

PSC 22300: U.S. Foreign Policy

Spring 2015

Instructor: Steve S. Sin, ABD
Class Meeting Time: Monday, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Class Meeting Location: Room 101, WISH
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description: American foreign policy is about the history, the values, and the institutions that determine how the United States conducts itself in the world. This course will consider U.S. foreign policy in the context of the following questions: What is the nature of power? How do we think the world should be? And, what we can do to affect history in a meaningful way? To these ends, we will consider theories of international relations, the values and ethics by which we judge foreign policy, and the institutions, tools, and tactics that go into forming foreign policy.

Ultimately, American foreign policy is about how the United States participates in and shapes the course of world history. Through greater understandings of how power, values, and institutions comprise U.S. foreign policy, the student becomes better empowered to engage, participate, and contribute to U.S. foreign policy and the fate of the world we inhabit.

Course Objectives: Through this course the student will:

1. Gain a better understanding of power, values, and institutions that comprise American foreign policy decision-making and implementation.
2. Become conversant in some of the major foreign policy issues confronting the United States and the world today.
3. Be better able to engage in thoughtful, critical thinking about U.S. foreign policy.
4. Learn about careers in international affairs and foreign policy, as well gain some practical skills and knowledge required of such professions.
5. Have some fun.

Ground Rules: This class is designing to be sufficiently challenging while still having some fun learning about some of the most interesting and exciting topics in political science. It is important that policies for this class is fair for all the students and that everyone “plays” on an even playing field. In order to ensure that the policies of the class are clear they are spelled out below. If you have any questions about what the policy means please ask before it becomes personally relevant.

Questions: Education is about learning. This class is about material you have probably not covered before in this context. If you have questions or things are unclear – ask! If there is something unclear to you, chances are, it is unclear to others as well. If you have a question that is personal in nature and should not be shared with others, please email me directly at the email address listed above.

Student profiles: Although this is a traditional face-to-face course, instructors all too often get through the semester without even knowing the names of their students. The students also often go through the semester without knowing anything about each other. Based on my personal experience of having had both taken and taught college courses in the past, there is nothing worse than taking a course where you don’t know anyone and you are completely disconnected from everyone...and feel like you have no one to turn to when you are struggling in the course. So, let’s not have that experience. Your first Assignment, therefore, is to post on the class wiki (<http://psc22300spring2015.pbworks.com>)

a personal profile about you that includes, at a minimum, following information (yes, as an incentive for you, this post is “graded” and is worth 10 points toward your final grade):

- 1) Your first and last name as you would like to be called in class
- 2) A picture of you where we can actually see your face (you can upload a full body shot if you wish, but a simple head shot will do)
- 3) What year are you (i.e. freshman, sophomore, etc.)?
- 4) What is your major (declared or intended)?
- 5) Course Information
 - a. What other political science course(s) have you taken at thus far?
 - b. What do you hope to gain out of this class?
 - c. What is your previous experience with U.S. foreign policy, international relations, and/or comparative politics course?
 - d. In what context did you have the experience you mentioned in previous question (i.e. high school course, college undergraduate course, work, etc.)?
- 6) What are your future plans/dreams (What do you want to be when you grow up)?
- 7) What is your favorite movie?
- 8) What is your least favorite movie?
- 9) What is your favorite song?
- 10) What is your least favorite song?

Your student profile is due **NO LATER THAN Thursday, 5 February 2015 at 11:59 PM** so that everyone in the class will have a chance to read each other’s profile before the next class meeting on Monday, 9 February.

Plagiarism: Simply put, **JUST DON'T DO IT!** Familiarize yourself with the CUNY’s [academic integrity policy](#). Ignorance of what constitutes a violation of academic integrity is not an excuse. In the event that you are involved in plagiarism, the penalty will be an automatic failure in the course and the violation will be reported to the appropriate authority at the City College. On this one issue, I will NOT give you a second chance – this **IS** a zero-tolerance policy. If you are unsure if something constitutes plagiarism, ask well before you submit the assignment. A good rule of thumb to follow is: if you are not sure, cite! Finally, every student is expected to go through the following tutorial: <http://www.cuny.edu/research/compliance/training-education/plagiarism.html> – all papers will be judged with the assumption that you have taken the online tutorial.

