



Political Science 370: Foreign and Defense Policies

Course Syllabus

Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Katia Levintova

Office: MAC A327

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, 1:00-2:00PM and 3:45-4:45PM

Email: levintoe@uwgb.edu

Phone: (920) 465-2045 (office)

Course Number: Pol Sci 370_01

Course Title: Foreign and Defense Policies

Time: Monday, Wednesday 2:15-3:35PM

Place: MAC 221

D2L: course materials available

Prerequisites: None

Catalogue Description

This course explores the institutions and political processes related to U.S. foreign and defense policies, including the international challenges facing the United States, the nation's policy goals and their evolution over time, the strategies used to achieve those goals, and conflicts over policy implementation and its success.

Textbooks:

1. Eugene R. Wittkopf, Christopher R. Jones, and Charles Kegley, Jr., *American Foreign Policy: Pattern and Process*, 7th Ed., Cengage, 2008, ISBN: 0534603378
2. Thomas Buergenthal and Sean D. Murphy, *Public International Law in A Nutshell*, 4th Ed., Thomson/West, 2007, ISBN: 031417169X

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

It is expected that at the end of the semester students will be able to:

1. Understand the principles that underline US foreign and defense policy historically and presently.
2. Describe the multiple domestic sources and agents of US foreign policy.
3. Explain if and how the principles of international law affect the formulation of US foreign policy.
4. Develop the international perspective on US foreign policy by seeing international reactions to and interpretations of various actions.
5. Critically evaluate (both orally and verbally) US foreign policy.
6. Compose policy-relevant documents and defend a policy position publicly.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

I envision this class to be a theoretically rigorous, hands-on, and interactive exploration of US foreign policy. Foreign policy is the domain least understood by the voting public. Yet, as we all currently see, foreign policy has a direct bearing on our everyday lives. The main purpose of this course then is to become a thoughtful and engaged citizen capable of making informed electoral decisions and participating in public discourse on foreign policy in between elections (because democracy really is not only about elections per se, it is about becoming a critical thinker and civic leader, i.e., it is as much about personal transformation, as it is about elite selection).

On a more academic level, this course will engage in theoretical discussions of how US foreign policy changed over the past 100+ years, what factors influence it domestically, who are the actors and institutions who make foreign policy decisions, how does international law affect it, and what might the future hold. We will also learn how other nations see the US and its foreign policy through an analysis of English-language newspapers around the world, apply principles of international law to select US foreign policy initiatives and events, and finally engage in policy discussions the way policy-makers do.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course will develop and exercise a variety of important skills, including critical thinking, researching, writing, and public speaking. Regular and thoughtful reading and punctual completion of assignments are the key to success in this class. Regular attendance is a must.

1. Final Exam: There will be **one exam** in this course. The final, comprehensive exam, given on **December 15 (1:00-3:00PM)**, will test your knowledge of all material covered in this class. It is worth **20%** of your final grade and will include comprehensive essay questions. Study guide will be distributed in class during the second part of the semester.

2. International Law and US Foreign Policy Action(s) Analysis and In-Class

Discussion: This assignment, which is worth **20%** of your final grade will allow us to see how US foreign policy intersects with international law. Your in-class group contribution (**October 18 and 20**) is worth **5%**, while the written assignment, due on **October 13**, is worth **15%**.

In the written assignment, you will critically analyze the legality of a given US foreign policy action/initiative to determine the relevance or irrelevance of international law for US policy-makers and US national interests. The written assignment should be **3-4 double-space pages** in length and operate with a minimum of **3-4 scholarly sources** (journals or books) **and legal documents**.

- For the scholarly journal articles and books on your topic, consult JSTOR (especially American Journal of International Law, but other journals are also useful) and relevant chapters/passages in Buergenthal and Murphy (B+M) as well as their chapter 13.
- For the original documents and applicable public law, consult the International Legal Materials maintained by American Society of International Law, <http://www.asil.org/resources/ilm.html> (use search option) and Buergenthal and Murphy (chapters/passages shown in the parenthesis below).

