American Foreign Policy
Winter 2014

Instructor: Professor Tomohito Shinoda
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About this course: This class seeks to provide students with a thorough understanding of American foreign relations. It will first cover the basic history of American diplomacy from the independence war to WWII, and the Cold-War period. Then, it will turn the decision making process of the current US foreign policy.

Organization: This course is lecture-based class, but the instructor encourages students to participate discussion in order to find out more details of the contents.

Course Grade: The course grade will be based on mid-term and final exam (60%), one oral report to the seminar on an journal article of choice (20%), and class attendance and participation in classroom discussions (20%) will account for the remainder of the course grade. In order to pass the class, you need to get at least 50 out of 100 points.

Policies: The students are expected to read all the reading materials and attend all the classes. One week absence would result in the deduction of 4 points. The adjustment can be made for the following two cases: sickness and family emergency. If you miss 40 percent of class without reasonable causes, you fail to pass.

Main Textbooks: The main textbook is Daniel S. Papp, Loch K. Johnson and John E. Endicott, American Foreign Policy: History, Politics and Policy, Pearson, 2005. In addition, the main readings are Henry Kissinger, Diplomacy, Touchstone Books, 1994; and James Nathan and James K. Oliver, Foreign Policy Making and the American Political System, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

Week 1 The Key Concepts and Principles of American Foreign Policy
International setting including the Balance of Power, Realism vs. Idealism, American principles of isolationism, moralism, pragmatism and unilateralism Required: Papp, Ch. 1-2.

Week 2 American Foreign Policy to WWII
This week deals with independence, early-period diplomacy, Monroe Doctrine, Manifest Destiny, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, and Isolationism Required: Papp, Ch. 3-5.
Kissinger, Ch.1,2, 3 and 4.

Week 3 The Cold-War Period
Roosevelt to Johnson Administrations and the strategy of Containment Nixon to Reagan administrations. Détente and the collapse of the Cold War
Required: Papp, Ch. 6
Recommended: Kissinger, Ch. 17-19, 25-30.

Week 4
The Post Cold-War Period
Bush-Clinton-Bush-Obama, the Gulf War to the 2003 Iraq War and Afghan
Required: Papp, Ch.7

Week 5
Mid-term Exam

U.S. Policy Toward Asia
U.S. policy toward Japan, China and Korean Peninsula

Week 6
Presidency and Bureaucracy in Foreign Policy
The presidency and the foreign policy bureaucracy
Required: Papp, Ch.8
Nathan and Oliver Chaps2-4.

Week 7
Congress and Foreign Policy
Congressional power, oversight
Required: Papp, Ch.9
Nathan and Oliver Chaps5-7.

Week 8
Interest Groups, Media, Public Opinion
Non-government actors and pluralism
Required: Nathan and Oliver Chaps9-11.

Week 9
National Security Policy
War, diplomacy, aid and other instruments of foreign policy
Required: Papp, Ch.10, 11, 14
Nathan and Oliver Chaps8, 12.

Week 10
Economic and Trade Policy
International Macroeconomic policy and trade issues
Required: Papp, Ch.13
Army lieutenant colonel to describe his concerns Trump’s Biden plot was undermining US foreign policy in Ukraine. Published: 9:58 AM. Alexander Vindman’s Trump-Ukraine testimony: five key takeaways. About 11,474 results for US foreign policy. Our current foreign policy - endless interventions, wars and occupations abroad - makes the American people more vulnerable to future terrorist attacks, and is bankrupting our nation. 2. How should we fight a “War on Terror”? A war on a tactic is a nonsensical and dangerous notion, and one that has led us into an open-ended conflict with no achievable goal.