

American Foreign Policy
POLS 3450, Sec 0 (46503)

Fall 2014
W 5-7:30
Brock 405

Faculty Information:

Dr. Auchter

Jessica-Auchter@utc.edu

Office: Fletcher 417-F

Ph: 423-425-5850

Office hours: Tuesday 1:30-3 and Wednesday 2:30-4:30, and by appointment

Course Description:

How the United States makes policy decisions has a major impact not only on its citizens but on the lives of billions of people around the world. This course is designed to familiarize students with the forces and processes that shape America's interactions with the world beyond its borders. Students will learn about the formation and conduct of foreign policy in the United States, including the actors and forces shaping American foreign policy goals and involved in the execution of these goals. A primary focus will be on current and future issues for American foreign policy.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and describe domestic and international factors that have shaped American foreign policy goals in the past and continue to do so in current times.
- Identify various actors involved in formulating and executing US foreign policy.
- Assess current foreign policy issues arising in particular regions of the world
- Analyze the ethics and politics behind specific foreign policy decisions of past and present
- Analyze the US's future foreign policy goals and status

Required Texts:

1. You are required to read the international section of a legitimate newspaper 2-3 times per week. My recommendation is the New York Times (see nytimes.com/collegerate for a discounted student subscription), but you may choose to subscribe to an alternative (such as the Wall Street Journal or Foreign Policy). Pay attention to the stories that relate to the issues we will be discussing in class. Each class we will discuss relevant recent stories.
2. All other required readings are available on the course UTC online blackboard site.

Grade Breakdown:

Debates: 40% (20% each)

Foreign Policy Actors Simulation: 10%

Weekly discussion questions: 10%

Participation and Attendance: 10%

Final Paper: 30%

Debates:

3 person teams, each student must do 2 debates in the semester. 3 people on pro team and 3 people on con team. 3 judges will ask specific questions and decide the winning team. The rest of the class will also be able to ask questions of the teams.

Each team will contest one side of a debate on a current American foreign policy issue. Team 1 will have 15 minutes to present. Team 2 will then have 15 minutes to present. Team 1 will rebut for 10 minutes, then Team 2 will rebut for 10 minutes. There will then be a question period, where the judges will ask questions and the teams will have the opportunity to respond. Then the audience will be able to ask questions.

In addition to the formal debate itself, your team will collectively produce a written document which will be handed in at the end of the debate. It should be a 4-6 page statement of debate strategy including key arguments, evidence, key counter-arguments, anticipated attacks and responses, and a statement signed by all group members describing each team member's role in preparing and presenting the debate. This will be what you use during the debate to make your arguments and respond to your opposition. Be sure you lay out anticipated counterarguments so that you are able to respond effectively. It should not be a cut and paste from the readings, but using the information from the readings to craft arguments. You may bring in current events related to your topic, as appear in the international news.

After your debate, you will need to, individually, write a 1 page reflection paper on how you think you did, what arguments you wish you had made, and generally evaluating your own performance. This will be incorporated into your debate grade.

Audience members will also fill out a worksheet which details their responses to the debate.

Debate grades will be composed of ½ group grade (based on written materials submitted and overall performance) and ½ individual grade (based on individual role in preparation and the debate itself)

Weekly discussion questions:

Every week, you will write 3-4 discussion questions derived from the readings. I will select some of the questions and we will discuss them in class. Questions should be designed to provoke discussion, and should come from your own thoughts about the readings, or a related issue that you have come across in recent news. You will email those questions to me by Tuesday night at midnight before the relevant class.

Final paper:

Your final paper will be an assessment of a current American foreign policy issue that we didn't discuss in class, or an aspect of an issue we discussed that we didn't go over in depth in class. It is a research paper; you will assess both sides of the issue using research sources and current events articles.

Some questions to think through for your paper. Why is your issue an important one for American foreign policy? Is it important to the policymaking of any other countries or international organizations? What policy is currently in place? What interest groups and other influences are responsible for its current status? What other policy directions could be taken?

Which policy direction is the one that should be taken? What are the implications? I am always available to discuss possible paper topics and directions.

A rough guideline for the length of the paper is 4-5,000 words.

Attendance Policies:

Attendance is mandatory. This class is interactive and relies on your participation, directly correlated to your attendance. I adopt a 3 strikes and you're out policy for this course. 3 unexcused absences will result in course failure. Please provide documentation for excused absences. Leaving early without a legitimate reason or prior notification will count as an unexcused absence.

Assignment Policies:

There is no curve. All excellent work will receive an A. All good and competent work will receive a B. Work with some significant flaws will receive a C. Work with very significant flaws will receive a D along with recommendations to speak with the Professor and advising services as appropriate. Incompetent, negligent, or non-existent work will receive an F.

No late assignments or make-up exams are accepted without written documentation of a medical emergency or university-sanctioned activity (for the latter, please give as much advance notice as possible).