Make-ups and late assignments:

- Make-up exams will be permitted on case-by-case basis. Students requesting a make-up must notify the instructor before or within 24 hours of the exam and subsequently provide appropriate documentation if applicable.
- Assignments are given to students well in advance of their due date and there is no reason that a student cannot complete them on time. Late assignments will only be accepted if the student has a good reason and they will be penalized at 3% of maximum possible grade for every 24 hours after the due date.

Accommodations: If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify me as soon as possible.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class meetings and contribute regularly in class throughout the semester. The students will be evaluated on their mastery of course learning objectives through class participations; four quizzes; a midterm exam; and a final exam.

Grading:

The course is designed on a 1,000-point scale vice the 100-point scale.

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade Range	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade Range
A+	970+	C+	770 – 799
A	930 – 969	C	730 – 769
A-	900 – 929	C-	700 – 729
B+	870 – 899	D+	670 – 699
B	830 – 869	D	600 – 669
B-	800 – 829	F	000 - 599

Grades will be distributed as shown below:

Evaluated Event	Points Awarded
Participation (Class attendance and participation)	300
Quizzes	160
Simulation Report	200
Midterm Exam	170
Final Exam	170
Total	1000

▪ **Participation:**

- Since the course is conducted in traditional face-to-face setting, it is critical for the students to attend all class meetings in order to keep up with the course material. Unlike more traditional undergraduate courses, which meet multiple times per week, the design of this course is more akin to a graduate course, which only meets once per week. This means if a student misses one class session, then it is equivalent to missing two or three sessions in other classes.
- Although it will take a moment to do so, an attendance will be checked at the beginning of each meeting.
- Students are granted one excused absence for the semester. This does not mean that the students have one “freebie”. It means if a student is faced with an unforeseen exigent circumstance and cannot attend the class, he/she is granted one excused absence with the permission of the instructor prior to the actual absence or by providing appropriate documentation to the instructor after the absence.
- For each absence after the one allotted excused absence, there will be a 15-point deduction from the overall participation grade.
- If a student misses five (5) or more class meetings (including the one allotted excused absence), that student will receive a “Withdrawn Unofficially (WU)”.
- Regularly attending the course will only guarantee a 60% for participation.
- Regular attendance with occasional to consistent participation in the class will merit a “C” range of participation grade (70 – 79%).
- Regular attendance with semi-consistent to consistent participation in the class will merit a “B” range of participation grade (80 – 89%).
- Regular attendance with consistent participation with comments firmly rooted in the course material will merit an “A” range of participation grade (90 – 100%).

- **Quizzes:** There will be a total of five scheduled quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be conducted in class. The quiz schedule is listed in the *Tentative Course Schedule* section of the syllabus. The students will have 20 minutes to negotiate the quizzes in class and each quiz will be worth 40 points. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester and the remaining four quiz grades will be counted toward the final course grade.

- **Simulation Report:**
 - Due: Wednesday, 13 May 2015 at 11:59 PM
 - Submission: Via email attachment to the instructor at psc22300washington@gmail.com
 - Minimum Length: 5 pages (double spaced)
 - Margins: 1-inch all around
 - Font: Arial 10 or Times New Roman 12
 - Content:
 - Short description of the simulation – what it was about, how it was run, the length of the simulation, what roles were simulated, etc.
 - Description of your role in the simulation
 - ❖ What position did you role play?
 - ❖ What were your position's priorities?
 - ❖ What was your position's desired outcome(s)? Why?
 - ❖ What did you do in an attempt to achieve your desired outcome(s)?
 - Who/which agency(ies) was/were most cooperative with you? Why?
 - Who/which agency(ies) was/were most adversarial against you? Why?
 - Were you satisfied with the policies that were recommended to the president/adopted by the president? Explain why you were satisfied or dissatisfied.
 - How difficult/easy was it to come up with the recommended foreign policy? Why?
 - What did you learn about the foreign policy decision-making from the simulation?
 - Any final concluding thoughts.

- **Midterm Exam:**
 - Due: Friday, March 27, 2015 at 11:59 PM
 - Submission: Via Email attachment to the instructor at psc22300washington@gmail.com.
 - The instructions and questions for this exam will be available at <http://psc22300spring2015.pbworks.com/w/page/91361214/Midterm%20Exam> beginning on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM.
 - The Midterm Exam will consist of two (2) essay questions.
 - The Midterm Exam accounts for 170 points (17%) of your final course grade.

