheimer and Walt 1-28
27-Feb		Suskind 166-82, 211-18
29-Feb		Riedel 60-85
5-Mar		Riedel 119-44
7-Mar		HEARINGS GROUP ACTIVITY
12-Mar		HEARINGS GROUP ACTIVITY
14-Mar	<i>Nuclear weapons</i>	Fussell 1-28, Wilson 162-79
19-Mar		Holloway 34-74
21-Mar		Sagan and Waltz 3-45
2-Apr		Sagan and Waltz 46-87, Obama Prague speech, Schelling 124-29
4-Apr		HEARINGS GROUP ACTIVITY
9-Apr		HEARINGS GROUP ACTIVITY
11-Apr	Canceled	
16-Apr		Herrera 75-98
18-Apr		Krasner pages tba, Domhoff 107-115, 144-48
23-Apr		Segal 19-37, 108-135
25-Apr		Pisano and Shih 114-25
30-Apr		HEARINGS GROUP ACTIVITY
2-May		HEARINGS GROUP ACTIVITY
7-May	tba	Tba
9-May	tba	Tba
14-May	Summing up	Long paper due

Full citations in alphabetical order (Chicago 15th B format)

- Domhoff, G. William. 1990. *The power elite and the state : how policy is made in America, Social institutions and social change*. New York: A. de Gruyter.
- Gaddis, John Lewis. 2004. *Surprise, security, and the American experience*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Glain, Stephen. 2011. *State vs. Defense : the battle to define America's empire*. 1st ed. New York: Crown Publishers.

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- Fussell, Paul. 1988. *Thank God for the atom bomb, and other essays*. New York: Summit Books.
- Herrera, Geoffrey L. 2006. New Media for a New World?: Information Technology and Threats to National Security. In *Globalization and National Security*, edited by J. Kirshner. New York: Routledge.
- Herring, George C. 2008. *From colony to superpower : U.S. foreign relations since 1776*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Holloway, David. 2006. Deterrence, Preventive War and Pre-emption. In *U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy: Confronting Today's Threats*, edited by G. Bunn and C. F. Chyba. Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press.
- Krasner, Stephen. 1978. *Defending the National Interest: Raw Materials, Investments and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mearsheimer, John J., and Stephen Walt. 2006. The Israel Lobby. *London Review of Books*, 23 March.
- Obama, Barack. 2012. *Remarks by President Barack Obama in Prague as Delivered*. Office of the Press Secretary, White House, April 5 2009 [cited January 6 2012]. Available from http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-President-Barack-Obama-In-Prague-As-Delivered.
- Pisano, Gary P., and Willy C. Shih. 2009. Restoring American Competitiveness. *Harvard Business Review* July-August:114-25.
- Reus-Smit, Christian. 2004. *American power and world order, Themes for the 21st century*. Cambridge, UK ; Malden, MA: Polity Press.
- Riedel, Bruce O. 2011. *Deadly embrace : Pakistan, America, and the future of the global jihad*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.
- Sagan, Scott Douglas, and Kenneth Neal Waltz. 2003. *The spread of nuclear weapons : a debate renewed ; with new sections on India and Pakistan, terrorism, and missile defense*. 2nd ed. New York: Norton.
- Schelling, Thomas. 2009. A world without nuclear weapons? *Daedalus* 138 (4):124-29.
- Scheuer, Michael. 2008. *Marching toward bell : America and Islam after Iraq*. 1st Free Press hardcover ed. New York: Free Press.
- Segal, Adam. 2011. *Advantage : how American innovation can overcome the Asian challenge*. 1st ed. New York: W. W. Norton.
- Suskind, Ron. 2008. *The way of the world : a story of truth and hope in an age of extremism*. 1st ed. New York: Harper.
- Wilson, Ward. 2007. The Winning Weapon?: Rethinking Nuclear Weapons in Light of Hiroshima. *International Security* 31 (4):162-179.

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