

Prof. Peter Trubowitz
Office: BAT 3.152
Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-2:00
trubowitz@mail.utexas.edu

Fall 2011
Course meetings: MWF 10:00-11:00
Location: MEZ 1.306

Gov 312 (38605)
Issues and Policies in American Government

Course description

This class examines the sources of U.S. statecraft, with special emphasis on the president's role in defining the nation's interests. Drawing on historical and contemporary cases, we will consider how international power and domestic politics shape the president's geopolitical priorities and how those priorities have changed over time. The course is designed to increase your knowledge of how US foreign policy is made and why America's leaders pursue the grand strategies they do.

Course requirements

You are required to do all readings listed on the syllabus, attend all course meetings, take 2 in-class exams, and write 2 take-home essays. This course also offers voluntary weekly discussion sections (see below).

Exams: In-class exams will be held on October 14 and December 2. Each exam will consist of three parts: matching (10 points); multiple choice (60 points); and essay (30 points). Please keep the following in mind:

- If you miss one of the exams due to illness, you must arrange with the instructor to take a make-up exam and provide a note from your doctor certifying that you were too ill to sit for the exam.
- If you have a special event (e.g., job interview) planned for one of the exam dates, you may arrange to take a make-up, but you need to do so during the first 5 working days of the semester. If you need to arrange a make-up, speak to the TA.
- If you miss an exam in order to observe a religious holy day, UT policy requires that you notify the instructor of your pending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of the exam to arrange for a make up exam.

Essays Take home essays are due on September 26 and November 7. Two weeks before the due date the essay question will be posted on Blackboard. Essays must be typed and double-spaced and run no longer than 3 pages in length. You must submit essays in class on the assigned due date. Late essays will be docked one letter grade per day.

Course readings

The following books are required: John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, revised edition (Oxford 2005); Peter Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy* (Princeton 2011); and Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World* (Norton 2009). Books may be purchased at the University Coop. Additional readings are available on-line at www.courses.utexas.edu.

Grading policy

Grades will be based on the 2 in-class examinations (25% each) and 2 take-home essays (25% each). Please note that there is no final exam for this course.

Discussion sections

This course offers voluntary discussion sections sponsored by the SI program at the university. The discussion sections will be held Monday 12:30-1:30 in MEZ 2.124 and Tuesday 9:30-10:30 in GAR 1.134.

While there is no extra credit for attending sections, participating in discussion section is an excellent way to review material that will be covered on the exams and essays.

UT administrative policies

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Scholastic dishonesty: University policies regarding scholastic dishonesty are strictly enforced in this class. Plagiarism is grounds for assigning an “F” as a final course grade. All incidents of plagiarism will be reported to Student Judicial Services. On what constitutes plagiarism and scholastic dishonesty, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity.html>.

Accommodations for religious holidays: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, or an essay a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

Teaching assistants

There are two teaching assistants for this course: Andy Rottas and Yuval Weber. Please note their office hours below:

Mr. Andrew Rottas (BAT 1.118)

andrew.rottas@mail.utexas.edu

Office hours: Thursday 12:30-2:00
Friday 11:00-12:30

Mr. Yuval Weber (BAT 1.118)

yuvalweber@utexas.edu

Office hours: Monday 8-9:30
Tuesday 8-9:30

Topics and readings

8/ 24 Overview

8/26-9/9 Presidents and statecraft

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 1-76

Richard Haass, “Bringing Our Foreign Policy Home,” *Time*, August 8, 2011

9/12-9/16 Truman and the Soviet threat

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 3-124

Truman’s “Truman Doctrine” speech, March 12, 1947

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3343>

9/19-9/23 Eisenhower and the nuclear challenge

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 125-196

Eisenhower’s “Farewell Address, January 17, 1960

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3361>

Note: essay 1 due at beginning of class on 9/26

9/26-9/30 Kennedy, Johnson and Vietnam

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 197-271

Johnson’s Speech on Vietnam, September 29, 1967

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/4041>

10/3-10/7 Nixon, Ford, and the crisis of legitimacy

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 272-341

Nixon’s Address to the Nation on the War in Vietnam, November 3, 1969

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3873>

10/10 Carter and the politics of reform

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 342-49

Stanley Hoffmann, “The Hell of Good Intentions,” *Foreign Policy* (Winter 1978), 3-26

Carter’s Notre Dame Commencement Address, May 22, 1977

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3399>

10/12 Review

10/14 Exam 1 (in class exam)

10/17-10/21 Reagan and the Soviet empire

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 349-91

Fareed Zakaria, “The Reagan Strategy of Containment,” *Political Science Quarterly* (Autumn 1990), 373-95

Reagan’s address to the British Parliament, June 8, 1982

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3408>

10/24-10/28 Bush I and the Soviet collapse

Michael Mandelbaum, "The Bush Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs* (1990/91), 5-22

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, "Who Won the Cold War?" *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1992), 123-38

Bush's commencement address at Texas A&M May 12, 1989

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3421>

10/31-11/4 Clinton and selective engagement

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 106-28

Steven Walt, "Two Cheers for Clinton's Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2000), 63-79

Clinton's remarks on signing NAFTA, December 8, 1993

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/3927>

Note: essay 2 due at the beginning of class on 11/4

11/7-11/11 Bush II and the pursuit of primacy

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 77-105

Benjamin Friedman, "The Terrible 'Ifs'," *Regulation* (Winter 2008), 32-40

Bush, State of the Union, January 29, 2002

<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/detail/4540>

11/14-11/18 Obama and strategic retrenchment

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 129-50

Drezner, Daniel Drezner, "Does Obama have a Grand Strategy?," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2011), 57-68

Obama's speech to the nation on the war in Afghanistan, June 22, 2011

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/06/22/president-obama-way-forward-afghanistan>

11/21-11/28 Shape of Things to Come

Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, entire

11/30 Review

12/2 Exam 2 (in class exam)