

POSC 125: American Foreign Policy Since WWII

University of California, Riverside

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Summer Session B, 2017

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Office Hours: M, 10 AM - 12 PM / T, 12 PM - 2 PM Class Hours: M/W, 12:10 - 3:00 PM

Office: 2121E Watkins Hall

Class Room: INTS 1113

Course Description

During this class, we will be examining the shape, scope, and direction of American Foreign Policy in the post-World War II era. We will be examining the contemporary era by first examining what foreign policy is, approaches to American foreign policy, mounting tensions within the new world order, conflicts in the Middle East, and the status of the United States as a global superpower through its relationship with other countries (including China). To assess US foreign policy, we will analyze the views of principal policymakers, the impact of US foreign policy-making institutions, the role of international organizations, and the interests of US allies and adversaries.

Course Objectives

There are several objectives we want to achieve in this course:

- Investigate how US foreign policy is made (and unmade)
- Understand the actors, forces, and factors shaping US Foreign Policy
- Analyze the successes and failures of US Foreign Policy
- Gauge American responses to different strategic challenges and global threats
- Determine to what extent the US has capably managed global institutions
- Assess the effectiveness in fighting the War on Terror

Prerequisites

Upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

Course Structure

Class Structure

As this is a 4-unit course, grading is facilitated through three assignments that are turned in online via iLearn (two memos, or short reports, and a final paper) as well as lecture attendance.

Assignments

The weights associated with each of the course assignments are as follows:

- Lecture Attendance (5%)
- Memo 1 (Assigned Week 1, Due Week 2: 25%)
- Memo 2 (Assigned Week 2, Due Week 3: 25%)
- Final Paper (Assigned Week 3, Due Week 5: 45%)

There is one guaranteed opportunity for extra credit in the course.

- Conflict Report 3 (Assigned Week 3, Due Week 4: 5% Extra Credit)

Lecture Attendance and Lecture Discussions

Lecture Attendance will be taken randomly once per week. As there are five (5) weeks during the Summer, this amounts to 1% per week.

During three specific lectures outlined in the course schedule, students will be presented with questions relating to the material that week. Students will need to answer these questions in groups and be asked to present their responses in class. These questions are open-book and require critical thinking rather than definitional knowledge. In this way, if you are following along with the lectures and supplemental readings, it is suggested you read and review *before* the discussion.

Final Paper

Information on the final paper will be distributed at the start of Week 3.

Grading Policy

The typical University of California, Riverside grading scale will be used. I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall class grades at the end of the quarter (not before it). Any curve will only ever make it easier to obtain a certain letter grade.

The grade grading scale is as follows:

A+ = 100%	B+ = 87 - 89.99%	C+ = 77 - 79.99%	D+ = 67 - 69.99%
A = 94 - 99.99%	B = 84 - 86.99%	C = 74 - 76.99%	D = 64 - 66.99%
A- = 90 - 93.99%	B- = 80 - 83.99%	C- = 70 - 73.99%	D- = 60 - 63.99%

Grades 59.99% and lower will receive an F.

Textbooks

As lectures, assignments, and exams will be predominantly based on the book listed below, it is highly recommended that students obtain the following:

- Steven Hook, and John Spanier. 2016. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II* (20th Edition). Sage Publishing.

While the notes are comprehensive due to the intensive nature of Summer session courses, you will be held responsible for the material assigned from the book. See the **Weekly Schedule** section of the syllabus for chapter assignments related to each lecture.

Course Policies

During Lecture

Mobile devices and electronic recording devices are allowed during lecture. However, while you are allowed to use electronic devices during lecture, this is not *carte blanche* to do whatever you wish during lecture on your mobile devices. Please refrain from using mobile devices for anything but activities related to the course.

Eating and drinking are allowed in lecture but please refrain from it affecting the course. Be courteous of others.

Attendance Policy

As this is a summer course, we are moving through material twice as fast as we would otherwise. Moreover, the material is complex and may become overwhelming if you do not attend lecture. While I cannot force you to attend lecture, I suggest you attend as many lectures as you can. If there is an issue preventing you from attending, do come see me.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be deducted one (1) whole letter grade for every twelve (12) hours it is late, up to a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours. After forty-eight (48) hours, the student will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment.

Emergencies and Exceptional Circumstances

Should an emergency arise, a student must contact the Instructor as soon as possible, and preferably before a course session. Any emergencies must be accompanied by evidence (i.e., note from a Doctor as evidence of having been in a hospital). Routine checkups are not considered medical emergencies and should thus be discussed with the Instructor as soon as possible *before* they occur. Any accidents must be accompanied by photographic evidence by email. Failure to contact the Instructor in a timely manner will result in a judgment call on the Instructor's part and is completely dependent on the gravity of the situation. In all cases, the Instructor's decision on the matter is final.

Challenging a Grade

Students who wish to challenge a grade are required to submit a written grievance, which includes: the reasons for their dissatisfaction, the grade received, and what grade they believe is merited. Reasons why the requested grade is merited should be supported by evidence from the assignment in question to justify this appeal. The written grievance should be submitted at least two business days before meeting with the Instructor to discuss the assignment. If you choose to appeal your grade, the Instructor reserves the right to issue a grade that is lower than the existing grade. This second, post-appeal decision is final. *The deadline to challenge and possibly change a grade is within forty-eight (48) hours after the posting of the grade on iLearn.*

Academic Integrity and Honesty

UCR has a detailed and strict academic dishonesty policy. Please review [Section 6 of the Academic Senate Bylaws](#). There is zero tolerance for any type of academic dishonesty (note: using your own past work is plagiarism if it is not cited appropriately). **If you violate this policy, you will receive an "F" in the course and be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.**

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities seeking accommodation services should contact the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) as soon as possible for accommodations. They are located at 125 Costo Hall and can be reached at (951) 827-3861. Accommodations take time and should be done well in advance. We cannot accommodate you last minute so it necessary you seek accommodations well in advance. For this reason, you should contact the SDRC within the first week of the course if you do need accommodations.

Respect for Others

Discriminatory/hateful/pejorative and/or demeaning language will not be tolerated. All participants must feel comfortable asking questions and speaking, as voicing one's ideas is essential to the learning experience. Please be respectful of all questions, ideas and views. You will be asked to leave if you disrespect anyone and/or exhibit any form of the above, and you will automatically receive a zero (0) for any graded assignments due that day. This zero (0) grade cannot be made up under any circumstances.

DISCLAIMER: This Course Contains Mature Content

Like most university-level courses, this course deals with material that may be controversial and sensitive for some people. Often, these topics may invoke strong responses based on political affiliation, religious beliefs, personal identity, and experiences. While we will need to engage with such details at times, they will not be the focus of our inquiry. You should nevertheless be prepared to encounter these references. If you have any concerns about any of the material we will be covering in this course at any time, please see do not hesitate to come see me.

Weekly Schedule

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. As this is a Summer course, every course session is equivalent to approximately one (1) week's worth of material during the regular quarter session.

Week 01, 07/31 - 08/04: Introduction to (American) Foreign Policy / The Path to the Cold War

Monday, July 31

- Agenda:
 - Syllabus and Overview
 - The American Approach to Foreign Policy
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 1
- Assignments:
 - **Memo 1 Assigned**

Wednesday, August 2

- Agenda:
 - From World War to Cold War
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 2.

Week 02, 08/07 - 08/11: The Containment and Détente Approaches to World Politics

Monday, August 7

- Agenda:
 - Containment: From Theory to Practice
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 3.
- Assignments:
 - **Memo 1 Due (Online via iLearn)**
 - **Memo 1 Assigned**

Wednesday, August 9

- Agenda:
 - Détente and World-Order politics
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 5.

Week 03, 08/14 - 08/18: Changes and Conflict Rising

Monday, August 14

- Agenda:
 - Breakthroughs in the Superpower Struggle
 - Old Tensions in a New Order
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 6.
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 8.

Wednesday, August 16

- Agenda:
 - The Shifting European Landscape
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 9.
- Assignments:
 - **Memo 2 Due (Online via iLearn)**
 - **Final Paper Assigned**
 - **Memo 3 (Extra Credit) Assigned**

Week 04, 08/21 - 08/25: Towards the Middle East

Monday, August 21

- Agenda:
 - Hot Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 11.

Wednesday, August 23

- Agenda:
 - Aftershocks of the Arab Spring
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 13.
- Assignments:
 - **Memo 3 (Extra Credit) Due (Online via iLearn)**

Week 05, 08/28 - 09/01: Power Politics and Wrap-up

Monday, August 28

- Agenda:
 - The Revival of Power Politics
- Readings:
 - Hook and Spanier (2016): Ch. 14.

Wednesday, August 30

- Agenda:
 - Wrap-Up
 - Concluding Thoughts
- Assignments:
 - **Final Paper Due (Online via iLearn)**