Classroom Etiquette:

In this course we will be discussing at times controversial topics. Everyone is welcome, in fact encouraged, to express their opinions in class, with the caveat that these expressions must maintain respect for the opinions of others. Insults or discriminatory comments will not be tolerated. Any comments of this sort will result in the student or students being asked to leave the classroom.

Arriving late without good reason and having your cell phone ring or beep is unprofessional and selfish. Such behavior bothers others who have paid money to concentrate and learn something in class. Please do not play computer games, surf the web, check email, or do anything other than take notes with your computers. Should your telephone ring in class, I reserve the right to answer it, so please turn it on silent.

I encourage you to be fairly formal in your interactions with me. In the business and professional world, addressing colleagues and your boss will take a formal form. Please learn now how to show appropriate professional respect in electronic and face-to-face interaction. To enhance student services, the University uses your UTC email address for all communications. Please check your UTC email on a regular basis.

Do the readings. Without them, class will be boring to you. Engage with the material and your classmates through the debates and discussions. Each week you will have 60-75 pages of readings—do not leave them until the day before—you have an entire week to complete them.

ADA STATEMENT: Attention: If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 425-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter/>.

If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438 or <http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>.

Academic Integrity:

Do not cheat. Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's ideas and do not give them credit. Use footnotes or endnotes or parenthetical citation to give credit for direct quotes, paraphrased quotes, and borrowed ideas. Everything which is not your own must be noted as such. This is a very serious issue. I am more than happy to answer any question you have on citation. Not understanding what plagiarism is will NOT be a valid excuse if you are found to have plagiarized on any assignments. Penalties for cheating range from failing the assignment to course failure to letters on your permanent record to expulsion. For more information on academic integrity, see the UTC Student Handbook.

HONOR CODE PLEDGE (from the [UTC Student Handbook](#))

I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test or assignment. I understand that plagiarism constitutes a serious instance of unauthorized aid. I further pledge that I exert every effort to insure that the Honor Code is upheld by others and the I will actively support the establishment and continuance of a campus-wide climate of honor and integrity.

Course SCHEDULE:

8/20 What is US foreign policy? Go Over Syllabus, RISK foreign policy simulation

8/27 History of US Foreign Policy

- Woodrow Wilson, Fourteen Points
- Richard B. Frank, "Why Truman Dropped the Bomb," 44 *The Weekly Standard* (August 8, 2005)
- Kaplan, How Reagan Won the Cold War
- Michael Mandelbaum, "Foreign Policy as Social Work," *Foreign Affairs* (1996).
- The Lonely Superpower
- Lafeber, The Bush Doctrine
- The Obama Doctrine, Confront and Conceal
- Obama to World: Bad News, the American Empire is Dead
- Obama Warns US Faces Diffuse Terrorism Threats
- Is the United States Playing Small Ball?
- Making the Grade

9/3 Explanations of Foreign Policy (National Interest, Media, Public Opinion, Norms, Lobbyists)

- Hans Morgenthau, "Another 'Great Debate': The National Interest of the United States," *American Political Science Review* (1952). 27p
- Joseph Nye, "Redefining the National Interest." *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 1999. 13.
- Warren Strobel, "The CNN Effect," 1996. 7.
- The Power of Naming and Shaming
- Groll, New Study Shows Deep American Divisions on Foreign Policy
- Newhouse, J. *Diplomacy, Inc.: The Influence of Lobbies on U.S. Foreign Policy*. *Foreign Affairs* v. 88 no. 3 (May/June 2009) p. 73-92

9/10 Foreign Policy Actors: SIMULATION DAY (Meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee)

- Schlesinger, Congress and the Making of American Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, 1972.
- Zoellick, "Congress and the Making of US foreign policy," Survival, 41, 4, December 1999, 20-41.
- Recommended Readings on Syria for Simulation Prep:
- <http://www.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rm/216163.htm>
- <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/02/17/a-new-start-to-u-s-policy-in-syria-can-save-lives.html>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/world/middleeast/after-second-round-of-syria-talks-no-agreement-even-on-how-to-negotiate.html>
- <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/09/03/full-text-senate-foreign-relations-committee-resolution-on-syria/>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/09/04/who-voted-for-the-syria-resolution/>
- <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/syria-after-geneva-next-steps-for-us-policy>

9/17 Humanitarian Intervention: Interests and Values in AFP

- To Operate In Renewed Cold War Atmosphere, The US needs to realistically pursue its interests and values
- The Big Lie Americans Tell Themselves
- Walter Clarke and Jeffrey Herbst, "Somalia and the Future of Humanitarian Intervention," Foreign Affairs, vol. 75, no. 2 (March-April 1996), pp. 70-85.
- Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the US let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen." The Atlantic Monthly, September 2001, 84-108.
- Lee Feinstein and Anne-Marie Slaughter, "A Duty to Prevent," 84, Foreign Affairs, 136-150 (Jan/Feb, 2004).
- Would Captain Kirk Intervene in Syria?

