# San José State University Political Science Department POLS 154 US Foreign Policy, Fall 2017

# 4 units

## Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Karthika Sasikumar |
| Office Location: | Clark Hall 451 |
| Telephone: | (408) 924-1361 |
| Email: | karthika.sasikumar@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Mondays 10 am-1:30 pm, Thursdays 12-1:30 pm, Fridays 9-10 am |
| Class Days/Time: | Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30 am to 11.45 am |
| Classroom: | Clark 303 |
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## Course Format

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. are available on [Canvas Leaning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking messages on Canvas to learn of any updates.

## Course Description

## Consideration of the factors that shape American foreign policy making, including ideology, organization, as well as partisanship, interest groups, and public opinion. Issues considered include relations with the Middle East and Russia, and economic diplomacy.

## Course Goals

The Political Science Program Learning Outcomes are

* **Breadth**  
  Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
* **Application**  
  Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
* **Disciplinary methods**  
  Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.
* **Communication Skills**  
  Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
* **Citizenship**  
  Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

CLO1: Students will examine primary documents and connect them with their historical context as well as contemporary events.

CLO2: Students will apply knowledge of US government procedures and academic theories to a realistic crisis scenario.

CLO3: Students will evaluate theories of the motivations behind US foreign policy by applying the theories to historical events.

CLO4: Students will define key terms in the academic study of US foreign policy.

## Required Texts/Readings

## There is no textbook for the course. All readings and other required resources, such as videos, will be available on Canvas under Modules. If you are unable to access them, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest. Full citations for the articles and videos are provided in a separate document on Canvas.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### Final Examination or Evaluation

## The final examination is a closed book in-class exam, held on December 18. It will consist of twenty questions to be answered in one-three sentences, and one short essay. The questions will be drawn from a study guide that will be made available one week before the exam.

## Grading Information

### Determination of Grades

All grades, including extra credit points, will be available on Canvas. Each assignment, including class participation, will have a specific rubric indicating the criteria that will be used in grading. Please make sure to read the rubric before submitting your assignment. As per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot discuss your grades via email. You must visit me during office hours, or make an appointment to discuss grades.

The major assignment for this course is the term paper which is approximately 3000 words (15 double-spaced pages). You will be submitting three preliminary versions of this paper, so that you may incorporate feedback and revise your work to produce a final paper that represents a solid piece of research.

### Determination of Grades

* Extra credit opportunities will be announced throughout the semester via Canvas Announcements. Extra credit points are added to your total score and have the same weight as other scores. There is no limit on how many extra credit points you can earn in this course.
* If you miss the deadline for submission for an assignment, you will lose 5 percent of your score for that assignment per 5 hours of lateness (pro-rated). For example, if you submit the term paper 6 hours after the deadline, and your score would have been 15 points, you will lose one point. Most assignments require submission on Canvas. If you wish to request an extension on your submission, be prepared to provide a reason and documentation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CLO** | **Assignment** | **Points** | **Due date** |
| 4 | Midterm exam | 15 | October 12 |
| 1 & 4 | Class participation | 5 | Various |
| 3 | Term paper abstract and literature review | 4 | October 19 |
| 3 | Term paper first draft | 4 | Nov 2 |
| 3 | Term paper second draft | 4 | Nov 28 |
| 2 | Simulation performance | 8 | Nov 7 and 9 |
| 1 | Module reports (11 reports) | 33 | Various |
| 3 | Term paper final submission | 12 | December 9 |
| 4 | Final exam | 15 | December 18 |

Final letter grades are based on this scale

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

## Classroom Protocol

This is an upper-level course, therefore, I expect students to take responsibility for their educational experience. While attendance is not mandatory, a substantial percentage of your grade depends on your participation in class. You do not need to inform me about absences in class, unless you will be missing a graded activity and wish to re-take it. In those cases, you will need to provide a valid reason and be prepared to back it up with documents.

While in class, I expect you to have all electronic devices powered off. The use of cellphones, laptops, or tablets is not required or allowed in class. The only exception to this is in the case of student disability or dire emergency (please consult with me).

Expect to be called on, by name, in every class. Research has shown that active participation in class is more effective than passive listening for mastering the material. In addition, debating social issues in a civil manner is one of the learning outcomes for this course. To this end, please engage with the instructor and classmates in a manner that shows you are prepared to defend your viewpoint politely and reasonably; and that you are prepared to listen to others’ viewpoints.