Below is the list of foreign policy actions you can choose from. The sign-up sheet will be distributed in class (see **handout 3**):

1. US-led NATO 1999 strikes against former Yugoslavia (B+M, ch. 12, 348-349)
2. US and the International Criminal Court (B+M, ch. 4, 98-100)

3. US withdrawal from the 1972 ABM Treaty and decision to place part of US (as opposed to NATO) anti-missile defense shield in Poland and the Czech Republic (Ch. 12, 355-356)
4. US 1987-1988 attacks on Iranian offshore oil platforms (B+M, ch. 12, 341-342)
5. US 1998 cruise missile attacks against Afghanistan and Sudan (B+M, ch. 12, 339-342)
6. US 2001 military campaign in Afghanistan (B+M, ch. 12, 336-338)

This assignment requires students to:

1. describe a particular action
2. outline the historical and international context leading up and surrounding particular US foreign policy initiative/action
3. identify particular players/policy-makers who had a stake in the action (pay attention to public opinion, presidential position, bureaucratic pressures, congressional stance, and various lobbying/interest groups)
4. summarize relevant international law that applied to this particular situation
5. make a conclusion about the legality and appropriateness of US foreign policy action, by paying special attention to whether the US pursued its own national interests or international legal obligations
6. speculate as to what possible international and domestic effects an action under analysis had or might have in the future.

The written assignment is individual, not group effort. **Each student must write his/her own paper.** But in-class presentations are group projects. We will have 4-5 students assigned to each topic (see **handout 3**). Three topics per class session will be discussed; each group assigned to a particular topic will make a **20 minute** presentation in which individual group members will be responsible for talking about one point of the assignment (see list above). During the presentation, points 1 and 2 as well as 5 and 6 can be combined, if necessary.

A good presentation entails a concise and persuasive argument that conveys a speaker's point with relevant facts in an eloquent manner. In other words, it means not reading from your paper, but rather **presenting your point.**

3. International Newspaper Analysis of US Foreign Policy and Presentation: During the course of the semester, each student will be dispatched virtually to all corners of the globe to reflect upon international news coverage of the United States. Each student is required to monitor 2 newspapers – based in **two different countries** outside the United States – on a regular basis for at least **one month**. Students should focus on the content and (if detectable) tone of news coverage regarding the role of the United States in the world.

No two students are allowed to use the same newspaper as a primary source (use **handout 4** for signing up for your individual newspapers). This project is a collective fact-finding endeavor and each in-class presentation will have its own unique perspective. The links to English-language newspapers around the world are listed in **handout 2** and will be assigned on the first-come, first-serve basis. You are required to select your newspapers by **September 15 (5% of your grade)**. **Before signing up you must check the newspapers first** to see if you can gather enough relevant information (**and it is available for free**).

Reports and oral presentations in class need to address at least four of the following questions (using both newspapers, i.e., you will analyze your two newspapers using the same four questions):

1. How is the United States regarded elsewhere by journalists, government officials, other political and business elites, and the general public?
2. How do perceptions of the United States that seem prevalent in the news coverage

- compare with what you consider as common American perceptions of themselves?
3. What kind of diplomatic relationship exists between the United States and each of the countries that you have studied?
 4. What are the areas in which you can identify support for the United States' policies? Where do you encounter criticisms? Where do you find caution? Where do you observe resentment?
 5. What sort of interdependence is evident between the countries you have studied and the United States? In what ways do these countries seem dependent on the United States? How does the United States seem dependent upon the countries you have studied?
 6. Are the voices of citizens accounted for in the news coverage? What are everyday people saying about US and its foreign policy?
 7. What are the major differences in news coverage between the two newspapers you have studied?

To write a report you are required to gather at **least 30 relevant** news articles, editorials, and opinion pieces (about 15 per each selected newspaper). You must submit the sources, not just refer to them in the paper. I will accept your article files electronically, through D2L Dropbox but you must provide entire article so that I can assess the quality of your investigation). The sources are due on the same day (before the class) the paper copy of your report is due in class. Report (no less than **3-4 pages** in length), addressing at least four questions of the assignment and accompanied by at least 30 newspaper sources, is due on **November 1**. It is worth **10%** of your final grade. In-class presentation of this project (about 5 minutes), scheduled on **November 1 and 3**, is worth another **10%**. Collectively this assignment is worth **20%**.