9/24 US Policy Towards Africa:

- American Policy in Africa, 1962
- What George W. Bush Did Right, 2013
- US Training Elite Antiterror Troops in Four African Nations
- Empty Acronyms
- Human Rights Watch, Report on Africa and Human Rights, Introduction
- Human Rights Watch, US-Africa Make Human Rights Central to Summit,
- Summit not enough to Quell Obama's African Policy Critics
- White House Under Fire for Welcoming South Sudan's Leader as Famine Nears
- Sending the Right Message, 2014
- Gumede, Obama has Let Africa Down

10/1 Should the US be Involved in Democracy Promotion? Some examples: Egypt, Syria, Thailand, Myanmar

- Lynn-Jones, Why the United States Should Spread Democracy
- Gregory Gause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" 84 Foreign Affairs 62-76 (Sept./Oct., 2005).

- The One Place Where Washington Can Make A Difference
- The Strange Elite Politics Behind Thailand's Military Coup
- Pivot Vs. Principles (on Thai Coup)
- US to Egypt: We Love you, but we are keeping our \$560 million
- Obama's Egypt Policy Makes Perfect Sense
- Getting Egypt Right this Time, and The Long Slow, Chaotic Process of Egypt's Transition

10/8 Iraq:

- A Comprehensive Strategy against terrorism
- We are Losing the War on Terror
- Baghdad's Burning, and it's kind of our fault
- Michael T. Klare, "Oil, Iraq, and American Foreign Policy: The Continuing Salience of the Carter Doctrine," *International Journal* 62.1 (Winter 2006): 31-42.
- Rebels Fast Strike In Iraq Was Years in the Making
- ISIS in Iraq Creates Classic Foreign Policy Dilemma for Obama
- Humanitarian Emergency doesn't suspend Constitution on War Powers
- The Slippery Slope of US Intervention
- Go Big or Go Home
- Obama's Concession on Iraq Might be a Turning Point for his Foreign Policy, 2014

10/15 Arab-Israeli Conflict: Support Palestinian State?

- Michael Oren, 'The Ultimate Ally', 2011
- Is Israel Really America's Ally? Letter Responses to Oren.
- Israel: Our Strategic Ally
- Swim Against the Tide
- General Assembly Votes Overwhelmingly to Accord Non-Member Status to Palestine
- Did Netanyahu or Obama Doom the Two State Solution?
- The Middle East Has Thrown in the Towel on Making Peace with Israel
- Suicide by Statehood, 2014
- Thomas Ricks, 'Its Time to Cut off Aid to both Israel and Palestine'
- Americans Simply Don't Care about Peace in the Middle East, 2014

10/22 Foreign Economic Policy: Sanctions and the Russia case

- Fred Bergsten. "Foreign Economic Policy for the Next President." *Foreign Affairs*, 83, 2, March/April 2004, 88-101.
- Economic Sanctions: Too Much of a Bad Thing?
- Sanctions Against Rogue States: Do They Work?
- Why Economic Sanctions Rarely Work
- Where are the Russia Sanctions? Senate Hawks Ask Obama Administration
- How To Sanction Russia, and Why Obama's Current Strategy Won't Work
- US Sanctions Russian Banks and Energy Companies
- Bringing the Pain
- How to Beat Down a Bully, August 16, 2014

10/29 Iranian Nuclear Negotiations

- Edelman et al, The Dangers of a Nuclear Iran, 2011

- Kissinger, Iran Must be Obama's Immediate Priority
- Stephen Walt, If Iran got the bomb, would it even matter?
- Kenneth N. Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability" *Foreign Affairs* 2012.
- Colin Kahl, Iran and the Bomb, *Foreign Affairs*, 2012, and Waltz's response
- Kroenig, Still Time to Attack Iran
- Jervis, Getting to Yes with Iran, 2013
- After Failure in the Iran Nuclear Talks, What? March 2014
- If There's No Nuclear Agreement with Iran, What's Next? July 2014
- Iran Outlines Nuclear Deal, Accepts Limit, July 2014
- Powerful Lawmakers Issue New Iran Demands
- Iran's Highly Enriched Bargaining Chip, July 2014

11/5 US and East Asia:

- Readings TBD

11/12 Future of AFP: Rise or Decline of US

- Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective," *Foreign Affairs* (July-August 2002), 20-33.
- Michael Mandelbaum, "David's Friend Goliath," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2006), 50-56.
- Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Eagle Has Crash Landed," *Foreign Policy*, (July/August 2002) pp. 60-68.
- Krepinevich, A. F. *The Pentagon's Wasting Assets: The Eroding Foundations of American Power*. *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2009)
- Joffe, J. *The Default Power: The False Prophecy of America's Decline*. *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 2009)
- Barry Posen, 'Pull Back', *Foreign Affairs* 2013
- Brooks, Ikenberry, Wohlforth, 'Lean Forward', *Foreign Affairs*, 2013
- Have We Hit Peak America?

11/19 Last Day of class, paper due