



PSC 434: American Foreign Policy

Fall 2010

Prof. Marc Hutchison
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Class Time: T Th 2-3:15pm, 208 Washburn Hall
Office Hours: T Th 10:30am-12pm, or by appointment
Class website: <https://sakai.uri.edu/portal>

Course Description: This course is designed to immerse you in the study of American Foreign Policy. While we touch on U.S. foreign policy since World War II, the goal of the course is not to merely provide you with a diplomatic history. Instead, we analyze the background, actors and processes involved in decision making and emphasize the theoretical foundations for U.S. foreign policy and apply this knowledge in examining contemporary issues facing the United States. Topics include American primacy, international terrorism, the Afghanistan War, humanitarian crises, international trade, human rights, and other current problems. As a research seminar, you are expected to actively participate and, at times, lead in class discussions as well as produce a semester-long research project.

Required Readings:

- James Lee Ray. 2008. *American Foreign Policy and Political Ambition*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.
- Handouts. There are several required readings that are not found in the textbooks. For the most part, I will provide you with links to these readings on the **class Sakai website**. In rare cases, I will distribute handouts to the class.

Recommended Readings:

- Greg Mahlon Scott and Stephen M. Garrison. 2006. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Princeton, NJ: Prentice Hall. 5th Edition.
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2006. *Principles of International Politics: People's Power, Preferences, and Perceptions*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. 3rd Edition
- Steven W. Hook and John Spanier. 2007. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. 17th Edition.
- 2010. *Issues for Debate in American Foreign Policy*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

Course Requirements:

Exams (30%)

Simulation (30%)

Policy Analysis Paper (40%)

Attendance. I expect students to attend every class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the information or class notes provided during class from another student. I do not provide notes to students. You will be allowed up to 4 unexcused absences over the course of the semester. If you miss more than 4 classes, you must provide documentation for all absences accrued over the course of the semester. **If you have more than 4 unexcused absences, you FAIL the course. If you attend every class, you will receive a 25% bonus on your final exam grade.**

Participation. Daily participation is critically important for success in this class. I place a special emphasis on discussion, group activities, simulations, and other active learning exercises. I expect to have thoughtful discussions on the issues brought up in class. Therefore, it is imperative that you come to class prepared. The reading assignments must be completed PRIOR to the beginning of class for which they are assigned for you to effectively participate in the class activities. Students are also encouraged to participate by asking questions and by answering questions addressed to the class by the instructor.

Exams. You will take two exams over the course of the semester. Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade. These exams will evaluate your knowledge of the course readings only. The exam format is long essay. Make-up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances and with proper documentation. **You MUST contact me prior to the exam to let me know the reason for your absence.**

Simulation. An online simulation will be conducted for most of the semester using the course Sakai website. Each student will role-play an actor attempting to influence the foreign policy decisions of the U.S. president. You will choose your roles in class on Tuesday, September 14th. You will then research your actor's agenda, resources, and avenues of influence available to them and summarize this in a 3 page report due at the start of class on Tuesday, September 21st. The simulation begins on Monday, September 20th with the posting of the week #1 agenda.

The goal of the simulation is to use your actor's resources to influence the policy agenda of the U.S. president. At the end of the week, the President posts the official decisions at the end of each week. Please note that most of the bargaining and discussion for this simulation will take place outside of class – via e-mail, messaging (private bargaining) and in the forums (public positions) mostly. A final 4-5 page analysis your role in the simulation is due at the start of class on Friday, December 10th. In this paper, you are expected to detail your strategy in the simulation as well as highlight your successes and failures in influencing U.S. agenda.

Policy Paper. All students are required to complete a policy analysis paper (minimum 25-30 page) during the course of the semester. You will be allowed to choose your own policy area within reason. The 2-3 page proposal for the policy paper is due on October 26th. Detailed instructions regarding this project, including format and expectations, will be provided early in the semester. You are required to meet with me outside of class to discuss your policy analysis paper no later than November 10th. Detailed instructions regarding the policy analysis paper, including format and expectations, will be provided early in the semester. The paper is due on December 21st.

