OVERVIEW: U.S. foreign policy is a wide-ranging and daunting topic for a single course to cover. Thus, this course covers a wide range of topics, issues, and events. That being said, no single course on such a wide-ranging topic can promise to be fully comprehensive. The intention of the course is to provide the necessary tools to think analytically about U.S. foreign policy while also providing some essential historical background. Major topics in the course include theories of rational decision making, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and the emergence of terrorism and insurgency as major foci of U.S. policy.

U.S. foreign policy is a topic that is in the news on a daily, if not hourly basis. Students are expected to come to each class prepared to discuss current events, integrating what we have learned in the course into the discussions. To ensure that such discussions are fruitful, it is required that students consult print news sources (e.g., newspapers, periodicals) on a daily basis. Newspapers are available at numerous locations on campus as well as on internet sites such as: www.washingtonpost.com, www.nytimes.com, www.foxnews.com, www.cnn.com, www.pbs.org, or news.bbc.co.uk.

GRADING: Final grades for this course are determined as follows:

- First Examination - 30%
- Second Examination - 30%
- Quizzes - 20%
- Topic Presentation - 10%
- Participation - 10%

Below are more detailed explanations of each of the four components to the final grade.
1. **Topic Presentation:** An approximately 5–7 minute presentation that addresses a topic of contemporary relevance to American Foreign Policy. The topics are to be based on a newspaper article or set of articles that have been published in the last 12 months. The topics are to be chosen by the students. The presentations should explore an important event, policy area, or issue that relates to American foreign policy and connect it to at least one of the theoretical ideas covered in the class. Thus, the main purpose is to take a contemporary news story or event and to try to explain or understand it with the theoretical tools learned in the course.

2. **Examinations:** Two in-class examinations will be given during the course. The exams will consist of two sections: identification of key concepts and essay. The identification section will list 8–10 key concepts or ideas from the course readings and lectures of which students will need to choose 6–8 to explain. The concept should be correctly explained and then briefly applied to an actual example from the readings or from current events. The essay portion of the exams will consist of 3 questions of which students must choose 2 to answer. All identification concepts and essay questions will come directly from the readings and lectures, so exams will reward all who have kept up with the work. The second examination will focus mostly on material covered since the first examination; however, concepts covered previous to the first examination will inevitably come up, as the topics in the course are all closely linked.

3. **Participation:** Active participation in class discussions are important to ensure that everyone benefits as much as possible from the course. A baseline for the participation grade is simply attendance. It is quite hard for me to award a good participation grade to students who are not in class. Beyond that, students are expected to weigh in on class discussions in a way that demonstrates they have done the readings and more importantly, given some serious thought to them. While there are no hard and fast rules, I should generally observe good contribution to discussions from each student at least once a week. However, please note that I assess contributions for their quality rather than their quantity.
Below is the grading scale for all parts of the final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

READING: The readings are from the required books as well as numerous scholarly articles. Most of the articles are posted on ANGEL, otherwise they are all available electronically through the library website. The three required books are:


COURSE SCHEDULE


12. **February 18: No Class — International Studies Association Conference**


16. **March 4: First Examination.**

17. **March 9: Spring Break**

18. **March 11: Spring Break**


28. **April 15: Second Examination.**

29. **April 20: Topic Presentations.**

30. **April 22: Topic Presentations.**

31. **April 27: Topic Presentations.**

32. **April 29: Topic Presentations.**
SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Students with documented disabilities who require special accommodations should meet with me and express their needs during the first two weeks of the class. All discussions will remain confidential. I want to do whatever possible to assure each student full and rewarding participation in the course.

ABSENCES

If a student anticipates missing a day or more of class due to a scheduling conflict, please let me know as far in advance as possible. I will try to be as accommodating as possible for legitimate conflicts, but need to be informed at least a week in advance if possible. If an emergency situation arises or a student needs to miss a course for medical reasons, relevant documentation will be required to excuse the student for missing class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The Department of Political Science, along with the College of the Liberal Arts and the University, takes violations of academic dishonesty seriously. Observing basic honesty in one’s work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe.

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless an instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. Students uncertain about proper citation are responsible for checking with their instructor.

In an examination setting, unless the instructor gives explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is in class or take home, violations of academic integrity shall consist but are not limited to any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance, whether the one so doing has completed his or her own work or not.

Lying to the instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity.

In cases of any violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Political Science to follow procedures established by the College of the Liberal Arts. More information on academic integrity and procedures followed for violation can be found at: http://www.la.psu.edu/CLA-Academic_Integrity/integrity.shtml

DISABILITIES

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people
shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for all students with disabilities, but it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor early in the term. Do not wait until just before an exam to decide you want to inform the instructor of a learning disability; any accommodations for disabilities must be arranged well in advance.