

**American Foreign Policy
Political Science 342
Spring 2008
Writing Intensive Course**

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Welcome to this upper-division writing intensive course on American foreign policy. While everyone who reads the assigned materials, regularly attends class, and carefully carries out the research and writing project will certainly learn a great deal about American foreign policy, this course assumes some background in political science and international affairs. **If you have not taken the prerequisite for this class, PSC 240: International System, its equivalent, or another political science course relevant to this class, you should drop this course, and probably add PSC240 to your schedule.**

The past two decades have witnessed extraordinary vacillation, indecision and redirection in American foreign policy. The growing complexities of the modern era have imposed new challenges on the international behavior of the United States. This course is intended to develop an understanding of U.S. foreign policy and of the decision-making process in the American foreign affairs establishment. In addition to emphasizing the historical trends of American foreign relations, the course will analyze Washington's current political, military, and economic policies and assess the Clinton and G. W. Bush Administrations' strategy and tactics.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students should have:

- an understanding of current U.S. foreign policy;
- an understanding of the decision-making process in the American foreign affairs establishment;
- an appreciation for the historical and philosophical origins of American foreign policy;
- well developed research and writing skills in the field; and
- knowledge of the critical primary and secondary literature on American foreign policy.

Assignments

There will be two tests during the term (February 18 and April 2), and a final comprehensive exam on May 9, 8:00 to 11:00am. Given the topical nature of the course, it will be important for members of the class to keep up with on-going world events and U.S. policy decisions during the semester. The best source for this information is *The New York Times*, to which you are required to have an online subscription or access to a hardcopy regularly. American foreign policy news in the *New York Times* is required reading and fair game for the tests. The subscription is free and available at www.nytimes.com.

As you know, this is a writing intensive course. One of the course's goals is to improve your research and writing skills. Each student will prepare a research paper (13 to 18 pages, the final version is due no later than April 28) on a topic of her or his choice and approved by me. The paper should cover some aspect of substantive **current** American foreign policy. Each class member will go through the normal paper preparation "thinking" process that is essential to good research and writing in the social sciences. The following scheduled steps will be included:

February 8 - Submission of a working title (your topic), thesis statement, and one-page tentative outline of your paper.

February 27 - Submission of an annotated partial bibliography of at least five books and three academic articles relevant to your topic. **Please see me if you are unfamiliar with an "annotated" bibliography.** I will meet with you individually between February 27 and April 5 to discuss your progress on the paper. Of course, you are welcome to make an appointment at any time to talk with me about your work.

April 7 - Submission of a rough draft of your final paper with a formal bibliography of **at least 5** scholarly books and 6 scholarly articles.

The final exam will count for 30% of the final grade, the final paper 20%, thesis statement 5%, annotated bibliography 5%, rough draft of your paper 10%, and each mid semester test 15%. **N.B. – There will be no class on January 30 and February 1.**

Required Texts

Glenn P. Hastedt, *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, Future*. Prentice-Hall
Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Second Chance*. Basic Books
Glenn P. Hastedt, *Annual Editions: American Foreign Policy, 07/08*. McGraw-Hill
The New York Times (online)

Course Outline

- I. The History of American Foreign Policy January 14 – 28
A. Isolationism
B. World War I and Beyond
C. Enduring Characteristics
D. The Cold War
 Readings: Hastedt, Chapters 1-4
 Brzezinski, pp. 1-67
 Annual Editions, Articles 2-5, 14
- II. The Domestic Setting of American Foreign Policy February 4 - 15
A. The Constitution and The Democratic Consensus
B. The Presidency
C. State and Defense
D. NSC and the Intelligence Community
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 15, 17, 19-22, 24
 Brzezinski, pp. 67-92
 Hastedt, Chapters 6-10, 14
- III. America's National Security in the post-Cold War Era Feb. 20 – March 7
A. Nuclear Policy and Arms Control
B. Defense Policy in the Post-Cold War Era
C. National Security Policy: The War on Terrorism, WMD
D. Preemption and Democracy
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 9-10, 27, 29-30
 Brzezinski, pp. 135-143
 Hastedt, Chapters 16-17, pp. 295-301.
- IV. U.S. Relations with the Great Powers March 17 - 31
A. Russia in the Yeltsin and Putin Years
B. China: The New Enemy?
C. European Integration and Independence
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 6-8, 13, 26
 Brzezinski, pp. 92-133
- V. America and the World Economy April 4 - 14
A. Bretton Woods – US Monetary and Financial Policy
B. Globalization – US Trade Policy
 Reading: Annual Editions, Articles 16, 25
 Hastedt, Chapter 15
- VI. America: World Challenges and World Order April 16 – May 6
A. Iraq and the Middle East
B. Ethnic, Religious and Nationalist Conflict: Africa and other Hot Spots
C. The United Nations: Reform and Peacekeeping
E. Human Rights, Development, the Environment, and the Less Developed World
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 32, 34-38
 Brzezinski, pp. 144-218
 Hastedt, Chapter 18

Some General Notes and Guidelines

Blackboard: Please establish access to the Blackboard site for this course. Regular announcements, reserve readings, the syllabus, assignments, and other critical information for the class will be maintained there.

Check the site daily if possible. You are responsible for knowing all course information on the site.

Tests and other assignments: Except in the case of a bona fide medical emergency with confirming documentation, or the sudden death or catastrophic illness of an immediate relative, I do not approve make-up tests or accept assignments late. If you have a commitment scheduled for the day of a test or assignment, you should contact me well before the date so that we can consider the possibility of taking the test or submitting the assignment early. Given the percentage each test and assignment counts in this class, it should be expected that you will likely fail the course if you do not take a test or turn in a required assignment. It is absolutely critical that you complete all of the work in the course.

Class rules: This class is wide open for discussion. So please come prepared, be on time, and actively participate. In our exchanges all of us have the right to expect professionalism and courtesy. **All students are expected to abide by the University's academic integrity regulations. If you are not familiar with the University's policy, please see <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/>.**

Unfortunately, there have been a few plagiarism cases in this class over the last couple of years. They have resulted in an "F" for the course and further penalties from the University.

Office hours: This semester, I will maintain regular office hours Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00pm. I look forward to meeting and talking with you about your work. We can arrange another appointment time if these hours are not workable for you. Please check my office door (224 Graham Building) for open upcoming appointment times. Outside of class, you can reach me most quickly by e-mail. My e-mail address is j_pubant@uncg.edu. My office phone number is 256-0516.