Please note that since this is a class about politics, there will (hopefully) be heated discussions. During these discussions, I may pose questions or make arguments that reflect various opinions. These questions or arguments need not be based on my personal convictions. My goal is to keep my own opinions out of the picture and create a positive learning experience for all. If you are concerned about the tone or content of class discussion, please contact me outside class.

## University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

# POLS 154 / US Foreign Policy Fall 2017, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice through Announcements on Canvas*.*

## Course Schedule

| Date | Topics | Video | Scholarly article | Primary document | Current media | Assignment |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aug 24 | Introduction |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aug 29 | History |  | Herring 1-10 | Washington’s Farewell Address (extract on Canvas) |  | MR demo provided for you |
| Aug 31 | History: pre-1914 | Crash Course: [Progressive Presidents](https://youtu.be/F7flSW1PGsA?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s) (watch 9:15 to 15) | Herring 337-356 | Beveridge | [Navarrette](file://C:\Users\karth\Documents\Work\SJSU\Teaching\Fall%202017\USFP%20F17\Navarrette,%20R.%20(2017,%20July%2018).%20Trump%20may%20be%20many%20things,%20but%20he’s%20not%20an%20isolationist.%20%20%20Retrieved%20from%20http:\www.mercurynews.com\2017\07\18\navarrette-trump-may-be-many-things-but-hes-not-an-isolationist\)  [Cowan & Stone](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-congress-defense-idUSKBN1AC38K) |  |
| Sep 5 | History: WW I | [Changing Tide](http://sjsu.kanopystreaming.com/video/changing-tide) | Guest lecture by Professor Jonathan Roth (History) |  | [Tamkin](http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/04/06/7-ways-u-s-entry-into-wwi-changed-the-world/) | MR1 |
| Sep 7 | History: WW II |  | Herring 541-48, 561-70 | [FDR’s Fireside Chat, 1940](http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/7-2-188/188-21.html) |  |  |
| Sep 12 | Cold War: 1945-1962 | *Cold War Part One* | Herring 598-611, 625-29 | [Long Telegram](http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm) | [Cohen](https://www.thenation.com/article/why-the-new-cold-war-is-more-dangerous-than-the-preceding-one/) | MR2 |
| Sep 14 | Cold War: 1963-1979 | *Cold War Part Two* | Logevall 473-480, 487-90 | [Rusk, The Stake in Vietnam](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pentagon2/ps33.htm) |  |  |
| Sep 19 | Muslim world: Afghanistan | *Charlie Wilson’s War* (on reserve at the library) | Crile Chapters 1-2, 15-17, 27 | [1996 US Embassy Cable](http://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB97/tal19.pdf) | [O’Sullivan](https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-08-23/trump-s-afghan-strategy-is-different-and-braver-than-obama-s) | MR3 |
| Sep 21 | Muslim world: Saudi Arabia | *Charlie Wilson’s War* | Gause | [State Department 2014 report](https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2014/239407.htm) |  |  |
| Sep 26 | Muslim world: Iran | [*American Coup*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiB7Cft7VfE)(for rent on YouTube for $2.99, free on Amazon Prime)—watch 4-35 | Zahrani | [National Security Archive Documents](http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/iran/2017-08-08/1953-iran-coup-new-us-documents-confirm-british-approached-us-late) |  | MR4 |
| Sep 28 | Muslim world: Iran | *American Coup* | [Parsi](https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01CALS_ALMA51439627580002901&context=L&vid=01CALS_SJO&search_scope=EVERYTHING&tab=everything&lang=en_US), read Ch. 19 (238-257 |  | [Sadjadpour](file:///C:\Users\karth\Documents\Work\SJSU\Teaching\Fall%202017\USFP%20F17\Sadjadpour,%20K.%20(2017,%20February%2010).%20How%20America%20could%20stumble%20into%20war%20with%20Iran.%20%20%20Retrieved%20from%20https:\www.theatlantic.com\international\archive\2017\02\iran-trump-nuclear-deal\515979\) |  |
| Oct 3 | Special relationships: Israel | [Speech by S. Walt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxpGkD9AMeA) | Mearsheimer & Walt (plus critical responses) | [Cardin-Rubio Senate resolution](https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-rubio-introduce-senate-resolution-condemning-anti-israel-efforts-at-united-nations) | [News item TBA](http://www.timesofisrael.com/topic/israel-us-relations/) | MR5 |