- **Final Exam:**
 - Date/Time: Monday, May 18, 2015; 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - Location: Normal Class Location unless otherwise stated
 - The Final Exam **IS NOT** cumulative in nature and will consist of five (5) short answer questions and two (2) essay questions.
 - The Final Exam accounts for 170 points (17%) of your final course grade.

- **Extra credit:**
 - DC Foreign Policy Field Experience. One letter grade sub-increment (e.g. from A- to A, from C+ to B-, etc.).
 - Due date: May 15, 2015 (last day of the Spring Semester)
 - Studying in the greater Washington area provides students wonderful and unique opportunities for hands-on exposure to the history, the places, and the people that comprise U.S. foreign policy. The extra credit assignment is designed to encourage you to get out and experience Washington, DC, as a student of government and foreign affairs. There are two options for extra credit. Credit will be granted for only one extra credit assignment.
 - **Extra Credit Option 1: Foreign Policy Scavenger Hunt**
 - The DC area is rich in locations that embody the people, institutions, and history of U.S. foreign policy. For this assignment, I encourage you to get out and explore it and experience it. To qualify for credit, compile photographs of yourself at five distinct locations relevant to U.S. foreign policy in the DC area. Attach your photos to an email, describe the five locations and their relation to U.S. foreign policy, and send the email

to the instructor at psc22300washington@gmail.com, by the last day of the Spring Semester.

- Rules:
 - ❖ The assignment is pass/fail. There is no partial credit. You must compile photos from five distinct locations.
 - ❖ This could be a “team” event, but every member of the team MUST visit all five locations together.
 - ❖ Explain the connection between the location and U.S. Foreign Policy in your description. A sentence or so will suffice. I'm not looking for an essay or in-depth history. Just provide enough information for me to understand why you chose a particular place.
 - ❖ There must be evidence that YOU were present at the location to get the photograph – you MUST be in the photograph, or if you do not want to be photographed, hold up something in front of the camera that clearly demonstrates that you were really there. Photos grabbed off the Internet do not count.
 - ❖ Only one picture from each location will count toward credit. Do not submit multiple photos from the same place. For example, if you go to the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon, you will not receive credit for a separate picture of the Pentagon. Or, for example, if you go to the Spy Museum, only one photo would count for credit; five pictures of five things on display at the Spy Museum would only count for one location.
 - ❖ Don't stretch it. Locations should have a specific, distinct connection to U.S. foreign policy. For example, taking a photo of 495 and saying that this is where foreign diplomats sitting in traffic will not count for credit. Selfies from a party where you and a friend talked about Iraq won't count either (though it might make a good conversation piece).
 - ❖ **The instructor retains the discretion to rule any photo as invalid.**
 - ❖ Examples of Valid Locations:
 - Obvious: State Department; Pentagon; Vietnam War Memorial
 - Obscure: U.S.S. Maine Memorial on Haines Point; Robert McNamara grave site at Arlington Cemetery; Winston Churchill Statue at the Embassy of the United Kingdom; House Foreign Relations Committee Hearing Room; the George Marshall house in Leesburg, VA; the mailbox where CIA mole Aldrich Ames placed a chalk mark to signal a needed meeting with his Soviet handlers.
 - ❖ Be creative and imaginative in your selection of locations. Surprise me!
- **Extra Credit Option Two: Attend a Foreign Policy Event in the DC Area**
 - Washington, DC provides students of foreign policy unmatched opportunities to see and interact with leading figures and thinkers in foreign policy and international affairs.
 - From think tanks to Congressional hearings to public protest events and more, there is almost always a foreign policy-related event to attend. For this assignment, attend, in person, an event pertaining to U.S. foreign policy. The following list of think tanks and policy organizations is a starting point on organizations that regularly hold events on foreign policy and international affairs: <http://www.gmu.edu/org/gpss/resources3.html>.
 - To receive credit, submit photographic or physical evidence that you attended the event (e.g. email a picture of yourself at the event to psc22300washington@gmail.com, or provide the instructor with a brochure or hand-outs from the event).
 - Do not cheat. Watching an event on C-SPAN does not count. Printing out materials for an event you did not attend will be considered cheating and treated as such. The point is to experience this great city and the unique opportunities it provides to engage the world of U.S. foreign policy.

Required texts:

- Assigned Readings can be accessed via the Class Wiki at <http://psc22300spring2015.pbworks.com/w/browse/#view=ViewFolder¶m=Reading%20Material> or via external links.
- In addition, students should keep up with current global affairs from such sites as the BBC News (<http://www.bbc.com/news/>), NewsNow World News (<http://www.newsnow.co.uk/h/World+News>), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), or the New York Times (www.nytimes.com).

