

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 74 United States Foreign Policy

*First
Draft*

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This introduction to American foreign policy is designed to acquaint students with the concepts and theories used by scholars to interpret past events, to analyze contemporary issues, and to anticipate future trends in American foreign relations. While we shall discuss current events, this is not a course devoted primarily to their study. Rather, contemporary developments will serve to illustrate themes which can then be applied more broadly. A sound knowledge of current events will thus be essential but will not guarantee success in the course.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- Explain the sources of American foreign policy and the process which produces it.
- Critically evaluate contemporary policy.
- Critically evaluate critical evaluations of contemporary policy.
- Discuss competing interpretations of past and present American policy.
- Converse intelligently and knowledgeably about current events.

Required Texts

- Jentleson, Bruce W. *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century* 2nd edition (W. W. Norton, 2004).
- Callahan, Patrick *Logics of American Foreign Policy* (Pearson Longman, 2004).
- Johnson, Loch K. *Seven Sins of American Foreign Policy* (Pearson Longman, 2007)
- Occasional additional web-based readings, some yet to be assigned, either on Blackboard (<http://ci.lehigh.edu/>) or on the instructor's website (<http://www.lehigh.edu/~bm05/bm05.html>).

Other Required Reading

In addition, the student is expected to keep up with current events in international relations by regularly reading a **high-quality** news sources. This should include an internationally-oriented daily such as *The Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Washington Post*. [*Philadelphia Inquirer* is very marginal; *The Brown and White*, *USA Today*, and *Allentown Morning Call* are not even close!] *The New York Times* is strongly recommended.

Student Responsibilities

Two mid-term exams, a comprehensive final examination, and class participation will determine course grades. There will be no make-up exams or incompletes, except in the case of a written and documented emergency. I expect that students will attend class. I also expect that if a student *must* miss class, he or she will arrange with another student to get notes. The responsibility for missed assignments rests solely with the student regardless of the validity of the absence.

Contact me as soon as possible if illness or other emergency will cause you to miss an exam. Students should not make plans to be away from campus during the final exam period until they know their exam schedules.

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting accommodations, please contact both me and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center 212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible. You must have documentation from Academic Support Services (Cheryl Ashcroft) before accommodations can be granted.

Schedule

The following course outline indicates the topics to be covered and the approximate date of the lecture on each topic. However, we will frequently deviate from this schedule to discuss breaking news. Please stay abreast of our progress through the schedule so that you can be sure to have completed the relevant assignment *before* the indicated lecture. It is the responsibility of the student to know the assignments even though lectures may be postponed, reordered, or delayed.

PRELIMINARIES

[Monday, 27 August - Wednesday, 29 August]

M, 27 Aug. Course Introduction/Administration: The study of foreign policy. Twin goals of the course: (1) how do we evaluate foreign policy? (2) how do we explain foreign policy choices? Three issue areas of special interest: (1) the "war on terrorism" and Middle East/Central Asia policy, (2) foreign intervention, and (3) foreign economic policy.

FirstDay

W, 29 Aug. The importance of foreign policy. How do we evaluate policy? The example of foreign perceptions of the U.S.. America, the unusual.

Public Opinion

- Johnson, Preface, skim Conclusion
- Callahan, ch. 1(Introduction), skim ch. 8 (Comparing Logics)
- Jentleson, Preface
- Blackboard: log in, find the PIPA report on mis-perceptions and read it. This assignment is designed to make sure you are able to negotiate Blackboard. If you have trouble, seek out help from a friend or the library/computing Help Desk.

SECTION ONE: EVALUATING AND EXPLAINING AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY [Friday, 31 August - Friday, 28 September]

F, 31 Aug. A simple definition of “foreign policy”. The realist conception of the national interest. *Realpolitik*.

National
Interest

- Callahan, ch.3 (Realism), reference ch. 8

- Jentleson, 1.1

- Blackboard: Get a recent copy of the NY Times, choose a prominently-placed story about international affairs, and compare the coverage with *at least* two other good sources that cover the same story. One of them should be from a non-U.S. source. Post on the Blackboard Discussion Board a few paragraphs on how the coverage differs. Due by Thursday midnight, preferably earlier.

M, 3 Sept. LABOR DAY - NO CLASS

+ The Elusive National Interest: Beyond Realism. Alternative conceptions of the national interest (domestic impact, power/security, ideological principles). The 4 P’s Framework (power, peace, prosperity, and principles). The role of interests, values, and perceptions. Intervention in Iraq/Darfur as an example of the realist/idealist debate. America, the unusual: political values.

- Callahan, ch. 5 (Liberalism)

- Jentleson, chapter 1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4

++ America, the unusual: political culture and institutions. Philosophical foundations of American foreign policy: American ideology, national character, and American exceptionalism. Separation of powers and limited government. Hegemony and liberalism.

