

PSC 335 American Foreign Policy

Course Syllabus Fall 2013

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Office: 505 Park Hall
Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Classroom: 228 NSC (Natural Sciences Complex)
Class schedule: TR 2-3:20 p.m.
Office hours: TR 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Teaching Assistant:
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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 textbooks for the course that can be purchased at the UB North Campus bookstore:

- Walter La Feber (2008) *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2006*, 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill. (listed in the syllabus as LaFeber)

In addition to this text, a number of book chapters, journal articles, and documents will also be required. They will be available on UB Learns 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 (6 double-spaced pages) and give a class presentation in PowerPoint on one 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 that will be graded entirely independently from the others' in the group. I will lay out the parameters for each group topic on **September 12**. Each student will have approximately 5-6 minutes for his/her individual presentation. To facilitate coordination among multiple topic preferences, by **September 17** 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 posted on UB Learns on **September 18** ("Project Group Assignments" file). After this list is posted, the groups will briefly meet in class on **September 26** to coordinate individual subtopic assignments within their topic. The deadlines for e-mailing Austin (ammitche@buffalo.edu) **electronic copies** of your PPT slides and essay are listed below. Also, 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., are provided in a separate file available on UB Learns ("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.

Summary of important dates:

September 12 - project overview

September 17 - deadline for submitting three out of five topic preferences (bring to class)

September 26 - a brief in-class meeting between group members to coordinate their individual subtopics

October 10 - First Exam

November 14 - Second Exam

November 18 - deadline for the projects to be presented on November 19-December 5

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

93-100 % (A); 90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+); 83-86.9% (B); 80-82.9% (B-);
77-77.9% (C+); 73-76.9% (C); 70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+); 63-66.9% (D); 60-62.9% (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.

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 to ammitch@buffalo.edu. Please adhere to the following courtesy policy for this course when e-mailing me or Austin: (1) use only your UB e-mail address; (2) do address me and Austin 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 Austin's confirmation. 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

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic grade of "F" for the course. You may find more information about academic dishonesty at: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>.

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

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

SCHEDULE

August 27

COURSE OVERVIEW

August 29

NO CLASS – THE INSTRUCTOR IS AT THE CONFERENCE

September 3

DIPLOMACY BEFORE WORLD WAR II

LaFeber, Walter. 2008. “The US Rise to World Power, 1776-1945.” In M. Cox & D. Stokes (eds.) *US Foreign Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 3 (pp. 45-60).

*posted on UBLearns

Kissinger, Henry. 1994. “The Hinge: Theodore Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson.” In H. Kissinger, *Diplomacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, Chapter 2 (pp. 29-55). *posted on UBLearns

September 5

NO CLASS – ROSH HASHANAH OBSERVED

September 10

WORLD WAR II DIPLOMACY

Document: [Atlantic Charter \(1941\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/atlantic.asp) <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/atlantic.asp>

Document: [Yalta Conference \(1945\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/yalta.asp) <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/yalta.asp>

LaFeber: Chapter 1. “Open Doors, Iron Curtains (1941-1945)”

September 12

PROJECT OVERVIEW

September 17-19

COLD WAR BEGINNINGS

Document: [Truman Doctrine \(1947\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp) http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp

LaFeber: Chapter 2. “Only Two Declarations of Cold War (1946)”

LaFeber: Chapter 3. “Two Halves of the Same Walnut (1947-1948)”

LaFeber: Chapter 4. “The 'Different World' of NSC-68 (1948-1950)”

REMINDER:

Each student needs to submit her/his top two topic preferences in class on **September 17**. An assignment sheet listing presentation groups and topics for all students will be posted on UB Learns on **September 18** (“Project Group Assignments” file). The groups will meet in class to coordinate their individual project assignments on **September 26**. The class-time reserved for this coordination meeting is up to 20 minutes, so do make sure to come with the prepared list of assignment preferences.

September 19-24

KOREA AND THE 1950s

LaFeber: Chapter 5. “Korea: The War for Both Asia and Europe”

LaFeber: Chapter 6. “New Issues, New Faces (1951-1953)”
LaFeber: Chapter 7. “A Different Cold War (1953-1955)”
LaFeber: Chapter 8. “East and West of Suez (1954-1957)”

September 26- October 1

FROM CUBA TO VIETNAM

Documentary: *War and Peace in the Nuclear Age #5: At the Brink* (1989) [will be shown in class on September 26]

LaFeber: Chapter 9. “New Frontiers and Old Dilemmas (1957-1962)” (read only pp. 216-228)

LaFeber: Chapter 10. “Southeast Asia--and Elsewhere (1962-1966)

Document: [Tonkin Gulf Incident \(1964\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/tonkin-g.asp) http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/tonkin-g.asp

October 3

THE DETENTE ERA

LaFeber: Chapter 11. “A New Containment: The Rise and Fall of Detente (1966-1976)”

LaFeber: Chapter 12. “From Cold War to Old War: Reagan and Gorbachev (1977-1989)”

October 8

THE END OF THE COLD WAR & THE POST-COLD WAR CHALLENGES

LaFeber: Chapter 13. “A New World Order—Or the Age of Fragmentation? (1989- 1993)”

LaFeber: Chapter 14. “The Post-Cold War Era of Fragmentation. Clinton, Yeltsin, and Back to Bush (1993-9/11, 2001)”

LaFeber: Chapter 15. “The World Turned Upside Down (2001-2006)”

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #1 Thursday, October 10</p>

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) (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>).

