

Lamar University
Department of Political Science
American Foreign Policy
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Office Hours: Office Hours: M & TH 8:30-9:30, T & W 12:30-1:30 or by appointment.

Course Description:

The objective of this course is for students to develop an understanding of American foreign policy and the international context in which it is made. The first section looks at the international system and the history of American foreign policy. The second section of the course explores how the domestic environment shapes foreign policy and the theories used to explain these policy decisions. The third section looks at the foreign policy tools available to a state.

Course Requirements:

Midterm Exams: There will be a total of two midterm exams in the class. Each will be worth 25% of your total grade. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essays.

Final Exam: The final exam is worth 25% of your total grade. The exam is cumulative. The exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essays.

Policy Brief: Research a U.S. foreign policy decision that you believe was a mistake and develop an alternative policy that the United States could have pursued. Your topic must be submitted for approval by 6/15. Failure to get approval of the topic will result in a one letter grade penalty. The paper should provide historical details about the nature of the problem, the policy that was selected and why you believe it was not a successful policy. Your alternative solution should include concepts and strategies that you learned in class. The brief should be 7 to 10 double spaced pages with proper citation. The brief must include at least 5 academic sources. **No internet sources are acceptable.** The brief is due on **July 9** at the beginning of class. Any brief received after 9:45 is subject to late penalties. The policy brief is worth 25% of the grade.

Potential Topics:

Rwanda (Clinton)
Steel Tariffs (G. W. Bush)
Iran Hostage Crisis (Carter & Reagan)
Nicaragua (Reagan)
Afghanistan (Carter)
Bay of Pigs (Kennedy)
Gulf War (G. H. W. Bush)

Penalties for Research Papers:

Short: -5 Points per Page
Long: -5 Points per Page
No Staple: -5 Points
Fonts Exceeding 12 Points: - 10 Points
Exceeding Double Spacing: -10 Points
Margins Exceeding 1.25": - 10 Points
Late: -10 Points per Day
No Citations: -40 Points
No Bibliography: -40 Points

Course Rules:

Cheating and Plagiarism - Cheating will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F in the class. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. I understand that plagiarism often occurs due to improper citation rather than students trying to cheat. I recommend the following web site if you are unsure about citation: <http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~phensel/citation.html>. Always err on the side of caution. It is better to over cite than under cite in the paper.

Make-Up Exams: Make-up exams will be given if students provide **prior** notification and a valid excuse for missing the exam. Make-up exams will only be given without prior notification in extreme circumstances. Make-up exams must be completed within a week of the exam date or within a week of the students return to school for prolonged absences. The format of the make-up exam may vary from the original exam. Students missing the exam are not eligible for a curve.

Attendance: Attendance is expected and required. Missing more than four days during the course of the semester will result in a reduction of points from your final grade. Each day missed beyond four will reduce your total points in the class by 25 percentage points. I do not have excused / unexcused absences (with the exception of Lamar sanctioned absences).

Classroom Behavior: Be respectful during lecture and discussion. Please turn cell phones off in class. Students may be asked to leave if they are deemed disruptive to the classroom environment.

Required Reading:

Hastedt, Glenn P. 2006. *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, Future, 6th Ed.* Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

CQ Press. 2007. *Global Issues, 2007 Edition.* Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

Grade Scale:

A = 90 – 100 B=80 – 89 C =70 – 79 D=60 – 69 F=0 – 59

Course Schedule:

6	4	Introduction	
6	5	The International Context	Hastedt Ch. 1 & 2
6	6	International Institutions	CQ 2
6	7	International Law	CQ 3
6	8	History of American Foreign Policy 1789-1945	Hastedt Ch. 3
6	11	History of American Foreign Policy 1945-1989	Hastedt Ch. 4
6	12	History of American Foreign Policy 1989-Present	CQ 12, 13
6	13	Foreign Policy Decision-Making	Hastedt Ch.11 & 12
6	14	Exam I	
6	15	No Class	
6	18	Constitution	Hastedt Ch. 7
6	19	Presidency	Hastedt Ch. 8
6	20	Bureaucracy	Hastedt Ch.10
6	21	Congress	Hastedt Ch. 9
6	22	The Domestic Context	Hastedt Ch. 6
6	25	Exam II	
6	26	Tools of Foreign Policy - Diplomacy	Hastedt Ch. 13
6	27	Tools of Foreign Policy - Covert Action	Hastedt Ch. 14, CQ 8
6	28	Tools of Foreign Policy - Economic Instrument	Hastedt Ch. 15, CQ 6
6	29	Tools of Foreign Policy - Economic Instrument	CQ 14, 15
7	2	Tools of Foreign Policy - Military Power	Hastedt Ch. 16
7	3	Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism	CQ 4 & 5
7	4	No Class	
7	5	Review Day	
7	6	Final Exam	
7	9	Papers Due	