

PSC 335 American Foreign Policy

Course Syllabus Fall 2009

Classroom: 17 Clemens Hall
Class schedule: TR 2-3:20 p.m.
Office hours: TR 9:30-10:30am, 12:30-1:30 pm

Professor: Dr. Vesna Danilovic
Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Office: 505 Park Hall

Course description

This seminar is designed to introduce students to the historical and contemporary issues related to U.S. foreign policy. We will first review the history of American foreign policy in the 20th century with an emphasis on national security issues. Then the course will proceed with an in-depth coverage of major groups and institutions involved in formulating American foreign policy. The particular focus will be on the roles of the presidency, Congress, executive branch (e.g., State Department), interest groups, mass media, and public opinion.

Required readings

There are two required textbooks for the course that can be purchased at Talking Leaves bookstore at 3158 Main Street (close to the South Campus; <http://tleavesbooks.com>):

- Walter La Feber (2008) *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2006*, 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill. (listed in the syllabus as LaFeber)

- Jerel A. Rosati and James M. Scott (2007) *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*, 4th ed. Belmont. CA: Thomson Wadsworth. (listed in the syllabus as Rosati & Scott)

In addition to these texts, a few chapters, articles, and documents will also be required. They will be available online (following the web link in the syllabus) or on UB Learns for this course. All the readings must be completed before the first class for which they are assigned.

Course requirements

The final grade in this course will be based on four main components: (1) two in-class examinations, (2) one project and its presentation, (3) four in-class quizzes, and (4) class participation.

Summary of the grade components:

50% Two in-class exams (1st exam: 25%; 2nd exam: 25%)
25% Project (project 15%; PPT in-class presentation 10%)
15% Four pop quizzes
10% Seminar participation

1. *Two in-class midterm examinations (50% total; 25% each)*

The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Each exam will be worth a total of 25% of the student's final grade. Questions will be based on the student's comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures.

2. *Project and class presentation (25%):*

Each student will have a class presentation in PowerPoint on one topic from the list of project topics. Although several students will prepare their projects under the same general topic, each student will work independently on her/his project which will be graded separately from the others' in the group. I will lay out the parameters for each group topic on **September 22**. Each student will have approximately 5-6 minutes for his/her individual presentation. To facilitate coordination among multiple topic preferences, by **September 29** you are required to submit to me your top three topic preferences, one of which will be assigned as the topic for your presentation. If I do not receive your topic preferences, I will assign you to one of the topics after considering all the remaining students' preferences. An assignment sheet listing presentation groups and topics for all students will be posted on UB Learns on **September 30** ("Project Group Assignments" file). Only those internet sources that are listed for each topic may be used for preparing the presentation. On the scheduled date for your topic, you should bring your PowerPoint project in electronic form for the class presentation and **give me a printed copy of both the PPT presentation and essay/notes**. Detailed instructions for the project requirements, format, each topic, deadlines, etc., are provided in a separate file available on UB Learns ("Project" file).

3. *Four in-class quizzes (15%):*

The quizzes will be multiple choice and the questions will be based on the class readings and lectures. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced ahead of time, so if you know in advance that you will be missing a class for a university excusable reason, let me know early.

4. *Class participation (10%)*

Class participation is based on active participation in class discussions. The students are expected to come to class having read the material and able to answer questions and/or engage in informed discussion. This can only be done if you conduct yourselves in a professional manner and are tolerant of other students' ideas, even if they directly contradict your own personal views.

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

93-100 % (A); 90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+); 83-86.9% (B); 80-82.9% (B-);
77-77.9% (C+); 73-76.9% (C); 70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+); 63-66.9% (D); 60-62.9% (D-);
< 60% (F)

Project Deadline Extensions and Make-Up Exams

Deadline extensions and make-up exams will not be granted except in properly documented situations of serious illness or major family emergency. The request needs to be made in a timely manner and not later than the second day after the missed deadline or exam. Otherwise, the extension/make-up will not be granted.

Plagiarism Statement

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic grade of “F” for the course. You may find more information about academic dishonesty at: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>.

Copyright Statement

Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Students with Disabilities Policy

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

SCHEDULE

September 1

COURSE OVERVIEW

September 3

NO CLASS: The instructor is attending the American Political Science Association Conference

September 8-10

DIPLOMACY BEFORE WORLD WAR II

LaFeber, Walter. 2008. "The US Rise to World Power, 1776-1945." In M. Cox & D. Stokes (eds.) *US Foreign Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 3 (pp. 45-60).

