POLI 4043 American Foreign Policy

Course Syllabus
Fall 2012

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Class Hours: T, TH 10:30-11:50
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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 is one required textbook for the course that can be purchased at the LSU Student Union or Co-op bookstores:


In addition to this text, a number of book chapters, journal 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 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 write a paper (maximum of 8 pages) and give a class presentation in  
   PowerPoint on one from the list of project topics. It will be a joint project prepared by  
   several students, though each student’s presentation grade will be determined entirely  
   independently from the others’ in the group. I will lay out the parameters for each group  
   topic on September 18. Each student will have approximately 6-8 minutes for his/her  
   individual presentation. To facilitate the coordination among multiple topic preferences,  
   by September 20 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 25 and also posted on Moodle  
   (“Project Group Assignments” file). Only those internet sources that are listed for each  
   topic will be used for preparing the presentation. Every student must e-mail their  
   completed paper and PowerPoint presentation to me by 4 p.m. on November 12. 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**. Detailed instructions for the project requirements, format, each  
   topic, deadlines, etc., is 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 you 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
Summary of important dates:
- September 18 - project overview
- September 20 - deadline for submitting two out of three topic preferences (bring to class)
- October 11 - First Exam
- November 12 – Project submission deadline
- December 5 (12:30 – 2:30) - Second Exam

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.

Electronic Communication
I encourage students to visit me during my office hours for any questions and inquiries. If the circumstances necessitate it, you can also e-mail me on weekdays. The project assignments must also be submitted initially through e-mail. Please adhere to the following courtesy policy for this course when e-mailing me: (1) use only your LSU e-mail address; (2) do address me properly in the message and sign it with your full name; (3) keep your message brief and, when submitting the project, provide the information about the project’s topic and the files you are attaching; (4) do not forget to attach the project files and make sure to wait for my confirmation (see “Project” file on Moodle for further details). To protect the privacy of each student, please note that I do not provide any grade or similar personal information through e-mail or by phone, regardless of who is requesting it.

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: http://saa.lsu.edu/code-student-conduct. 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 21
COURSE OVERVIEW

August 23 - 28
DIPLOMACY BEFORE WORLD WAR II

August 30
NO CLASS: PROFESSOR IS ATTENDING A CONFERENCE

September 4 - 6
WORLD WAR II DIPLOMACY
LaFeber: Chapter 1. “Open Doors, Iron Curtains (1941-1945)”

September 11 - 13
COLD WAR BEGINNINGS
LaFeber: Chapter 2. “Only Two Declarations of Cold War (1946)”
LaFeber: Chapter 3. “Two Halves of the Same Walnut (1947-1948)”

September 18 - 20
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)

***NOTE: One part of the session on September 18 will be reserved for reviewing project requirements and topics. Each student needs to submit her/his top three topic preferences in class on September 20. The topic assignment sheet for all students will be distributed in class on September 25. Project guidelines and group assignments sheet will also be posted on Moodle.***
September 25 - 27
FROM CUBA TO VIETNAM
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 - 4
THE END OF VIETNAM AND THE DETENTE ERA

October 9
COLD WAR : ITS LAST DECADE AND THE END

EXAM #1
Thursday, October 11

Note: If you have not read the U.S. Constitution in its complete form, it is required that you do it before this second part of our class—get a hard copy or read it online United States Constitution (http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html).

October 16
POLITICAL TRADITION, NATIONAL CULTURE AND FOREIGN POLICY
*posted on Moodle

October 18
NO CLASS: FALL HOLIDAY

October 23
SOCIETAL INFLUENCES I: PUBLIC OPINION & MEDIA


October 25

SOCIETAL INFLUENCES II: INTEREST GROUPS


October 30

CONGRESS AND LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE RELATIONSHIPS


November 1 - 6

EXECUTIVE BRANCH I: PRESIDENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE


November 8

EXECUTIVE BRANCH II: FOREIGN POLICY BUREAUCRACY


REMINDER:
Projects are due by November 12 (Monday) at 4 p.m.

November 13 - 29
PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

*** No class on Thursday, November 22. Thanksgiving Break

EXAM #2
Wednesday, December 5
12:30 – 2:30 AM

~ Have a Good Winter Break ~