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Fall 2012

US Foreign Policy: Past and Present

GOV 379 (38880)/LAH 350 (30100)

This Honors seminar examines the sources, evolution, and consequences of American foreign policy. It considers both the international and domestic roots of the nation's foreign policy. The course is designed to help you think systematically and critically about how U.S. foreign policy is made and its effects, at home as well as abroad.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The course is run as a seminar, which makes weekly participation absolutely essential. You are required to complete all the readings before the due date, attend all seminar meetings, and actively engage in discussion. Everyone is also required to post comments about the weekly readings on Blackboard's Discussion Board (<http://courses.utexas.edu/>) before seminar meets. A prompt will be posted each week several days before class.

This course carries the Writing Flag designation. Writing Flag courses are designed to provide opportunities for students to write regularly during the semester and receive feedback to help you improve your writing. In this class, you are required to write three take home essays (5 double-spaced pages) on assigned questions. The due dates are October 5, November 2, and December 4 (see below for more details).

You are also required to lead Blackboard discussion one of the weeks (see Seminar Guidelines below). Additionally, everyone is required to participate in one of the three group presentations (Group Presentation) described below. Grades will be based on essay writing (60%) and participation (40%).

The following books are required:

George Kennan, *American Diplomacy* (Chicago 2012)
Kevin Narizny, *The Political Economy of Grand Strategy* (Cornell 2007)
Gordon Goldstein, *Lessons in Disaster* (Holt 2008)
Robert F. Kennedy, *Thirteen Days* (Norton 1979)
Charles Kupchan, *No One's World* (Oxford 2012)
Mark Leonard, *What Does China Think* (Public Affairs 2008)
Ron Suskind, *The One Percent Doctrine* (Simon & Schuster 2006)
Peter Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy* (Princeton 2011)
Fareed Zakaria, *From Wealth to Power* (Princeton 1998)

Books may be purchased at the University Coop. Additional readings are available on-line www.courses.utexas.edu.

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SEMINAR GUIDELINES

Posting on Blackboard. Each week a question will be posted on Blackboard the Friday before class. Students scheduled to lead class discussion that Wednesday will be responsible for posting the first response by Monday 3 pm. Everyone else must post a response to the original question as well as the first post/answer by that Tuesday at 3 pm. You may post more than once, but you must post at least once. Individual posts should run no longer than a paragraph or two.

Group Presentation. Time has been set aside in this course to examine specific episodes or cases of U.S. foreign policy in action, specifically, the Cuban missile crisis; the Vietnam War; and the war on terror. Students will be organized into small groups and these groups will take responsibility for leading discussion about the causes and lessons of U.S. foreign policy in these instances.

Weekly Participation. Seminar participation is essential. With respect to assigned readings, everyone should be prepared to discuss the following questions: What is the author's basic argument? How does the reading relate to others assigned for that week and to those that we've already read?

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, 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

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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>.

TOPICS AND COURSE SCHEDULE

August 29 Introduction and overview

September 5 Geopolitics and Statecraft
Fareed Zakaria, *From Wealth to Power*, entire

September 12 Economic Interests and Foreign Policy
Kevin Narizny, *The Political Economy of Grand Strategy*, 1-158, 301-22

September 19 Leaders and grand strategy
Peter Trubowitz, *Politics and Strategy*, entire

September 26 No class meeting

October 3 Take home essay 1
Essay must be emailed to me by 12:00 noon Friday October 5

October 10 Should the U.S. promote its values?
George Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, entire
Samuel Huntington, "American Ideals Versus American Institutions," *Political Science Quarterly* 97 (Spring 1982): 1-37
Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide," *The Atlantic Monthly* (September 2001), 84-108

October 17 What does China's rise mean?
Mark Leonard, *What Does China Think*, entire
John Mearsheimer, "The Gathering Storm: China's Challenge to U.S. Power in Asia," *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 3 (2010): 381-96
G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," *Foreign Affairs* (January-February 2008), 23-37

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October 24 Can the U.S. continue to lead?

Charles Kupchan, *No One's World*, entire

Robert Kagan, "The Myth of American Decline," *The New Republic*, January 11, 2012, 1–11

Samuel Huntington, "The U.S. – Decline or Renewal?," *Foreign Affairs* (Winter 1998/99), 76–96

October 31 Take home essay 2

Essay must be emailed to me by 12:00 noon Friday November 2

November 7 Case study 1: the Cuban Missile Crisis

Robert Kennedy, *Thirteen Days*, entire

James Blight, Joseph Nye, and David Welch, "The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited," *Foreign Affairs* (Fall 1987), 170–88

Fog of War, chapters 1–13

November 14 Case study 2: the Vietnam War

Gordon Goldstein, *Lessons in Disaster*, entire

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

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Fog of War, chapters 14–28

November 21 Thanksgiving

November 28 Case study 3: the War on Terrorism

Ron Suskind, *One Percent Doctrine*, entire

Benjamin Friedman, "The Terrible 'Ifs'," *Regulation* (Winter 2008), 32–40
Top Secret America, entire

December 5 Wrap up (Take home essay 3)

Essay must be emailed to me by 6:00 pm Tuesday December 4