Some pitfalls to avoid:

1. News articles from wire services or newspaper syndicates are not acceptable. One pitfall to avoid – try to differentiate between articles generated in-house and articles provided by external news services and sources. Please approach me when not sure if the article is acceptable.
2. In this assignment, you need to analyze the article, rather than simply provide summaries of the news coverage.
3. Do not take everything at a face value, some publications have ideological biases – you do not have to agree with everything that you read. In fact, it is part of a good analysis to discern biases.
4. Try to read the coverage from the standpoint of a native reader, and not necessarily from the perspective of an American student. This assignment is about international perceptions of the US, not about the definitive answers to global problems.

4. Presidential Policy Document and Briefing: Each student will be involved in devising and presenting a foreign policy memorandum.

The policy memorandum to a hypothetical US president should 1) analyze an issue relevant for US foreign policy, 2) recommend a specific course of action for the United States, and 3) utilize several sources (6 as a minimum, some web resources are acceptable). Only topics relevant to this course are acceptable. For example, you might want to write about the need for a new US policy towards North Korea. Or you might want to urge the President to sanction domestic companies who use sweatshops in developing countries. Or, perhaps, you wish to get presidential support for the current Iraqi policy. Among other acceptable topics are NATO's role in the new millennium, U.S. debt to the United Nations, trade wars with Europe, international intervention in Sudan, international human trafficking, global warming, China's civil rights violations, policy towards Arctic shell exploration, nuclear disarmament, relations with Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, the EU, etc. Other topics must be approved by instructor. The Policy

Memorandum should be **4-5 pages long** (excluding bibliography). Please see **handout 1** on how to write a successful memorandum. Policy Memorandum will count for **10% of your grade** and is due on **December 1**. Additional instructions will be provided as semester progresses.

You are required to submit **a paragraph describing your topic and bibliography by September 22 which is worth 5% of your grade**. Be as specific about your topic as possible. You will have less trouble in the future, if you identify your topic as "US policy towards International Crime Tribunal," not "US policy towards international organizations." Similarly, the topic "US position on the use of land mines" is better than a description that simply states that you intend to research and advocate US adherence to "International Treaties." The attached bibliography must contain a **minimum of six sources**. Sources may include articles in scholarly journals (e.g., *Foreign Affairs*, *Harvard International Review*, *Foreign Policy*, *International Organization*, etc., see **Handout 1**), specific and pertinent web addresses (not simply www.whitehouse.gov or www.state.gov), or established print media (e.g., *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *BBC*, etc.). However, you cannot rely only on internet sites and print media. You must incorporate scholarly sources.

At the end of the semester (**December 1, 6, and 8**) we will have presidential foreign policy briefings. At that time, you will brief me ("the President") and other "cabinet members" (your peers) regarding the urgent policy issues which require our country's most urgent attention. At the end of the briefing the president and the cabinet members will vote and rank the policy issues in order to decide which issues are the most pressing and therefore must be pursued. You are required to make a **5 minute presentation** during the actual briefing (**10% of the grade**). Longer presentations will be penalized for the failure to adhere to the briefing format. **Your policy memo is due on December 1.**

5. Attendance: According to UW-Green Bay official policies, "students are expected to attend class. In the event of illness or death of a family member, the Dean of Students Office will assist with notification of instructors. The instructor **may drop** students who do not attend classes during the first week of the semester unless they notify the instructor in advance of the reason for nonattendance and indicate intentions to complete the class. **The instructor, prior to the drop deadline, may also drop students who attend classes the first week but not thereafter.**"

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the lecture periods. It will serve as a component in calculating your attendance grade. Students who attend every class can count on **10 percentage** points for attendance. I will allow each student 2 unexcused absences a semester. Students who miss class sessions will see a deduction in their attendance grade. For every unexcused absence, I will deduct 2 percentage points. In other words, if you miss 7 class sessions (5+2 allowable) without a properly documented excuse, you will not have any attendance percentage points. **If you miss more than 8 class sessions without a legitimate excuse, you will receive an "F" in this class, irrespective of your actual performance.**

IV. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS AND MEANS OF EVALUATION

Course Requirements:

- 1 International Law and US Foreign Policy Initiative Analysis and Discussion – 20%**
 - 15% for written analysis (October 13)
 - 5% for in-class presentation (October 18-20)
- 2 International Newspaper Analysis of US Foreign Policy and Presentation – 25**

