



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

**Political Science and International Relations Programme**

Trimester 2, 2008

**INTP/POLS212: SPECIAL TOPIC: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY**

CRN 15528

- Course Coordinator:** Dr Virginie Grzelczyk
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- Office Hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9am-11am and by appointment
- Seminar Meetings:** Mondays and Thursdays, 4.10pm – 5.00pm
- Venue:** Hugh McKenzie Lecture theatre 206 (HM206)
- Tutorial Meetings:** TBA
- Additional Information:** All supplementary materials and additional information will be available on the course's Blackboard page URL:  
<http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

**Course Description:**

As one of the most powerful economies and militaries in the world, the United States' involvement in the international scene has spanned many centuries. After gaining independence from Britain and waging war against Mexico for example, the United States became a major power in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and its involvement in global wars as well as its development and usage of nuclear power has led Washington to be a major decider in matters of military, economic development, democratization and human rights for example. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century however, the United States is facing challenges coming from internal political divisions on topics such as the War in Iraq, as well as external pressures regarding human rights and the environment for example.

This class will focus on understanding how the United States' foreign policy has been crafted yesterday, and how it is crafted today. We will be looking at determinants of foreign policy such as Washington's understanding of freedom and its perception of its power and role in the world, as well as its military and economic capabilities. The course will focus on theories attempting to explain the United States' choices in its foreign policy conduct, and will pay special attention to important cases such as the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, the Nixon-Mao rapprochement, relationship with the ex-Soviet Union, as well as contemporary American involvement with non-state actors such as Al Qaeda for example. Finally, we will pay close attention to the 2008 American Presidential Election and on how candidates' outlook on foreign policy might direct the United States' future.

### Course Objectives:

- To familiarize students with broad themes in American Foreign Policy, and how such policy has been articulated through the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- To enable students to understand the role of the American government apparatus, and decision-making in aiming at crafting a cohesive foreign policy in times of peace and in times of war,
- To enable students to develop and expand their critical and analytical thinking of several crises initiated, mitigated, or resolved by the United States.

### Assessment:

Presentations	worth <b>10%</b> of your total course mark
One movie-essay (2,500 words)	worth <b>25%</b> of your total course mark, due <u>Thursday 14 August 2008</u>
Final essay (2,500 words)	worth <b>25%</b> of your total course mark, due <u>Thursday 9 October 2008</u>
Final exam	worth <b>40%</b> of your total course mark

Participation will be assessed through in-class interactions and discussions that will focus on assigned readings as well as presentation of position papers on assigned readings during the tutorial sessions.

**One movie-essay (2,500 words)** worth **25%** of the total course mark will enable students to be creative by selecting a movie related to American Foreign Policy and analyzing its themes and specific scenes in order to present a discussion of a process, topic, or outcome of U.S. Foreign Policy.

**A final essay (2,500 words)** worth **25%** of the total course mark will allow students to investigate in-depth a particular aspect of American Foreign Policy and reflect upon their understanding of trends and arguments debated during the term.

**A three-hour examination**, worth **40%** of the total course mark will require students to be cognisant of both the strategies and trends discussed in class and of the various case-studies analyzed. Students will be asked to answer a combination of multiple-choice questions focusing on facts, short-answer questions focusing on specific concepts and essay questions linking theories to practice. **The exam will be held during the exam period, 17 October to 9 November 2008. The exact date and location will be announced nearer the time.**

### Mandatory Course Requirements:

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- (a) submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- (b) attend 8 of the 11 tutorials. Active participation will be expected, through in-class discussion, and presentations.
- (c) sit the final exam at the end of the course

### Required Reading:

- (AE) Hastedt, Glenn P. 2008. "ANNUAL EDITIONS: American Foreign Policy 07/08." 13<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- (TS) Bennett, Andrew and George Shambaugh. 2008. "TAKING SIDES: Clashing Views American Foreign Policy," 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- (W) Wittkopf, Eugene R., et al. 2007. "American Foreign Policy: Pattern and Process." 7<sup>th</sup> Edition: Thomson Wadsworth.
- (P) Paterson, Thomas G., et al. 2004. "American Foreign Relations: Volume 2: Since 1895." Houghton Mifflin.

