

## **American Foreign Policy**

T:TH 7:00-8:45

Instructor: Greg Marfleet

Office: Willis 406

Office Hours: T/Th 9-10:20pm (4 x 20minute sessions) online using Zoom

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Even a casual observer of American foreign relations would recognize that we may be experiencing a momentous era of change, uncertainty and controversy regarding the role of the United States in world affairs. We witnessed the articulation, and apparent failure, of a new agenda of unilateral preponderance for American foreign policy (manifested most obviously) in Iraq. That, coupled with a global economic crisis, the ongoing WOT and now a global pandemic has some observers wondering if America has peaked and is now destined for an inevitable decline. The election of Donald Trump as president raised questions about the unity of the Western alliance and the stability of the bulwark of post-WWII institutions that facilitated US leadership through embedded liberalism.

Others point out that we had this same debate in the 1970s when America seemed to be foundering on the rocks after Vietnam and the oil crisis. Recently Biden declared "America is Back" -- what does that imply? Academic scrutiny and scholarly analysis of the past, present and future of American foreign relations has never been so important.

Through a series of theory-centered lectures, case studies and history readings this course is designed to expose students to each of these key dimensions. The goal of the class is to help student to develop both an informed, empirical and normative understanding of America's global role. To accomplish all this in ten weeks requires a substantial commitment from the students to persevere through a steady reading load.

### **TEXT BOOKS and READINGS**

A Concise History of US Foreign Policy. 4rd ed. 2014. Joyce P. Kaufman. Rowman and Littlefield.

Contemporary Cases in US Foreign Policy, 5th ed. 2014. Ralph G. Carter ed. Sage CQ Press.

Articles from Foreign Affairs -- the premier outlet for public scholarship and debate of USFP. These will be posted as PDFs in a folder below. The college subscribes to FA through Jstor and LexisNexis.

[ You must use the stated editions of Kaufman and Carter since there are significant differences in content (especially in the case study book) with older editions]

## GRADING

Component -- Points

Participation and Attendance -- 15 pts

Case Study Update (2 @ 10 pts) -- 20pts

History Reading Quiz (8 @ 3 pts) -- 24pts

Visualizing History Presentation -- 10pts

FA Reading Discussion Question - 6pts

Take Home Final Essay - 25pts

### Week 1

Lecture 1 FP and IR Theory  
(Realism)URL

Reading in PDF for Weeks 1 and  
2Folder

Readings for Week 1

Tuesday

Intro, Setup, Signup

Thursday

Carter, Case 1 "US vs Terrorism"  
Kaufman Ch 1 "Setting the Stage"

## CHUSFP Chapter 1 Quiz

### Week 2

Lecture 2 FP and IR Theory: Liberalism  
and Constructivism  
Readings for Week 2

Tuesday

Carter, Case 2 "Assassinating bin  
Laden"

Kaufman Ch 2 "Unilateralism to  
Engagement"

Thursday

Carter, Case 3 "Iraq Intervention and  
Withdrawal"  
FAR: How the Good War Went Bad:  
America's Slow-Motion Failure in  
Afghanistan

## CHUSFP Chapter 2 Quiz

### Week 3

Lecture 3 Levels of Analysis and  
Rational Leaders

Readings for Week 3

Tuesday

Carter, Case 4 "Iran Nuclear Standoff"  
Kaufman Ch 3 "From Isolation to  
Superpower"

Thursday

Carter, Case 5 "US & North Korea"  
FAR: The Next Iranian Revolution: Why  
Washington should Seek Regime  
Change in Tehran  
CHUSFP Chapter 3 Quiz

### Week 4

Lecture 4 Psychology and Leaders  
Readings for Week 4

Tuesday

Carter, Case 6 "Non-Proliferation &  
India"

Kaufman Ch 4 "The Making of a  
Superpower; Cold War FP"

Thursday

Carter, Case 7 "Russian Reset Button"  
FAR: The Shoals of Ukraine: Where  
American Illusions and Great-Power  
Politics Collide  
CHUSFP Chapter 4 Quiz

### Week 5

Lecture 5 Advisors and Bureaucrats  
Readings for Week 5

Tuesday

Carter, Case 8 "Arab Spring and Egypt"  
Kaufman Ch 5 "The CW and Beyond:  
Reagan through Clinton"

Thursday  
Web Lab -- see website list for  
exploration  
CHUSFP Chapter 5 Quiz

Thursday  
Carter, Case 15 "US and the ICC"  
FAR: The End of the Wilsonian Era:  
Why Liberal Internationalism Failed  
CHUSFP Chapter 8 Quiz

#### Week 6

Lecture 6 Congress and the Pres  
Readings for Week 6

Tuesday  
Carter, Case 10 "Global Financial Crisis"  
Kaufman Ch 6 "New Directions: Bush "

Thursday  
Carter, Case 11 "Sino-US Trade"  
FAR: Protection Without Protectionism:  
Getting Industrial Policy Right  
CHUSFP Chapter 6 Quiz

#### Week 7

Lecture 7 Two level games and  
Oversight  
Readings for Week 7

Tuesday  
Carter, Case 12 "Climate Change"  
Kaufman Ch 7 "Obama and FP"

Thursday  
Carter, Case 13 "National Security  
Surveillance"  
FAR: Uniting the Techno-Democracies:  
How to Build Digital Cooperation  
CHUSFP Chapter 7 Quiz

#### Week 8

Lecture 8 Interest Groups and FP  
Readings for Week 8

Tuesday  
Carter, Case 14 "WOT Detainees"  
Kaufman Ch 8 "The Future of USFP"

#### Week 9

Lecture 9 Public Opinion and FP  
Readings for Week 8

Tuesday  
FL Video Case: Trump Zero Tolerance  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/zero-tolerance/>  
FAR: Civil Rights International: The  
Fight Against Racism Has Always Been  
Global

Thursday  
FL Video Case: The Virus: What Went  
Wrong?  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/the-virus/>  
FAR: System Failure: America Needs a  
Global Health Policy for the Pandemic  
Age  
No Chapter Quiz this week

#### 30 May - 5 June

Take Home Final Essay  
Response Assignment