

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/ Department of Political Science
POLS 154, US Foreign Policy, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
Office Location:	Clark Hall 451
Telephone:	(408) 924-1361
Email:	karthika.sasikumar@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	9.30 to 10.30 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12.30 to 1.30 PM on Fridays
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.30 to 11.45 AM
Classroom:	HGH 116

Course Format

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. are available on [Canvas Learning 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.

Course Requirements and Assignments

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due date
1	Module reports	11x3 = 33	various
4	Midterm exam	15	Oct 2
1 & 4	Class participation	7	various
3	Economic policy analysis short paper	10	Sep 25
3	Security policy analysis short paper	10	Dec 4
2	Simulation	10	Nov 1-8
4	Final exam	15	December 12

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam will be an in-class, closed book exam for 75 minutes. It will consist of 20 short answer questions and one essay of approximately 500 words.

Grading Information

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 this 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.

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 2018

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice on Canvas Announcements. Some of the videos will be shown in class. You will watch certain others for your Module Reports which are due before class—consult the Assignments on Canvas for details.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Video	Scholarly article	Primary document	Current media
1	Aug 21 (T)	Introduction				
1	Aug 23 (Th)	Basics		McCormick 6-18	Masters	Navarrette Cowan & Stone
2	Aug 28 (T)	Basics		Smeltz et.al. 133-150		
2	Aug 30 (Th)	History		Herring 1-10	Washington's Farewell Address (extract on Canvas)	
3	Sep 4 (T)	History: WW II		Herring 541-48, 561-70	FDR's Fireside Chat, 1940	
3	Sep 6 (Th)	Cold War: 1945-1962	<i>Cold War Part One</i>	Herring 598-611, 625-29	Long Telegram	Cohen
4	Sep 11 (T)	Cold War: 1963-1979	<i>Cold War Part Two</i>	Logevall 473-480, 487-90	Rusk, The Stake in Vietnam	
4	Sep 13 (Th)	Economics : Bretton Woods	Video on Bretton Woods	Bordo, read 31-37 and 79-85	Morgenthau	Woodford
5	Sep 18 (T)	Economics : development	Wall Street Journal video on aid	Kevlihan et.al.	Interactive map from DoS	Swedlund
5	Sep 20 (Th)	Economics : climate change?	Interview with Marcus King	Lisowski	POTUS Statement on Paris Accord	Hayes
6	Sep 25	Economics : trade	Winners and	Noland	President's Trade Agenda	TBA

Week	Date	Topics	Video	Scholarly article	Primary document	Current media
	(T)	wars	losers from tariffs			
6	Sep 27 (Th)	Economics : currency		Helleiner & Kirshner	Treasury Department report (or more recent)	TBA
7	Oct 2 (T)	Midterm exam				
7	Oct 4 (Th)	Muslim world: Afghanistan	<i>Charlie Wilson's War</i> (on reserve at the library)	Crile Chapters 1-2, 15-17, 27	1996 US Embassy Cable	O'Sullivan
8	Oct 9 (T)	Muslim world: Saudi Arabia		Gause		
8	Oct 11 (Th)	Muslim world: Iran	America n Coup (rent on YouTube, free on Amazon Prime) —watch 4-35	Zahrani	National Security Archive Documents	
9	Oct 16 (T)	Muslim world: Iran		Parsi , read Ch. 19 (238-257)		Sadjadpour
9	Oct 18 (Th)	Special relationships: Israel	Speech by S. Walt	Mearsheimer & Walt (and responses)	Cardin-Rubio Senate resolution	News item TBA
10	Oct 23 (T)	Special relationships: NATO	History of NATO	Patrick 277-89	Birth of NATO Read until sentence that starts: "There was no problem in agreeing..."	Trump says Nato 'no longer obsolete'
10	Oct 27 (Th)		Will Ukraine join NATO?	Mearsheimer Sestanovich	Budapest Memorandum	TBA on Ukraine

Week	Date	Topics	Video	Scholarly article	Primary document	Current media	
11	Oct 30 (T)	Special relationships: UK		Wilson	Interview with Neitzke		
11	Nov 1 (Th)		Simulation				
12	Nov 6 (T)		Simulation				
12	Nov 8 (Th)		Simulation				
13	Nov 13 (T)	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	Whited	
13	Nov 15 (Th)	Ending the Cold War: George H.W. Bush	George H.W. Bush (times TBA)	Maynard 92-111	Beschloss & Talbott 421-50	Goldgeier	
14	Nov 20 (T)	Invasion of Iraq	<i>Green Zone</i> (on reserve in the library)	Halper and Clarke , 206-208, 218-226	Statement of Principles by New American Century		
14	Nov 22 (Th)	Thanksgiving, no class					
15	Nov 27 (T)	Invasion of Iraq		Monten	House Debate 359-66	Van Buren	
15	Nov 29 (Th)	Obama: process	Obama at War (02:50-39:35)	Sanger 26-44; 335-47		Nasr Chayes	
16	Dec 4 (T)	Obama: use of force		Waxman	Obama interview on Syria	Dueck	
16	Dec	Trump	TBA	Kroenig	White House Briefing	Wittes	

Week	Date	Topics	Video	Scholarly article	Primary document	Current media
	6 (Th)					
Final	Dec 12 (Wed)	In class, closed book exam 9.45 to 11 AM				