Tentative Course Schedule

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
1 (01/26 – 01/30)	No Class	
2 (02/02 – 02/06) Class Meeting on 02/02	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is U.S. foreign policy? • What determines when something should be an issue for U.S. foreign policy? • What are some of the tools or tactics of U.S. foreign policy? • As citizens, what is our role, what is our responsibility, regarding foreign policy? • Why should we care? What can we do to respond to international affairs or influence U.S. foreign policy? 	<p>DUE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student Profiles: Thursday, 5 February 2015 at 11:59 PM <p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One World Rival Theories 2. The Cold War is Over 3. The Rise of China and the Future of the West 4. Night of the Living Wonks 5. Listen: "How 9/11 Changed How Americans View the World" (http://www.npr.org/2012/09/10/160886676/how-9-11-changed-how-americans-view-the-world)
3 (02/09 – 02/13) Class Meeting on 02/09	Theories of International Relations	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Tea Party and American Foreign Policy 2. The Iraq Syndrome 3. Does Hollywood have a Foreign Policy 4. Watch: "Buying the War" (90 minutes) – Click "Watch Video", turn on "Continuous Play," watch all 5 segments (http://www.pbs.org/movers/journal/btw/watch.html)
4 (02/16 – 02/20)	No Class: Presidents Day	
5 (02/23 – 02/27) Class Meeting on 02/23	The Public and Its Beliefs	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Case for Final Containment (Read only the pages 5 – 10) 2. Come Home America 3. From Preponderance to Offshore Balancing 4. American Intervention in the Third World
6 (03/02 – 03/06)	Class Cancelled: Instructor in Korea and Japan	
7 (03/09 – 03/13) Class Meeting on 03/09	Isolationism and Containment	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See No Evil 2. International Relations Theory and the Case against Unilateralism 3. The Delusion of Impartial Intervention 4. A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement 1995 5. The National Security Strategy 2002
8 (03/16 – 03/20)	SPRING BREAK	

<p>9 (03/23 – 03/27)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 03/23</p>	<p>Rollback and U.S. Preponderance</p>	<p>DUE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Midterm Exam: Friday, 27 March 2015 at 11:59 PM via email attachment to psc22300washington@gmail.com. <p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graceful Decline? 2. Don't Come Home, America 3. Geopolitics Updated 4. Flexible Integration
<p>10 (03/30 – 04/03)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 03/30</p>	<p>Retrenchment, Deep Engagement, Selective Engagement, and Flexible Integration</p>	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting Uncle Sam's Ear 2. The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy 3. The Storm over the Israel Lobby
<p>11 (04/06 – 04/10)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 04/06</p>	<p>Regional Challenges and Domestic Lobbies</p>	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why to States Build Nuclear Weapons? 2. The End of Mad? 3. Nuclear Myths and Political Realities 4. Watch: "Fail Safe" (You can purchase the full movie from YouTube for a very small fee)
<p>12 (04/13 – 04/17)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 04/13</p>	<p>Nuclear Weapons and Proliferation</p>	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How the Weak Win Wars 2. Rage Against the Machines 3. Occupational Hazards 4. Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks
<p>13 (04/20 – 04/24)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 04/24</p>	<p>Insurgency and Occupation</p>	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beyond Bin Laden 2. The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism 3. What Terrorists Really Want
<p>14 (04/27 – 05/01)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 04/27</p>	<p>Addressing Terrorism</p>	<p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: Simulation Scenario 2. Do: Research situations/developments related to the scenario

<p>15 (05/04 – 05/08)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 05/04</p>	<p>U.S. Foreign Policy Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-brief • Team meetings and discussions 	<p>IN CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: Role Sheets 2. Meet with team members to discuss options <p>FOR NEXT CLASS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do: Research needed for Simulation 2. Do: Simulation 3. Write: Policy Recommendations
<p>16 (05/11 – 05/15)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 05/11</p>	<p>U.S. Foreign Policy Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final team meetings • Recommendations to the President • Out-brief 	<p>DUE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simulation Report: Wednesday, 13 May 2015 at 11:59 PM via email attachment to psc22300washington@gmail.com
<p>17 (05/18 – 05/22)</p> <p>Class Meeting on 05/18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FINAL EXAM Monday, 18 May 2015 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM</p>	