### Expected Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to reading, writing, and researching material for this course. This includes the 2 hours seminar per week.

## Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

## Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

## Seminar Topics

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### Week 1: Overview

#### **Lectures:**

1. Monday July 7: Introduction
  
2. Thursday, July 10: Overview of American Foreign Policy
  - (W) Ch1. In Search of American Foreign Policy: A Thematic Introduction.
  - (TS) Issue 1. Is American Hegemony Good for the United States and the World?
    - YES: Michael Mandelbaum, from "David's Friend Goliath," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2006)
    - NO: Jack Snyder, from "Imperial Temptations," *The National Interest* (Spring 2003)

#### **Tutorial:**

There is no tutorial this week

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### Week 2: Theories, Mechanics and Strategies (1/2)

#### **Lectures:**

3. Monday July 14: Theories of American Foreign Policy (1/2)
  - (W) Ch2. Pattern & Process in American Foreign Policy: An Analytical Perspective.
  
4. Thursday July 17: Theories of American Foreign Policy (2/2)
  - (W) Ch3. Principle, Power, & Pragmatism: The Goals of the American Foreign Policy in Historical Perspective.

#### **Tutorial:**

- (TS) Issue 14. Does Domestic Spying Help the United States?
    - YES: Charles Krauthammer, from "How Do You Think We Catch the Bad Guys?" *Time* (January 9, 2006)
    - NO: Bob Barr, from "Presidential Snooping Damages the Nation," *Time* (January 9, 2006)
  
  - (AE) 15. The Tipping Points, Daniel Yankelovich, *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006
  
  - (AE) 3. The Dilemma of the Last Sovereign, Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The American Interest*, Autumn 2005
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### Week 3: Theories, Mechanics and Strategies (2/2)

#### **Lectures:**

5. Monday July 21: American Mechanics and Grand Strategies (1/2)
  - (W) Ch8. Americans' Values, Beliefs & Preferences: Political Culture & Public Opinion in Foreign Policy.
  - Ch11. The Foreign Policy Bureaucracy and Foreign Policy Making.
  
6. Thursday July 24: American Mechanics and Grand Strategies (2/2)
  - (W) Ch12. Congress and Foreign Policy Making.
  - Ch13. The Process of Decision Making: Roles, Rationality, & the Impact of Bureaucratic Organizations.

**Tutorial:**

- (AE) 4. The Eagle Has Crash Landed, Immanuel Wallerstein, *Foreign Policy*, July/August 2002
- (AE) 25. America's Sticky Power, Walter Russell Mead, *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2004
- (AE) 5. Strategic Fatigue, Graham E. Fuller, *The National Interest*, Summer 2006
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Week 4: America's Majors Wars: WWI, WWII, Cold War, Korean War (1/2)**Lectures:**

7. Monday, July 28: World War I  
(P) Ch2. Managing, Policing, and Extending the Empire, 1900-1914  
Ch3. War, Peace, and Revolution in the Time of Wilson, 1914-1920  
Ch4. Descending into Europe's Maelstrom, 1920-1939
8. Thursday, July 31: World War II (CNN Ep3 Marshall Plan)  
(P) Ch5. Asia, Latin America, and the Vagaries of Power, 1920-1939  
Ch6. Survival and Spheres: The Allies and the Second World War, 1939-1945

**Tutorial:**

- (AE) 18. The Truman Standard, Derek Chollet and James Goldgeier, *The American Interest*, Summer 2006
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Week 5: America's Majors Wars: WWI, WWII, Cold War, Korean War (2/2)**Lectures:**

