

**American Foreign Policy
Political Science 342
Spring 2007
Writing Intensive Course**

Important Note: This course does not carry writing intensive credit during the summer sessions

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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 PSC 240: International System, its equivalent, or another political science course relevant to this class, you may want to rethink your participation in PSC 342.

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 13 and March 29), and a final comprehensive exam on May 8, 12 noon to 3pm. 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. 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 due no later than April 19) 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 on-paper "thinking" process that is essential to good research and writing in the social sciences. The following scheduled steps will be included:

January 25 - Submission of a thesis statement and one-page tentative outline of your paper.

February 20 - Submission of an annotated partial bibliography of at least five books and three academic articles relevant to your topic.

April 3 - Submission of a rough draft of your paper.

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 February 1 and March 1.

Required Texts

Glenn P. Hastedt, *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, Future*. Prentice-Hall
James Mann, *Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet*. Penguin
Glenn P. Hastedt, *Annual Editions: American Foreign Policy, 06/07*. McGraw-Hill
The New York Times (online)

Course Outline

- I. The History of American Foreign Policy January 9 – 23
A. Isolationism
B. World War I and Beyond
C. Enduring Characteristics
D. The Cold War
 Readings: Hastedt, Chapters 1-4
 Annual Editions, Articles 2,4,5,14.
 Mann, Introduction and Chapters 1-5
- II. The Domestic Setting of American Foreign Policy Jan. 25 – Feb. 8
A. The Constitution and The Democratic Consensus
B. The Presidency
C. State and Defense
D. NSC and the Intelligence Community
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 17,18,19,21,22
 Hastedt, Chapters 6-10, 14
 Mann, Chapters 6-10
- III. America's National Security in the post-Cold War Era February 15 – 27
A. Nuclear Policy and Arms Control
B. Defense Policy in the Post-Cold War Era
C. National Security Policy: The War on Terrorism, WMD
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 3,26,27,28,29,34
 Mann, Chapters 11-15
 Hastedt, Chapters 16-17, pp. 295-301.
- IV. U.S. Relations with the Great Powers March 13 - 27
A. Russia in the Yeltsin and Putin Years
B. China: The New Enemy?
C. European Integration and Independence
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 6,7,8,9,10
 Mann, Chapters 16-21, Conclusion
- V. America and the World Economy April 3 – 10
A. Bretton Woods
B. Globalization
 Reading: Annual Editions, Articles 23,24,25
 Hastedt, Chapter 15
- VI. America: World Challenges and World Order April 12 – 26
A. Iraq and the Middle East
B. Ethnic, Religious and Nationalist Conflict: Africa and other Hot Spots
C. The United Nations: Reform and Peacekeeping
D. Preemption and Democracy
E. Human Rights, Development, the Environment, and the Less Developed World
 Readings: Annual Editions, Articles 13,30,32,33
 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 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/>.

Office hours: This semester, I will maintain regular office hours each Tuesday (9:30-10:30am) and Thursday (8:30-10:30am). 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.