October 15

POLITICAL TRADITION, NATIONAL CULTURE AND FOREIGN POLICY

Mead, Walter Russell. 1999/2000. “The Jacksonian Tradition.” *The National Interest* No. 58.

*posted on UBLearns

Mead, Walter Russell. 1996. “Hamilton’s Way.” *World Policy Journal*, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 89-

106. *posted on UBLearns

October 17

SOCIETAL INFLUENCES I: PUBLIC OPINION

Rielly, John E. 1999. “Americans and the World: A Survey at Century’s End.” *Foreign Policy*,

No. 114 (Spring), pp. 97-114. *posted on UBLearns

- Murray, Shoon Kathleesn, and Christopher Spinoza. 2004. "The Post-9/11 Shift in Public Opinion: How Long Will It Last?" In Eugene R. Wittkopf and James M. McCormick, eds. *Domestic Sources of American Foreign Politics*, 4th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 97-115. *posted on UBLearns
- (Recommended: Page, Benjamin I., and Jason Barabas. 2000. "Foreign Policy Gaps between Citizens and Leaders." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 339-364. *posted on UBLearns)

October 22-24

SOCIETAL INFLUENCES II: MEDIA & INTEREST GROUPS

- Graber, Doris A. 2006. "Foreign Affairs Coverage." In Doris A. Graber, *Mass Media and American Politics*, 7th ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, Chapter 11 (pp. 318-359). *posted on UBLearns
- Smith, Tony. 2000. "Three. Historical Stages of Ethnic Group Influence" In Tony Smith, *Foreign Attachments: The Power of Ethnic Groups in the Making of American Foreign Policy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 47-84). *posted on UBLearns
- Kegley, Charles W., Jr., and Eugene R. Wittkopf. 2007. "A Military-Industrial Complex?" In *American Foreign Policy: Pattern and Process*, 7th ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 291-298. *posted on UBLearns

October 29

CONGRESS AND LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE RELATIONS

- Document: [War Powers Act \(1973\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/warpower.asp) http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/warpower.asp
- Lindsay, James M. 2003. "Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 3, pp. 530-546. *posted on UBLearns
- Fisher, Louis, and David Gray Adler. 1998. "The War Powers Resolution: Time to Say Goodbye." *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 113, No. 1, pp. 1-20. *posted on UBLearns
- (Recommended: Henkin, Louis. 1987. "Foreign Affairs and the Constitution." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 66, No. 2, pp. 284-310. *posted on UBLearns)

October 31-November 5

EXECUTIVE BRANCH I: PRESIDENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE

- Rosati, Jerel A., and James M. Scott. 2007. "Presidential Power and Leadership: Constitutional Roles and Strengths," In *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*, 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, pp. 68-72. *posted on UBLearns
- Aranson, Peter H. 1981. "Presidential Personality and Presidential Decision Making." In Peter H. Aranson, *American Government: Strategy and Choice*. Cambridge, MA: Winthrop, pp. 434-438. *posted on UBLearns
- US Congressional Research Service. 2009. *The National Security Council: An Organizational Assessment*. CRS Report for Congress (RL30840; June 8, 2009), by Richard A. Best, Jr., pp. 1-36. *posted on UBLearns

November 7-12

EXECUTIVE BRANCH II: FOREIGN POLICY BUREAUCRACY

Clarke, Duncan L. 1987. "Why State Can't Lead." *Foreign Policy*, No. 66 (Spring), pp. 128-142.

*posted on UBLearn

Scott, Andrew M. 1969. "The Department of State: Formal Organization and Informal Culture."

International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 1-18. *posted on UBLearn

Lehrer, Eli. 2004. "The Homeland Security Bureaucracy." *Public Interest*, No. 156 (Summer 2004), pp. 71-85. *posted on UBLearn

Jervis, Robert. 2006. "Reports, Politics, and Intelligence Failures: The Case of Iraq." *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 3-52. *posted on UBLearn

EXAM #2

Thursday, November 14

REMINDER:

Projects are due by November 18 (Monday) at 4 p.m.

November 28

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - NO CLASSES

November 19, 21 & 26, December 3-5

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

~ *Have a Good Winter Break* ~