9. Monday, August 4: Cold War Origins and Conduct  
(P) Ch7. All-Embracing Struggle: The Cold War Begins, 1945-1950
10. Thursday, August 7: Korean War (CNN Ep5 Korea)  
(P) Ch8. Global Watch: The Korean War and Eisenhower Foreign Relations, 1950-1961

**Tutorial:**

- (AE) 30. A Nuclear Posture for Today, John Deutch, *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2005
- (TS) Issue 11. Should the United States Seek Negotiations and Engagement with North Korea?  
YES: David Kang, from "The Debate over North Korea," *Political Science Quarterly* (vol. 119, no. 2, 2004)  
NO: Victor Cha, from "The Debate over North Korea," *Political Science Quarterly* (vol. 119, no. 2, 2004)
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Week 6: Cold War Crises**Lectures:**

- (W) Monday, August 11: The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis  
(Video) CNN Ep10 Cuba
11. Thursday, August 14: Other Cold War Crises  
Debrief Cuba  
DUE: Movie Essay

**Tutorial:**

- (AE) 31. Apocalypse Soon, Robert S. McNamara, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2005
- (AE) 7. The United States and Russia in Central Asia: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, Fiona Hill, *The Brookings Institution*, July 24, 2004
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**MID-SEMESTER BREAK: Monday 18 August to Friday 29 August**Week 7: American and the Third World (1/2)**Lecture:**

12. Thursday, September 4: The Indochina War, 1950-1975 (1/2)  
(P) Ch9. Passing the Torch: The Vietnam Years, 1961-1969

**Tutorial:**

- (AE) The Need for a Military Draft: Protecting Superpower Status, Phillip Carter and Paul Glastris, *Current*, June 2005
- (TS) Issue 3. Should Promoting Democracy Abroad Be a Top U.S. Priority?  
YES: Joseph Siegle, from "Developing Democracy: Democratizers' Surprisingly Bright Development Record," *Harvard International Review* (Summer 2004)  
NO: Tamara Cofman Wittes, from "Arab Democracy, American Ambivalence," *The Weekly Standard* (February 23, 2004)
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Week 8: American and the Third World (2/2)**Lectures:**

13. Monday, September 8: The Indochina War, 1950-1975 (2/2)  
(P) Ch10. Détente and Disequilibrium, 1969-1977
14. Thursday, September 11: Other American interventions (CNN Ep17)  
(P) Ch11. To Begin the World Over Again: Carter, Reagan, and Revivalism, 1977-1989

**Tutorial:**

- (TS) Issue 12. Is U.S. Support for Israel a Key Factor in America's Difficulties in the Middle East?  
YES: John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt and John Mearsheimer, from "The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy," *Middle East Policy* (Fall, 2006)  
NO: Josef Joffe, from "A World Without Israel," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2005)
- (TS) Issue 21. Can Humanitarian Intervention Be Justified?  
YES: Kenneth Roth, from "Setting the Standard: Justifying Humanitarian Intervention," *Harvard International Review* (Spring 2004)  
NO: Alan J. Kuperman, from "Humanitarian Hazard: Revising Doctrines of Intervention," *Harvard International Review* (Spring 2004)
- (AE) Base Politics, Alexander Cooley, *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2005
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Week 9: National Security Policy, Foreign Economic Policy

**Lectures:**

15. Monday, September 15: American National Security Policy, 1945-present  
 (W) Ch4. Instruments of Global Influence: Military Might & Interventionism.  
 (W) Ch5. Instruments of Global Influence: Covert Activities, Foreign Aid, Sanctions & Public Diplomacy.
16. Thursday, September 18: American Foreign Economic Policy, 1945-present  
 (W) Ch6. Principle, Power & Pragmatism in the Twenty-First Century: The International Political System in Transition  
 (W) Ch7. World Political Economy in Transition: Opportunities & Constraints in a Globalizing World Political Economy.

**Tutorial:**

- (TS) Issue 10. Is China's Rise Threatening to the United States?  
 YES: John Mearsheimer, from "China's Unpeaceful Rise," *Current History* (April 2006)  
 NO: Dennis J. Blasko, from "Rumsfeld's Take on the Chinese Military: A Dissenting View," *Current History* (September 2006)
- (TS) Issue 16. Is Economic Globalization Good for the United States?  
 YES: Murray Weidenbaum, from "Globalization Is Not a Dirty Word," *Vital Speeches of the Day* (March 1, 2001)  
 NO: Robert Kuttner, from "Globalism Bites Back," *The American Prospect* (March/April 1998)

Week 10: Current Crises and Future Policies (1/3)

**Lectures:**

17. Monday, September 22: The U.S. War on Terror  
 (P) Ch12. Imperial America: The United States and the World Since 1989
18. Thursday, Wednesday, September 25: Bush Administration Foreign Policy  
 (W) Ch10. Presidential Preeminence in Foreign Policy Making.

**Tutorial:**

- (TS) Issue 4. Was the War in Iraq Justified?  
 YES: James Lacey, from "The Threat Saddam Posed: A Dictator and His WMD," *National Review* (April 2006)  
 NO: John Judis and Spencer Ackerman, from "The Selling of the Iraq War: The First Casualty," *The New Republic* (June 30, 2003)
- (AE) 29. The Terrorism Index, *Foreign Policy*, July/August 2006
- (TS) Issue 2. Should the United States Have an Official Strategy of Preemption Against Potential Weapons of Mass Destruction Threats?  
 YES: President George W. Bush, from "The National Security Strategy of the United States of America," *National Security Strategy* (September 20, 2002)  
 NO: Ivo H. Daalder and James M. Lindsay, from "Bush's Revolution," *Current History* (November 2003)

Week 11: Current Crises and Future Policies (2/3)**Lectures:**

19. Monday, September 29: Bush Administration Foreign Policy (cont'd)  
(W) Ch14. Leader Characteristics and Foreign Policy Performance.
20. Thursday, October 2: Contemporary Debate on Upcoming Policy  
(W) Ch9. The Transmission of Values, Beliefs & Preferences: Interest Groups, Mass Media & Presidential Elections.

**Tutorial:**

- (TS) Issue 2. Should the United States Have an Official Strategy of Preemption Against Potential Weapons of Mass Destruction Threats?  
YES: President George W. Bush, from "The National Security Strategy of the United States of America," *National Security Strategy* (September 20, 2002)  
NO: Ivo H. Daalder and James M. Lindsay, from "Bush's Revolution," *Current History* (November 2003)
- (TS) Issue 15. Is Loosening Immigration Regulations Good for the United States?  
YES: George W. Bush, from "Letting the People Who Contribute to Society Stay," *Vital Speeches of the Day* (May 15, 2006)  
NO: Mark Krikorian, from "Not So Realistic: Why Some Would-Be Immigration Reformers Don't Have the Answer," *National Review* (September 12, 2005)
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Week 12: Current Crises and Future Policies (3/3)**Lectures:**

21. Monday, October 6: America and Rogues States
22. Thursday, October 9: Future of American Foreign Policy  
(W) Ch15. Beyond Bush: The Future of American Foreign Policy.  
DUE: Final Essay

**Tutorial:**

- (TS) Issue 13. Has the Department of Homeland Security Been a Success?  
YES: Tom Ridge, from Testimony before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs (September 13, 2004)  
NO: Michael Crowley, from "Playing Defense: Bush's Disastrous Homeland Security Department," *The New Republic* (March 15, 2004)
- (AE) 22. Law, Liberty and War, Anne-Marie Slaughter and Jeremy Rabkin, *The American Interest*, Summer 2006
- (TS) Issue 8. Should the United States Preemptively Attack Iranian Nuclear Facilities?  
YES: Mario Loyola, from "Before They Go Nuclear: Iran and the Question of Preemption," *National Review* (August 28, 2006)  
NO: Edward N. Luttwak, from "Three Reasons Not to Bomb Iran--Yet!" *Commentary* (May 2006)
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