*posted on UBLearn

Kissinger, Henry. 1994. "The Hinge: Theodore Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson." In H. Kissinger, *Diplomacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, Chapter 2 (pp. 29-55). *posted on UBLearn

Recommended only as a preliminary reading giving a brief overview of the entire 1776-2006 period—Rosati & Scott: Chapter 2. "History of the United States Foreign Relations"

September 15

WORLD WAR II DIPLOMACY

Document: Yalta Conference (1945) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/yalta.htm>

LaFeber: Chapter 1. "Open Doors, Iron Curtains (1941-1945)"

September 15-17

COLD WAR BEGINNINGS

Document: Truman Doctrine (1947) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/trudoc.htm>

LaFeber: Chapter 2. "Only Two Declarations of Cold War (1946)"

LaFeber: Chapter 3. "Two Halves of the Same Walnut (1947-1948)"

LaFeber: Chapter 4. "The 'Different World' of NSC-68 (1948-1950)"

*****NOTE: On September 22** will be reserved for reviewing project requirements and topics. Each student needs to submit her/his top three topic preferences in class on **September 29**. An assignment sheet listing presentation groups and topics for all students will be posted on UBLearn on **September 30** ("Project Group Assignments" file). Project guidelines and group assignments sheet will also be posted on UBLearn (see the details on p. 2 above).

September 24-29

KOREA AND THE 1950S

LaFeber: Chapter 5. "Korea: The War for Both Asia and Europe"

LaFeber: Chapter 6. "New Issues, New Faces (1951-1953)"

LaFeber: Chapter 7. "A Different Cold War (1953-1955)"

LaFeber: Chapter 8. "East and West of Suez (1954-1957)"

LaFeber: Chapter 9. "New Frontiers and Old Dilemmas (1957-1962)" (read only pp. 201-216)

October 1-6

FROM CUBA TO VIETNAM

Documentary: *War and Peace in the Nuclear Age #5: At the Brink* (1989) [will be shown in class on October 1]

LaFeber: Chapter 9. “New Frontiers and Old Dilemmas (1957-1962)” (read only pp. 216-228)

LaFeber: Chapter 10. “Southeast Asia--and Elsewhere (1962-1966)

Document: Tonkin Gulf Incident (1964) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/tonkin-g.htm>

October 8

THE END OF VIETNAM AND THE DETENTE ERA

LaFeber: Chapter 11. “A New Containment: The Rise and Fall of Detente (1966-1976)”

October 13

COLD WAR : ITS LAST DECADE AND THE END

LaFeber: Chapter 12. “From Cold War to Old War: Reagan and Gorbachev (1977-1989)”

LaFeber: Chapter 13. “A New World Order—Or the Age of Fragmentation? (1989- 1993)”

October 15

THE POST-COLD WAR CHALLENGES

LaFeber: Chapter 14. “The Post-Cold War Era of Fragmentation. Clinton, Yeltsin, and Back to Bush (1993-9/11, 2001)”

LaFeber: Chapter 15. “The World Turned Upside Down (2001-2006)”

Obama, Barack. 2007. “Renewing American Leadership.” *Foreign Affairs* 86 (4): 2-16.

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #1 Tuesday, October 20</p>
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October 22

POLITICAL TRADITION, NATIONAL CULTURE AND FOREIGN POLICY

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 12. “The Public and Their Beliefs” (read only pp. 377-386)

Hoffmann, Stanley. 1968. Exerpts from “The Nation's Dilemmas: A Critique.” In S. Hoffmann, *Gulliver's Troubles Or the Setting of American Foreign Policy*. New York: McGraw-Hill, pp. 177-190. *posted on UBLearn

October 22-27

**DOMESTIC NON-GOVERNMENTAL INFLUENCES I:
PUBLIC OPINION AND GROUP POLITICS**

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 12. “The Public and Their Beliefs” (read only pp. 350-377)

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 14. “Electoral Politics”

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 15. “Group Politics”

October 29

DOMESTIC NON-GOVERNMENTAL INFLUENCES II: MEDIA

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 16. “The Media and the Communications Process”

Graber, Doris A. 1993. “Foreign Affairs Coverage.” In Doris A. Graber, *Mass Media and American Politics, 4th ed.* Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, Chapter 11 (pp. 360-402). *posted on UBLearn

November 3

CONGRESS AND LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE RELATIONS

Document: War Powers Act (1973) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/warpower.htm>

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 11. “Congress and Interbranch Politics”

Note: If you have not read the U.S. Constitution in its complete form, it is required you do it before this class—get a hard copy or read it online United States Constitution <http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>. If you have fully read it in the past, then review again the foreign policy provisions in Rosati & Scott’s Appendix A.

November 5-10

EXECUTIVE BRANCH I: PRESIDENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 4. “Presidential Power and Leadership”

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 5. “The Bureaucracy, Presidential Management, and the National Security Council”

November 12-17

EXECUTIVE BRANCH II: DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 6. “The State Department at Home and Abroad”

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 7. “The Military Establishment”

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 8. “The Intelligence Community”

Rosati & Scott: Chapter 9. “Foreign Economics ...” (read only pp. 247-260)

November 19-24, December 1-8

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

***** NOTE: No class on November 26 (Thanksgiving Holiday)**

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #2 Thursday, December 10</p>
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~ Have a Good Winter Break ~