

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

POLITICAL SCIENCE 148 – AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course offers an introduction to American Foreign Policy since World War II. The course provides a chronological assessment of the American decision-making process, key actors, and events in pursuit of American national security, economic, and moral interest from the Cold War to the present era. The course will explore American foreign policy in specific regions of the world including Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa while seeking greater understanding of the questions of war and peace, democracy promotion, human rights, economic development, the War on Terror, and the emergence of great power rivalry in the 21st century.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Defining Key Terms
 - a. Foreign Policy
 - b. Power: hard and Soft Variants
 - c. War and Peace
 - d. International Political Economy
 - e. National Security
 - f. Human Rights
 - g. Units of Analysis: individual, state, system
 - h. Foreign Policy Institutions: Executive Branch, Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Council
- 2) Methodological Approaches and Theories of American Foreign Policy
 - a. Rationale Actor Model
 - b. Organizational Model
 - c. Governmental Model
 - d. Realism
 - e. Liberalism
 - f. Constructivism
- 3) Foreign Policy from World War II to the Beginning of the Cold War (1933-1950)
 - a. World War I and the League of Nations
 - b. Disarmament: The Washington Naval Conference of 1921-1922 and the Kellogg-Briand Pact
 - c. Diplomacy in lead up to war (1937-1941): Asia and the Pacific
 - d. The Big Three Conferences: Tehran (1943), Yalta (1945), Potsdam (1945)
- 4) The Soviet Union and the Origins of the Cold War (1945-1950)
 - a. "The Iron Curtain" and early crisis.
 1. The Truman Doctrine
 2. The National Security Act (1947)
 3. The Marshall Plan
 4. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)

5. Berlin Airlift
6. Korean War (1950-1953)
- 5) Presidential Administrations and Approaches to Foreign Policy
 - a. Historical analysis of individual administrations and the conduct of foreign policy
 - b. Foreign policy doctrines (1945-2021): Eisenhower, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Obama, George W. Bush
- 6) War and Peace in the Cold War Era
 - a. Case Studies (War): Korean War (1953), Suez Crisis (1956), Cuban Missile-Crisis, (1962), Vietnam War (1965-1975), Grenada (1983)
 - b. Case Studies (Covert Operations): Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954), Bay of Pigs (1961), Chile (1973), Afghanistan (1980's), Central America (1980's)
 - c. Case Studies (Confronting Terrorism): Iran (1979), Beirut (1983), Libya (1986)
 - d. Case Studies (Diplomacy): Vienna Summit (1961), Détente (1969-1975), Opening to China (1972), Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I and SALT II), Human Rights and Helsinki Accords (1975), Camp David Accords (1978)
- 7) A New World Order and Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Age
 - a. Crisis and the End of the Cold War: Breakup of Soviet Union, German Unification, Tiananmen Square, Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)
 - b. Humanitarian Interventions: Somalia (1992-1994), Bosnia (1995), Kosovo (2000), Rwanda (1994)
 - c. September 11, 2001, and the War on Terror
 - d. Decision Making and Endless War: Iraq and Afghanistan
 - e. The Return of Great Power Rivalry in the 21st Century
- 8) International Political Economy and American Foreign Policy
 - a. Development and Evolution of Global Economic Institutions
 - b. Bretton Woods Era (1944-1973)
 - c. Theoretical approaches: Globalization, hegemonic stability theory, neoliberalism, dependency theory
 - d. Economic Coercion, oil, and Monetary Diplomacy—OPEC Oil Embargoes (1973, 1979), Financial Crisis in Latin America and Asia, economic sanctions as an instrument of coercive diplomacy
 - e. Economic Institutions: World Trade Organization, The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Use social science methodology to Identify and assess the goals, processes, and challenges of American Foreign Policy.
- 2) Identify and evaluate the American foreign policy decision-making.
- 3) Describe and evaluate the historical origins, continuous themes, and evolution of U.S. foreign policy since 1945.
- 4) Identify and evaluate the role of the institutions (e.g., Department of State, Department of Defense, National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, etc.,) responsible for development and implementing foreign policy and assess their success or failures.
- 5) Recognize and assess the impact of American foreign policy on other countries and people.
- 6) Contrast and appraise the foreign policy objectives and effectiveness of individual American presidents.
- 7) Identify the domestic role of public opinion, social groups, and media in shaping, enabling, and restraining the conduct of American Foreign Policy.

- 8) Identify and evaluate the different roles played by diplomacy, military, and economic power in the implementation of foreign policy.
- 9) Identify and evaluate U.S. Foreign Policy in Europe, Asia, Africa, The Middle East, and Latin America between the early twentieth-century through the present era.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and examinations, including a final exam: multiple choice, true/false questions, objective, and essay questions.
- 2) Research Paper: A semester long project where students research a question of their interest within the field of Latin American Politics and Government in which they apply social science methodology, learn to use Grossmont College Library Data Bases, and are mentored by the faculty.
- 3) Written Assignments: Written assignments include bi-weekly think pieces where students analyze and think about a particular topic in roughly two-to-three double-space pages.
- 4) Participation and Discussion: Students will be asked to evaluate and debate the themes and questions of a particular week as individuals or in a group structure during course.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Class Discussions
- 2) Group Work Activities
- 3) Foreign Policy Simulations
- 4) Multimedia Presentations
- 5) Documentaries and Films
- 6) Guest Lecture (Academics and Foreign Policy Practitioners)
- 7) Lecture
- 8) Field Trip to Presidential Library, Regional Consulates

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Textbook reading.
- 2) Conducting research in preparation for written and/or oral projects on topics related to Latin American Government and Politics including, but not limited to, economic development, foreign policy, social justice, civil-military relations, religion, democracy, and authoritarianism.
- 3) Watch documentaries on specific course topics.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Carter, Ralph G., *Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy, 6th Edition: From National Security to Human Security*. London, UK: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021.
 - b. Hook, Steven W., and John Spanier. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2018.
 - c. Kaufman, Joyce P. *A Concise History of U.S. Foreign policy, 4th Edition*. Lanham, MD: The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. 2017.
 - d. Donald M. Snow and Patrick J. Haney, *U.S. Foreign Policy: Back to the Water's Edge, 5th Edition, 2017*. Covers up through the Trump administration.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze the decision-making process of American foreign policy.
- 2) Describe and evaluate contemporary foreign policy decisions and their impact on achieving foreign policy objectives in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.
- 3) Describe and evaluate the origins of U.S. Foreign Policy following World War II with an emphasis on the Cold War and the growth of the national security state.
- 4) Evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy as it pertains to the use of military and economic force and diplomacy.
- 5) Identify and evaluate contemporary challenges of U.S. Foreign Policy including the rise of China, a resurgent Russia, terrorism, the challenges of a global economy, nuclear anti- proliferation, and human rights.