POLI 4043 American Foreign Policy

Course Syllabus

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Classroom: 145 Coates Hall  
Course Hours: T, TH 10:40-12:00  
Office Hours: T, TH 12:00-1:00  
and by appointment

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 the LSU Union, Chimes, or Co-op Bookstores:


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 Moodle 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 entirely separately from the others’ in the group. I will lay out the parameters for each group topic on **September 11**. Each student will have approximately 6-8 minutes for his/her individual presentation. To facilitate coordination among multiple topic preferences, by **September 16** 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 handed out in class on **September 23** and also posted on Moodle (“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 Moodle (“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:**

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89.9% = B
- 70-79.9% = C
- 60-69.9% = 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**
“Academic Misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructors, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or attempts to commit such an act. Students should be familiar with the definition of academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct, available at http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/code.htm If a student is found to have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and penalized appropriately.

**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**
If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your Accommodation Letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible. For additional information, check the Office of Disability Services Faculty Handbook.

**Equal Opportunity Statement**
LSU’s PS 1 assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates. This policy statement applies equally to the teaching and learning environment within all university recognized courses, curriculum and co-curriculum programs.
SCHEDULE

August 26
COURSE OVERVIEW

August 28-September 2
DIPLOMACY BEFORE WORLD WAR II


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 4
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 9-11
COLD WAR BEGINNINGS
LaFeber: Chapter 2. “Only Two Declarations of Cold War (1946)”
LaFeber: Chapter 3. “Two Halves of the Same Walnut (1947-1948)”

***NOTE:*** One part of the session on *September 11* will be reserved for reviewing project requirements and topics. Each student needs to submit her/his top three topic preferences in class on *September 16*. The topic assignment sheet for all students will be distributed in class on *September 23*. Project guidelines and group assignments sheet will also be posted on Moodle (see the details on p. 2 above).

September 16-18
KOREA AND THE 1950S
LaFeber: Chapter 5. “Korea: The War for Both Asia and Europe”
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)
September 23-30

FROM CUBA TO VIETNAM
Documentary: *War and Peace in the Nuclear Age #5: At the Brink* (1989) [will be shown in class on September 23]
LaFeber: Chapter 9. “New Frontiers and Old Dilemmas (1957-1962)” (read only pp. 216-228)
Document: Tonkin Gulf Incident (1964) http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/tonkin-g.htm

October 2

THE END OF VIETNAM AND THE DETENTE ERA

October 7

COLD WAR : ITS LAST DECADE AND THE END

*** NOTE: No class on October 9 (Fall Holiday)***

October 14

THE POST-COLD WAR CHALLENGES

EXAM #1
Thursday, October 16

October 21

POLITICAL TRADITION, NATIONAL CULTURE AND FOREIGN POLICY
Rosati & Scott: Chapter 12. “The Public and Their Beliefs” (read only pp. 377-386)

October 21-23

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 15. “Group Politics”
October 28

DOMESTIC NON-GOVERNMENTAL INFLUENCES II: MEDIA

October 30

CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS
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 4-6

EXECUTIVE BRANCH I: PRESIDENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE
Rosati & Scott: Chapter 4. “Presidential Power and Leadership”

November 11-13

EXECUTIVE BRANCH II: DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
Rosati & Scott: Chapter 6. “The State Department at Home and Abroad”
Rosati & Scott: Chapter 8. “The Intelligence Community”
Rosati & Scott: Chapter 9. “Foreign Economics ...” (read only pp. 247-260)

November 18-25, December 2-4

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

*** NOTE: No class on November 27 (Thanksgiving Holiday)

EXAM #2
Tuesday, December 9
12:30 - 2:30 pm

~ Have a Good Winter Break ~

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