%

- 5% for newspaper selection (September 15)
- 10% for written analysis (November 1)
- 10% for in-class presentation (November 1 and 3)

3 Presidential Foreign Policy Memorandum and Briefing – 25%

- 5% for topic and preliminary bibliography (September 22)
- 10% for written memorandum (December 1)
- 10% for in-class presidential foreign policy briefing (December 1-8)

4 Comprehensive Final Exam (December 15, 1:00-3:00 PM) – 20%

5 Attendance – 10%

Grading Scale:

The following percentage points and corresponding letter grades will be used in this course (determined at the end of the semester)

92-100: A 89-91: AB 82-88: B 79-81: BC 72-78: C 69-71: CD 60-68: D
Below 60: F

V. MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

Plagiarism: Students are responsible for reading and understanding the University's policy on plagiarism. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and copying or undocumented use of materials from any source, including websites, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary action. See the Dean of Students' University Policies page on Academic Misconduct:

http://www.uwgb.edu/deanofstudents/policies_procedures/students/pdfs/uws014.pdf.

Disability Accommodations: As required by federal law and university policy, students with documented disabilities who need accommodation must contact the Disability Services Office at 465-2841. Reasonable accommodations can be made unless they alter the essential components of the class. Contact the instructor and Disability Services Coordinator in a timely manner to formulate alternative arrangements.

Make-up Examinations and in-Class Activities: Make-up examinations will not be given except for medical reasons documented by a physician prior to the date of the exam. There is no make-up for missed in-class activities, unless discussed with the instructor prior to the date when in-class activity is due.

Submission of Assignments: Written assignments cannot be submitted by email (except in emergencies) and will not be accepted after the deadline specified on the syllabus. The only assignment that is to be submitted through D2L/Dropbox is the compilation of international newspaper articles for your newspaper analysis assignment. Other assignments have to be submitted in a paper form in class.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week 1

September 8

Introduction

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Ch. 1

Week 2

September 13 and 15

Theory and History of US Foreign Policy

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Chs. 2-3

September 15: Newspaper selection assignment is due

Week 3

September 20 and 22

Explicit and Implicit Instruments of US Foreign Policy

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Chs. 4-5

September 22: Policy Memo Topic and Preliminary Bibliography is due

Week 4

September 27 and 29

International Context of US Foreign Policy: International System

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Chs. 6-7

Week 5

October 4 and 6

International Context of US Foreign Policy: International Law

Buergenthal and Murphy, Chs. 1-5

Week 6

October 11 and 13

International Context of US Foreign Policy: International Law

Buergenthal and Murphy, Chs. 6-12

October 13: International Law and US Foreign Policy Assignment Due

Week 7

October 18 and 20

In-class presentations of International Law and US Foreign Policy Assignment

Week 8

October 25 and 27

Domestic Sources of US Foreign Policy: Societal Factors

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Chs. 8 and 9

Week 9

November 1 and 3

November 1: International Newspaper Analysis Assignment is due

November 1 and 3: Presentations of International Newspaper Analysis

Week 10

November 8 and 10

Domestic Sources of US Foreign Policy: Executive and Bureaucratic Factors

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Chs. 10-11

Week 11

November 15 and 17

Domestic Sources of US Foreign Policy: Legislative Branch

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Ch. 12

Documentary and Discussion: *Have You Heard From Johannesburg?* (1 extra credit point to overall grade for substantive contribution to D2L discussions about the documentary; might be especially good for those who are missing points for attendance).

Week 12

November 22 and 24

Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy: Rules and Roles, Individuals as Policy Makers

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Chs. 13 and 14

*****Thanksgiving Break -- November 25-28, no classes*****

Week 13

November 29 and December 1

Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy: Rules and Roles, Individuals as Policy Makers

December 1: Presidential Foreign Policy Memorandum is due

Presidential Foreign Policy Briefing Deliberations Begin on December 1

Week 14

December 6 and 8

Presidential Foreign Policy Briefing Deliberations**Week 15**

December 13

US Foreign Policy: Predicting the Future; Conclusions and Exam Review

Wittkopf, Jones, and Kegley, Ch. 15

*****Final exam – Wednesday, December 15, 1:00-3:00PM, in class*****