



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

INTP 213: Special Topic: American Foreign Policy

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Final in-class test: 16 October 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday 9:00-9:50

Lecture Venue: Hugh Mackenzie (HM) LT002

Tutorials: Tuesday 13:10-14:00 (CO119), 14:10-15:00 (MY806), 15:10-16:00 (KK104), 16:10-17:00 (EA201) Tutorials commence in the second week of the course.

Using S-Cubed:

Use your internet browser to go to: <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>.

Use your normal student login and password to sign into S-Cubed.

Click on "INTP 213" You will see information about your course and about the different tutorial sessions.

Sign up to your preferred session by clicking on the "sign up" button.

Please note: If you do not sign up during the first week of trimester, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Joe Burton

Room No: Murphy (MY) 517

Phone: 04 463 5613
Email: joe.burton@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Wednesday 12:00-14:00

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

We examine U.S. foreign policy from pre-WWII to the present, covering presidential leadership style, the Cold War, Containment, Detente, how defence policy is shaped, and current policy in Iraq and Afghanistan. Emphasis is placed not only upon chain of events, but upon political context of time and policy maker perceptions. 100% internal assessment.

Course content

Introduction

1. America – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - Course Overview (15th July)

Part 1 – The Development of US Foreign Policy - From Revolution to Superpower

2. America's Awakening, 1776 - 1890 (17th July)
3. America's World Wars, 1890 - 1945 (22nd July)

Part 2 – The Politics of US Foreign Policy

4. Theorising US Foreign Policy (24th July)
5. The Commander in Chief (29th July)
6. Congressional Influence on US Foreign Policy (31st July)
7. Executive Departments and Agencies (5th August)
8. Who Really Makes the Decisions? (7th August)

Part 3 – US Foreign Policy during the Cold War

9. Atomic Diplomacy (12th August)
10. Containment and the Atlantic Alliance (14th August)
11. The Cold War in Asia (19th August)
12. JFK and the Cuban Missile Crisis (21st August) **Essay Due**

Mid trimester break – 26th August to 8th September 2012

13. The Rise and Fall of Détente (9th September)
14. Reagan, Gorbachev and the End of the Cold War (11th September)

Part 4 – America in a New Global Era

Policy Evolution

15. American Foreign Policy in the 1990s - In Search of a Grand Strategy (16th September)
16. 9/11, Afghanistan and the Iraq Crisis (18th September)
17. Bush to Obama - Evolving Strategy (23rd September)

Strategic Partnerships

18. America's Strategic Pivot and US/New Zealand Relations (25th September)
19. America, Israel and the Arab Spring (30th September)
20. The US in Latin America (2nd October) **(Essay Due)**

Money and Elections

21. American Foreign Policy and the Global Financial Crisis (7th October)
22. Obama v Romney – Foreign Policy and the 2012 Election (9th October)

Conclusion

23. The Future of America and the Rise of China? *Class Debate* (14th October)
24. **In-class test** (16th October)

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand the nature and characteristics of American foreign and defence policy (as well as the critical foreign policy events) of the past century.
2. Recognise and apply critical analytical skills useful for foreign policy analysis.
3. Evaluate the relative contributions of different US foreign policy institutions in the formulation and implementation of policy, such as the Presidency, Congress and Executive Departments and Agencies
4. Demonstrate proficiency in analysing US Foreign Policy using different theoretical frameworks.

Teaching format

The course is taught by two weekly fifty-minute lectures and one fifty-minute tutorial. Class discussion will be based on the assigned readings. Both tutorials and lectures are essential aspects of the course and the primary means in which the course content is delivered. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
2. Sit the in-class test
3. Attend 80% of tutorials

Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures and tutorials, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2000 word essay	30%	1, 3, 4	21 st August
2	2500 word essay	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	2 nd October
3	In-class test (50 minutes)	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	16 th October

Essay Guidelines and Marking Criteria:

- Essays should begin with a detailed introduction with your research problem and a short summary of the sections of the essay must be included.
- Essays should not be merely descriptive – analysis and critical engagement with the material is very important.
- Essays must be typed in 12-point type, 1.5 spaced.
- Essays must include a full bibliography and word count. Marks will be deducted if you don't include these. The word limit for the essay excludes footnotes and the bibliography.
- You will be assessed on whether the essay answered the question, the quality of research, the quality of writing (including consistency of referencing, etc.), the use of analysis and critical thought, originality behind the approach to the chosen subject, and the ability to develop a solid argument. Each essay should have a clear argument and be backed up by appropriate supporting material.

Submission and return of work

All written work must be typewritten and submitted in hardcopy, with the Programme's Declaration Form signed and attached. The Declaration Form (PSIR Assignment Coversheet) is available from the Programme's main office.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an electronic copy along with the hardcopy. For this course, please email to me an electronic copy of your work on the same due date for your hardcopy submission. The email copy however does not constitute a formal submission and an email submission only will not be marked.

The course expects students to submit their assignments on time. Requests for extensions should be made with the lecturer with proper documentation before the due date. Extensions are normally given only to those with a medical certificate, or other evidence of forces beyond your control.

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Murphy 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days.** Work that is more than 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

Set texts

All required readings will be accessible online via VUW Library E-Reserves. There is no required reading for the first class.

Recommended reading

An extended reading list will be available on blackboard. This should be consulted for essays and the in-class test.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the second lecture of the course

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Graduate attributes: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/psir-overview#grad-attributes>
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz