

Prof. Peter Trubowitz
BAT 3.152, office hours W 9-12:00
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Gov 360N (38760)
FAC 21 T/Th 3:30-5:00
Spring 2012

AMERICA AS A GLOBAL POWER

Prerequisites

Six hours of lower-division Government

Description

This class examines the evolution of American statecraft since World War II, 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.

Requirements

You are required to do all readings listed on the syllabus, attend all course meetings, and take three in-class exams. Each exam will test your knowledge of lectures, readings, films, and class discussion. The first exam will be held February 21; the second, March 29; and the third, May 9, during the regularly scheduled final exam period. Each exam will be worth one-third of your final grade. Final grades will be on a +/- scale.

Texts

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, marked by an asterisk (*), are available on-line at www.courses.utexas.edu or may be purchased as a course packet at Paradigm Books at 407 West 24th Street (472-7986).

Assistants

Mr. Peter Harris; peter@peterharris.com
BAT 1.118, office hours Th 12:30-3:30

Mr. Andy Stravers; stravers@utexas.edu
BAT 1.118, office hours T 11:00-2:00

Policies

Attendance and Exams: Students are expected to attend all classes and take the exams on the designated dates. If you miss an exam due to illness, you will be given a make-up opportunity if you produce a doctor's note saying you were too ill to be in class. 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.

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>.

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: 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.¹

Topics and readings

January 17 Overview

January 19, 24 Presidents and statecraft

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 1-43

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, vii-xi, 3-52

January 26, 31 Truman and the Soviets

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 53-124

Fred Block “Economic Instability and Military Strength: The Paradoxes of the 1950 Rearmament Decision,” *Politics and Society* 10 (January 1980): 35-58*

February 2, 7 Eisenhower’s New Look

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 125-96

Roger Payne, “Public Opinion and Foreign Threats: Eisenhower’s Response to Sputnik,” *Armed Forces and Society* 21 (Fall 1994): 89-112*

¹Students 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>.

February 9 Film: *Point of Order*

February 14, 16 Kennedy and Flexible Response

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 197-234

Christopher Preble, "Who Ever Believed in the 'Missile Gap'?: John F. Kennedy and the Politics of National Security," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 33 (December 2003): 801-26*

February 21 Exam 1

February 23, 28 Johnson and the Vietnam War

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 235-271

Leslie Gelb, "Vietnam: The System Worked," *Foreign Policy* 3 (Summer 1971): 140-67*

March 1 Film: *Fog of War*

March 6, 8 Nixon, Ford, and détente

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 272-341

Phil Williams, "Détente and U.S. Domestic Politics," *International Affairs* 61 (Summer 1985): 431-47*

March 13, 15 Spring break

March 20 Carter's conundrum

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 342-49

Thomas Nichols, "Carter and the Soviets: The Origins of the U.S. Return to a Strategy of Confrontation," *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 13 (June 2002): 21-42*

March 22, 27 Reagan and the Soviet empire

Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 349-91

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, "Who Won the Cold War?" *Foreign Policy* 87 (Summer 1992): 123-38*

March 29 Exam 2

April 3 Bush I and world order

Stephen Books and William Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective," *Foreign Affairs* 81 (July/August 2002): 20-33*

John Zaller, "Strategic Politicians, Public Opinion, and the Gulf Crisis," in Lance Bennett and David Paletz, eds., *Taken by Storm* (Chicago 1994), 250-74*

April 5, 10 Clinton and selective engagement

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 106-28

Andrew Butfoy, "The Rise and Fall of Missile Diplomacy," *Australian Journal of Politics and History* 52 (March 2006): 98-114*

Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide," *The Atlantic Monthly* (September 2001), 84-108*

April 12, 17 Bush II and American primacy

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 77-105

Melvyn Leffler, "9/11 in Retrospect: George W. Bush's Grand Strategy Reconsidered," *Foreign Affairs* 90 (September/October 2011): 33-44*

Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, 6-48

April 19 Film: *Top Secret America*

April 24, 26 Obama's strategic adjustment

James Lindsay, "George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and the future of U.S. Global Leadership," *International Affairs* 84 (July/August 2011): 765-79*

Ryan Lizza, "The Consequentialist: How the Arab Spring remade Obama's foreign policy," *The New Yorker*, May 2, 2011, 1-10*

Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, 87-166

May 1, 3 Shape of things to come

Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, 129-50

Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, 167-259

Stephen Walt, "The End of the American Era," *The National Interest* (November/December 2011): 6-16*

May 9 Exam 3