

**Department of Political Science
Brigham Young University**

SYLLABUS

**Political Science 376
U.S. Foreign Policy
Fall 2008
TTh 8:00-9:15 a.m.
346 MARB**

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**Office Hours
Tuesday 12:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Th 1:00-2:00 p.m.
or by appointment**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We are in the midst of the 2008 presidential campaign and U.S. foreign policy is an issue of major concern to many voters. Not since the 1960s has foreign policy been so controversial. The U.S. is engaged in a war in Iraq which has become very unpopular both at home and abroad. The so-called War on Terror may last for decades. Recent surveys indicate that Europeans actually perceive that the United States is a greater threat to world peace than is Iran. U.S. expenditures in the defense sector are about equal to what the rest of the world combined spends on defense, as the United States attempts to protect its interests both domestically and internationally. Paradoxically, U.S. spending on diplomacy has actually decreased in real terms, at a time when almost 20 million American jobs are dependent on access to the international economy. Moreover, the United States remains very vulnerable to decisions made or events which transpire outside its national boundaries, decisions which might have a significant impact on the daily lives of the American people. Partially as a result of growing globalization and the influence it is having on people at the grassroots' level, many more actors are now engaged overseas. For example, almost 40 U.S. state governments currently operate 180 offices abroad. Does this proliferation of actors make it more difficult for the national government to speak with "one voice" on foreign policy issues, and is it actually possible in the first decade of the twenty-first century to distinguish between what is "foreign" policy and what is "domestic" policy?

The first part of this course will trace the major trends in U.S. foreign policy from the pre-World War II period until 2008, focusing on Cold War, post-Cold War, and post-9-11 decisions. The second portion of the course will concentrate on the policy-making process and the actors involved in the foreign policy arena. Finally, the latter part of the course will focus on U.S. policy towards various regions in the world and the special challenges which will face the United States in the twenty-first century era characterized by globalization and growing interdependence and interconnectedness.

Texts:

The following texts are required for this course:

- Fry, Earl H. *The Expanding Role of State and Local Governments in U.S. Foreign Affairs*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1998. (**Do not purchase**).
- Hook, Steven W., and Spanier, John. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*, 17th Edition. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2007.
- Taylor, Stan A., Fry, Earl H., and Wood, Robert S. *America the Vincible*, third edition. Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2005.
- Wittkopf, Eugene R., Jones, Christopher M., and Kegley, Charles W., Jr. *American Foreign Policy: Patterns and Process*, 7th edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2008.
- *New York Times*.

In addition to these books, articles from newspapers, journals, edited books and the Internet will also be assigned or recommended at various stages of the course. Some of Fry's articles are found on fhss.byu.edu/polsci/facultypublications/indexfry.htm.

Requirements:

1.	Midterm examination	25% of course grade
2.	Term paper	30%
3.	Final examination	30%
4.	Class participation and quizzes	15%

The examinations will consist of short-answer, identification, and essay questions.

The term paper will be a major research endeavor providing an in-depth analysis of an issue in U.S. foreign policy. You will be expected to consult with the instructor to determine a mutually agreeable topic area. Late papers will be penalized **one-half grade per day**. **The course cannot be passed without the submission of an acceptable term paper.**

Attendance at all sessions is strongly encouraged and quizzes may be given at any time. The course work will require a great deal of time. However, by organizing your time and by exercising self-discipline and perseverance, you should do reasonably well in this course. **Please do not miss more than two sessions during the semester.**

I have established office hours for the semester, but will also be flexible if you cannot come at the times stipulated. Please also feel free to e-mail me. I want you to feel that I am accessible to respond to your questions or needs. You are very important!

HONOR CODE

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the Internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> for specific examples of intentional or inadvertent plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students

as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24 hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Schedule of Course Program:

I. American Foreign Policy in the Post-World War II Period--An Overview

Sept. 2 Millennial Questions	Required Readings: Wittkopf, 3-16 Hook, 1-22 Taylor, 1-15
Sept. 4-9 1776-1941	<u>RR</u> : Dept. of State website, "Timeline of U.S. Diplomatic History: Washington to 1937-1945" Wittkopf, 17-39
Sept. 11 The Roosevelt-Truman Years	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 23-75, 390-405 Wittkopf, 39-74
Sept. 16 The Eisenhower Presidency	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 75-105
Sept. 18 The Kennedy-Johnson Period	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 105-135
Sept. 23 The Nixon and Ford Epoch	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 136-150
Sept. 25 The Carter Administration	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 150-165
Sept. 30 The Reagan and Bush I Era	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 166-218
Oct. 2 The Clinton Period	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 219-298
Oct. 7 The George W. Bush Administration	<u>RR</u> : Hook, 299-361

II. Foreign Policy-Making Institutions and Processes

Oct. 9 Policy-Making Fundamentals	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 453-488 Taylor, 16-52
Oct. 14 The Presidency	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 327-365 Taylor, 53-76
Oct. 16 The Foreign Affairs Bureaucracy and the U.S. Congress	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 367-451 Taylor, 77-117
Oct. 21 Parties, Interest Groups and the General Public	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 283-323 Taylor, 118-148
Oct. 23 Individual Policy-Makers	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 491-518
MIDTERM—Oct. 28	

III. The Broad Parameters of U.S. Involvement in the International Arena

Oct. 30-Nov. 4 U.S. Foreign Economic Policy in an Interdependent World--Trade, Investment, Currency, and Debt Issues	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 197-237 Taylor, 288-311, 343-371
Nov. 6 U.S. Foreign Environmental Policy	<u>RR:</u> Taylor, 312-342
Nov. 11-13 The Issue of War and Peace in the Nuclear Age	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 75-106, 107-141 Taylor, 149-253

Nov. 18 Terrorism in the Aftermath of 9-11	<u>RR:</u> Wittkopf, 521-527 Taylor, 254-287 9-11 Commission's Executive Summary
Nov. 20 Federalism and U.S. Foreign Affairs TERM PAPERS DUE	<u>RR:</u> Fry, <i>Expanding Role of State and Local Governments</i> , 1-132
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday

IV. U.S. Foreign Policy towards Regions of the World

Dec. 2 The United States, International Organizations, and the Former Communist Nations	<u>RR:</u> Chicago Council on Global Affairs website: 2006 and 2007 Chicago Council Public Opinion Surveys Wittkopf, 145-196
Dec. 4 The Americas, Western Europe, Asia, and the Middle East	<u>RR:</u> J.F. Hornbeck, "NAFTA at Ten," <i>CRS Report for Congress</i> , Feb. 13, 2004 (online) Readings through the semester in <i>New York Times</i>

V. U.S. Foreign Policy in 2008 –The Challenges Ahead

Dec. 9 The Church and International Affairs	<u>RR:</u> Elder Robert S. Wood, "A Babe Upon Its Mother's Lap: Church Development in a Developing World," 2004
Dec. 11 Globalization and America's International Role in the 21st Century: Will the U.S. Be a Superpower in 2040?	<u>RR:</u> Hook, 362-388 Wittkopf, 527-551 Taylor, 372-398
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:00-10:00 a.m.	FINAL EXAMINATION