| Oct 5 | Special relationships: Israel | Guest lecture by Gayil Talshir |  |  |  |  |
| Oct 10 | Special relationships: NATO | [History of NATO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsX4lJ_Pktk) | Patrick 277-89 | [Birth of NATO](http://adst.org/2014/10/the-birth-of-nato)  Read until sentence that starts: “There was no problem in agreeing…” | [Trump says Nato 'no longer obsolete'](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39585029) | MR6 |
| Oct 12 | Special relationships: NATO | [Will Ukraine join NATO?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIb0M9aOw-Y) | Mearsheimer  Sestanovich | [Budapest Memorandum](http://www.pircenter.org/media/content/files/12/13943175580.pdf) | TBA on Ukraine |  |
| Oct 17 | Midterm |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oct 19 | Economics: Bretton Woods | [Video on Bretton Woods](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuOOK7aU1TY&feature=youtu.be) | Bordo, read 31-37 and 79-85 | [Morgenthau](http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1944/440722b.html) | [Woodford](https://www.moneymarketing.co.uk/issues/7-july-2016/20-neil-woodford-triffins-dilemma/) | MR7; Term paper abstract due online |
| Oct 24 | Economics: development | [Wall Street Journal video on aid](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPfXiVDxmy4) | Kevlihan et.al. | [Interactive map from DoS](http://foreignassistance.gov/explore) | [Swedlund](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/07/19/theres-another-big-reason-u-s-foreign-aid-is-important-it-helps-us-get-what-we-want/?utm_term=.21d37bbfc208) |  |
| Oct 26 | Economics: climate change? | [Interview with Marcus King](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=go9HG002YUI) | Lisowski | [POTUS Statement on Paris Accord](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/06/01/statement-president-trump-paris-climate-accord) | [Hayes](http://duckofminerva.com/2017/07/climate-change-is-remaking-american-foreign-policy.html) | MR8 |
| Oct 31 | Economics: trade wars | [Interview with Wilbur Ross](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbaKv85Zt0g) (watch until 9:30) | Ashbee and Waddan | [President’s Trade Agenda](https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/reports/2017/AnnualReport/Chapter%20I%20-%20The%20President%27s%20Trade%20Policy%20Agenda.pdf) | [Jones](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/25/support-for-free-trade-agreements-rebounds-modestly-but-wide-partisan-differences-remain/) |  |
| Nov 2 | Economics: Financial crisis |  | Kirshner 131-156 |  |  | 1st draft due online |
| Nov 7 |  | Simulation |  |  |  |  |
| Nov 9 |  | Simulation |  |  |  |  |
| Nov 14 | Ending the Cold War: Reagan | *Ronald Reagan: The Life and Legacy—The Cold War* (watch 06:30 to 20:05) | Sestanovich 221-42 | [Reagan speech](http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/items/show/556) | [Whited](http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/foreign-policy/318970-how-trump-is-achieving-reagans-peace-through-strength) | MR9 |
| Nov 16 | Ending the Cold War: George H.W. Bush | [George H.W. Bush](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/bush) (times TBA) | Maynard 92-111 | Beschloss & Talbott 421-50 | [Goldgeier](https://theconversation.com/george-h-w-bush-americas-last-foreign-policy-president-77513) |  |
| Nov 21 | Invasion of Iraq | *Green Zone* (on reserve in the library) | Halper and Clarke, 206-208, 218-226 | <http://www.newamericancentury.org/statementofprinciples.htm> |  | MR10 |
| Nov 28 | Invasion of Iraq | *Green Zone* | Monten | House Debate 359-66 | [Van Buren](http://wemeantwell.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/WeMeantWelExcerpt.pdf) |  |
| Nov 30 | Obama: process | [*Obama at War*](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/obama-at-war/)(times TBA) | Sanger 26-44; 335-47 |  | Nasr  Chayes | MR11 |
| Dec 5 | Obama: use of force | *Obama at War* | Waxman | Obama interview on Syria | [Dueck](http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-real-obama-doctrine-exposed-12745) |  |
| Dec 7 | Student choice/reserve day |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dec 18 | 9:45-11 AM Final Exam |  |  |  |  |  |