**Please note: All papers and assignments are docked one letter grade for each day they are late.*

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism are very serious crimes and will be handled in accord with university policy. Specific information regarding definitions of cheating and plagiarism can be found at <http://www.uri.edu/facsen/8.20-8.27.html>. For details concerning the actions taken against those who commit these infractions students should again consult the above web site.

Classroom Decorum: I require all students to treat everyone in the classroom with respect. At times, we may engage in discussion of topics for which students may possess strong opinions. While disagreement is crucial to healthy discourse, I will not tolerate behavior that either impinges learning or results in personal attacks on others. At no time may any student insult or single out any other person on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, age, ethnicity, or nationality, etc. I will ask any student who commits such an offense to leave class and will dock their attendance grade accordingly.

Personal Electronic Devices: Students must turn off, not simply silence, their personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, PDAs, Ipods, MP3 players, etc.) prior to the start of class. Answering a cell phone, checking messages, or text messaging is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, no personal electronic devices are allowed during an exam under ANY circumstances. *Students caught texting, answering calls, or surfing the internet during class will be issued a warning. Repeated violations will result in the student being given an unexcused absence for that day.*

Students with Disabilities: Academic requirements will be modified, on a case by case basis, to afford qualified disabled students and applicants an equal opportunity. Course examinations or other procedures for evaluating a student's academic achievement will ensure to the extent reasonable possible that the results of the evaluation represent the student's ability without regard to his/her disability.

Course Schedule: This schedule is tentative. I reserve the right to change the schedule with timely notification.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
9/9/2010	Course Overview	None	
9/14/2010	Introduction to AFP	Ray, Chapter 1	
9/16/2010	Historical Overview of AFP	Ray, Chapter 2	
9/21/2010	Theoretical Approaches to Foreign Policy	Ray, Chapter 3	Simulation Begins (9/20)
9/23/2010	Theoretical Approaches to Foreign Policy	Ray, Chapter 3	Actor Overview Paper Due
9/28/2010	Economics and Foreign Policy	Ray, Chapter 4	
9/30/2010	Economics and Foreign Policy	Ray, Chapter 4	
10/5/2010	Public Opinion and Foreign Policy	Ray, Chapter 5	
10/7/2010	Public Opinion and Foreign Policy	Ray, Chapter 5; Handouts	
10/12/2010	Foreign Policy Institutions and Organizations	Ray, Chapter 6	
10/14/2010	Foreign Policy Institutions and Organizations	Ray, Chapter 6	
10/19/2010	Midterm Exam	None	
10/21/2010	American Grand Strategy	Bush Doctrine; Handouts	
10/26/2010	American Grand Strategy	Obama Doctrine; Handouts	Policy Proposal Paper Due
10/28/2010	U.S.-Europe Atlantic Alliance Revisited	Ray, Chapter 9	
11/2/2010	Afghanistan, Failed States, and the War on Terror	Handouts	
11/4/2010	Afghanistan, Failed States, and the War on Terror	Handouts	
11/9/2010	Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process	Ray, Chapter 13	
11/11/2010	No Class (will not meet on 11/10)		
11/16/2010	Middle East	Ray, Chapter 13	
11/18/2010	Nuclear Proliferation and Iran	Handouts	
11/23/2010	Catch-up Day	None	No simulation
11/25/2010	No Class (Thanksgiving)	None	No simulation
11/30/2010	Southeast Asia and China	Ray, Chapter 12; Handouts	
12/2/2010	Southeast Asia and China	Ray, Chapter 12; Handouts	Simulation Ends (12/5)
12/7/2010	Human Rights and Economic Development	Handouts	
12/9/2010	Human Rights and Economic Development	Handouts	Final Simulation Paper Due (12/10)
12/21/2010	Final Exam (11:30am-2:30pm)		Final Policy Paper Due