America
unusual

- Johnson, Introduction, 1(Ignorance)

- Callahan, ch. 2 (Hegemonism), ch. 6 (Liberal Internationalism), ch.8

- Jentleson, chapter 8, 8.1, 8.2, 2.1, 3.2

++ Historical evolution of American foreign policy: From isolationism to involvement. Roots of isolationism. Clues to foreign perceptions of the U.S.

Isolationism

- Johnson, 5 (Isolationism)

- Callahan, ch. 4 (Isolationism)

- Jentleson, chapter 3, 3.1

++ Perspectives on American hegemony: intervention and imperialism. The arrogance of power. The challenge of humanitarian intervention.

Intervention

- Johnson, 4 (Unilateralism) , 6 (Empathy), 7 (Arrogance)

- Callahan, ch. 7 (Radical Anti-Imperialism)

- Jentleson, chapter 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3

+ Catch up for current events

+ Review

***** MID-TERM EXAM: Wednesday, 26 September *****

F 28 Sept. Examination examination

SECTION TWO: THE COLD WAR: LESSONS AND LEGACIES

[Monday, 1 October - Friday, 19 October]

M, 1 Oct. Origins and explanations of the Cold War. Interpreting Soviet behavior.

Cold War - Jentleson, chapter 4, 4.1, 4.3

++ Containment doctrine. The parallel with the contemporary “war on terrorism”.
- Jentleson, chapter 10, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3

M, 8 Oct. PACING BREAK - NO CLASS

+ Catch up for current events

+++ The Cold War. The Cold War origins of contemporary thought. Strategies in bilateral relations: the “appeasement theory of war” and its critics. Vietnam. Letting go of the Cold War. Realism and Idealism in Recent Administrations.

- Johnson, 3 (Military)
- Jentleson, chapter 5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4

+ Catch up for current events

SECTION THREE: PUBLIC OPINION

[Monday, 22 October - Friday, 2 November]

++ Public opinion. The appropriate role of public opinion in foreign policy making. Instructed delegate and Burkean delegate models of representation. What is “public opinion?” How is it formed? Is the public well-informed and interested? Is public opinion structured and stable? Public opinion processes. The role of the media.

Public Opinion - Jentleson, 6 (pp. 336-), 2 (59-), 6.3
- Steven Kull, “Vox Americani: An interview with the American public,” *Foreign Policy*, Sept/Oct 2001) http://www.foreignpolicy.com/issue_SeptOct_2001/kull.html
- I.M. Destler, “The Reasonable Public and the Polarized Policy Process,” <http://www.americans-world.org/PDF/Destler.pdf>

++ The role of public opinion in foreign policy making. Foreign policy attitudes of students, masses, and elites. Schools of foreign policy beliefs. Internationalism vs. isolationism. Unilateralism vs. multilateralism. Hard-line vs. soft-line strategies.

- Blackboard: Ole R. Holsti, “Public Opinion and Foreign Policy,” chapter 2 (pp. 16-46) in Robert J. Lieber, *Eagle Rules?: Foreign Policy and American Primacy in the Twenty-First Century* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2002
- Jentleson, 6 (-315), 6.1, 6.2

+ Catch up for current events / Review

*** MID-TERM EXAM: Friday, 2 November***

SECTION FOUR: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING [Monday, 5 November - Friday, 23 November]

M 5 Nov. How do we understand policy? The example of the Bay of Pigs.

BayPigsI

- Jentleson, pp. 135-6

Decision-
making

++ Models of decision-making. The Rational Actor model. Is foreign policy rationally determined? The importance of process.

- Jentleson, chapter 2

++ Alternative models of decision-making: bureaucratic politics, organizational process, domestic politics, power elite. The influence of domestic politics. The executive branch. Congressional-executive relations.

- Johnson, 2 (Executive Dominance)

- Jentleson, chapter 6 (316-336)

+ Catch up for current events

M 19 Nov. Bay of Pigs Revisited: An Agency View

BayPigsII

W-F 21-23 Nov. Thanksgiving Break - NO CLASS

SECTION FIVE: POLICY AREAS [Monday, 26 November - Friday, 7 December]

M 26 Nov. +++ Defense policy. The evolution of U.S. defense policy. National security and arms control. Foreign policy strategy. Perspectives on power and peace. Deterrence. Security dilemma. Nuclear weapons. Ballistic missile defense.

- Jentleson, 4.2, 7.2, 7.3

+++ The economic dimension of American foreign policy. The new primacy of economics in U.S. foreign policy and the new primacy of international considerations in economics. The U.S. response to globalization. Foreign aid. Dilemmas of international trade and investment. The global economic architecture. "The Battle of Seattle". The WTO and sovereignty.

Globalization

- Jentleson, chapter 9, 9.1, 9.2

Review/Consultation/Study: M 10 December

***** FINAL EXAM: DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED *****