

## American Foreign Policy Syllabus

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Office hours: by appointment  
Room and time: Wed. 16:45 – 18:15

Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88056683521?pwd=d0pKSCtsdHFHYjc2UUJpZjRpOTBXUT09>

### Course Description

This course offers a general introduction to the history, traditions, and theories of US foreign policy.

The course is divided into three parts. The first focuses on the key ideas and historical circumstances that shaped the thinking of the U.S. Foreign Policy decision-makers. The second part looks at the institutional framework of foreign policy decision-making. It analyzes the key dilemmas of American presidents in the XX century, from two World Wars to the end of the Cold War. The third part aims to describe the post-Cold War environment and the ongoing adaptation of U.S. foreign policy in recent decades, emphasizing the similarities and differences among the last four American presidents.

The main aim of the course is to develop students' capacity both to explain the foreign policy-making process in the U.S. and to understand better the underlying patterns, logic, and implications of American foreign policy in the world at large.

### Grade Breakdown:

- 40%: Group presentation
  - o Students will form small groups. Each group will make an interactive presentation to other students during the course.
- 30%: Op-Ed
  - o Students will submit an op-ed article related to the U.S. Foreign policy no later than May 4<sup>th</sup>. A brief presentation (up to 3 minutes long) on the topic chosen by the student for an op-ed will be made by each student on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The requirements for the op-ed will be presented during the introductory seminar.  
**Please send your papers to [afppapers@yahoo.com](mailto:afppapers@yahoo.com)**

- 30%: Seminar participation
  - o At the start of each seminar, a discussion will take place about recent/upcoming events (please use WaPo, NYT, WSJ, Politico, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, The Atlantic, Carnegie, Atlantic Council, Foreign Policy Research Institute, and other relevant sources). Students are also encouraged to ask questions and debate throughout the seminar.

Students must gain percentage points from each of the three activities to be evaluated for the course.

### Zoom Etiquette

- Join the Zoom session before the start time and test your microphone and webcam;
- Plan to be in a quiet room without potential interference and interruptions. Silence your phone;
- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking;
- Have your webcam on;
- Use the chat function to communicate technical issues.

### Students are encouraged to read the following series on the history of the American Foreign Policy

The New Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/series/new-cambridge-history-of-american-foreign-relations/4EA20F20B7C7641A4F120C34593B6CD7>

- Volume 1, Dimensions of the Early American Empire, 1754–1865
- Volume 2, The American Search for Opportunity, 1865–1913
- Volume 3, The Globalizing of America, 1913–1945
- Volume 4, Challenges to American Primacy, 1945 to the Present

### Class Schedule

	Date	Topics	Readings
I	Feb 9	Introduction to the Course and Op-Ed Requirements (via Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bret Stephens, “Opinion   Tips for Aspiring Op-Ed Writers,” <i>The New York Times</i>, January 20, 2018, sec. Opinion, <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/opinion/tips-for-aspiring-op-ed-writers.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/opinion/tips-for-aspiring-op-ed-writers.html</a></li> <li>- CEPOW, “Tips &amp; Tricks for Op-Ed Writing,” <i>Centre for Policy Writing</i> (blog), March 5, 2017,</li> </ul>

			<a href="http://www.cepow.org/tips-tricks-for-op-ed-writing">http://www.cepow.org/tips-tricks-for-op-ed-writing</a> .
	Feb 16	No Class - National Holiday	
<b>PART I: History and Ideas</b>			
II	Feb 23	America and the World (via Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adam Quinn, "The Founders Era Consensus: A Hercules in the Cradle," in <i>US Foreign Policy in Context: National Ideology from the Founders to the Bush Doctrine</i>. London: Routledge, 2010, p. 31-60</li> <li>- Washington's Farewell Address 1796 <a href="http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp">http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp</a></li> <li>- John Quincy Adams's Warning Against the Search for "Monsters to Destroy," 1821 <a href="https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/jqadams.htm">https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/jqadams.htm</a></li> <li>- The Federalist Papers #10, #39, #51, #64, #69, #75. <a href="https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/full-text">https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/full-text</a></li> </ul>
III	Mar 2	American Foreign Policy Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walter Russell Mead, "The American Foreign Policy Tradition," in <i>Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World</i>. New York, NY: Routledge, 2009, p. 132-263.</li> <li>- Walter Russell Mead, The Four Schools of American Foreign Policy <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQPHOsHi0OE&amp;t=">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQPHOsHi0OE&amp;t=</a></li> </ul>
IV	Mar 9	The Idea of American Exceptionalism (Guest lecture: John Shimkus) (via Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walter Russell Mead, "The Kaleidoscope of American Foreign Policy," in <i>Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World</i>. New York, NY: Routledge, 2009, 30-55.</li> <li>- Hilde Eliassen Restad, "Old Paradigms in History Die Hard in Political Science: US Foreign Policy and American</li> </ul>

			<p>Exceptionalism." American Political Thought, 1(1), 2012, p. 53-76.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K.J. Holsti, <i>Exceptionalism in American foreign policy: Is it exceptional?</i> European Journal of International Relations, 17(3), 381-404.</li> </ul>
V	Mar 16	The Roots of Anti-Americanism (Group 1 Presentation) (via Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brendon O'Connor, <i>Anti-Americanism and American Exceptionalism</i>. Routledge, 2020, p. 56-82.</li> <li>- America's Image Abroad Rebounds With Transition From Trump to Biden. June, 2021 <a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2021/06/10/americas-image-abroad-rebounds-with-transition-from-trump-to-biden/">https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2021/06/10/americas-image-abroad-rebounds-with-transition-from-trump-to-biden/</a></li> </ul>
<b>PART II: Key Dilemmas of XX century</b>			
VI	Mar 23	Institutional Framework (Guest Speaker) (Guest lecture: John Shimkus) (via Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- George C. Edwards et al., <i>Foreign and Defense Policy in Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy-Making</i> 10th Edition, 2018, p. 442-470.</li> <li>- Chris Coons, A Bipartisan Foreign Policy Is Still Possible. Foreign Affairs, October 7, 2020, <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-10-07/bipartisan-foreign-policy-still-possible">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-10-07/bipartisan-foreign-policy-still-possible</a></li> <li>- Jordan Tama, The Multiple Forms of Bipartisanship: Political Alignments in US Foreign Policy. Social Science Research Council, June 19, 2018, <a href="https://items.ssrc.org/democracy-papers/the-multiple-forms-of-bipartisanship-political-alignments-in-us-foreign-policy/">https://items.ssrc.org/democracy-papers/the-multiple-forms-of-bipartisanship-political-alignments-in-us-foreign-policy/</a></li> </ul>
VII	Mar 30	Op-Ed Draft Presentations (via Zoom)	
VIII	Apr 6	America as a Growing Power and Wilson's Liberal Dream (Group 2 Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walter Russell Mead, "The Connecticut Yankee in the Court of King Arthur: Wilsonianism and its Mission," in <i>Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World</i>. New York, NY: Routledge, 2009, 148-189.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erez Manela, <i>The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism</i>. Oxford University Press, 2007, p. 15-34.</li> <li>- Woodrow Wilson, War Message to Congress &lt;<a href="http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/war-message-to-congress/">http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/war-message-to-congress/</a>&gt;</li> <li>- President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points <a href="http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp">http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp</a></li> </ul>
	Apr 13	No Class - Easter	
IX	Apr 20	Cold War Years (Group 3 Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Henry Kissinger, "The United States: Ambivalent Superpower", in <i>World Order</i>. New York: Penguin Press, 2014, pp. 276-329.</li> <li>- Melvyn Leffler, <i>Divide and Invest. Why the Marshall Plan Worked</i>. Foreign Affairs; New York Vol. 97 (4), 2018, p. 170-175. Harry Truman's address to Congress, 1947, 'Truman Doctrine.' <a href="http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp">http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp</a></li> <li>- The Chargé in the Soviet Union (Kennan) to the Secretary of State, February 1, 1946 "The Long Telegram" <a href="https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu//coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm">https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu//coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm</a></li> <li>- Mortin Mintz, Why Didn't We Bomb Auschwitz? <i>Washington Post</i>, April, 1983 <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1983/04/17/why-didnt-we-bomb-auschwitz/a9053a8f-eb12-4bd3-9090-0837c4141baf/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1983/04/17/why-didnt-we-bomb-auschwitz/a9053a8f-eb12-4bd3-9090-0837c4141baf/</a> (recommended)</li> </ul>
<b>PART III: Contemporary Challenges</b>			
IX	Apr 27	No Class	

X	May 4	Post-Cold War World Order and The End of Unipolar System: Obama (Group 4 Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment". Foreign Affairs 70 (1), 1990/1991, p. 23-33.</li> <li>- Thomas Lynch, In the Shadow of the Cold War. Cambridge University Press, 2020, p. 50-161</li> <li>- Robert Kagan, "Superpowers don't get to retire. What our tired country still owes the world". New Republic, May 26, 2014.</li> <li>- Thomas Lynch, In the Shadow of the Cold War. Cambridge University Press, 2020, p. 162-223</li> </ul> <p>Optional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jeffrey Goldberg, The Obama Doctrine. The Atlantic, April 2016. <a href="https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-obama-doctrine/471525/">https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-obama-doctrine/471525/</a></li> </ul>
XI	May 11	Foreign Policy of Donald Trump (Group 5 Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stanley Renshon, The Trump Doctrine and Conservative American Nationalism. In Stanley Renshon, Peter Suedfeld (ed.), The Trump Doctrine and the Emerging International System. Palgrave, 2021, p. 3-38</li> <li>- Peter Suedfeld, Bradford H. Morrison, Lawrence A. Kuznar, National Interests and the Trump Doctrine: The Meaning of "America First" In Stanley Renshon, Peter Suedfeld (ed.), The Trump Doctrine and the Emerging International System. Palgrave, 2021, p. 39-70</li> <li>- Henry R. Nau, Trump and America's Foreign Policy Traditions. In Stanley Renshon, Peter Suedfeld (ed.), The Trump Doctrine and the Emerging International System. Palgrave, 2021, p. 71-97</li> </ul>
XII	May 18	US and Russia (Guest lecture: John Shimkus) (via Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gabriele Natalizia, Marco Valigi, From Reset to Restart: The US-Russia Cyclical Relationship in the Post-Cold War Era.</li> </ul>

			<p>Italian Journal of International Affairs, Vol. 55, Issue 3, 2020, p. 65-81.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Michael McFaul, How to Contain Putin's Russia. Foreign Affairs, January 2021  <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2021-01-19/how-contain-putins-russia">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2021-01-19/how-contain-putins-russia</a></li> </ul>
XIII	May 25	US and China (Group 6 Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Longer Telegram. Toward a new American China strategy. Atlantic Council, January 2021  <a href="https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/atlantic-council-strategy-paper-series/the-longer-telegram/">https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/atlantic-council-strategy-paper-series/the-longer-telegram/</a></li> <li>- VIDEO. Graham Allison, Destined for War: America &amp; China. Talks at Google, 2017  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDZAVNPbtBg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDZAVNPbtBg</a></li> </ul>