

# GOV 312L ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY

The University of Texas at Austin - Fall 2021

<b>Instructor:</b>	Laura de Castro Quaglia	<b>Class Time:</b>	MWF 9-10AM
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<b>Office:</b>	Mezes 3.224	<b>Course Number:</b>	312L
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MWF 10-11AM (hybrid)	<b>Unique Number:</b>	38864

## Course Description:

The study of Foreign Policy stands at a junction point between domestic politics and international relations. Scholars and policymakers straddle two environments: the domestic and the international one. The domestic environment offers the background of foreign policymaking: a country's values, culture, resources, level of development, geographical position, and its demographic structure serve as the context for the formulation of foreign policy. In turn, the international environment, with its other actors - both State and non-state - is where foreign policy is implemented and where countries get feedback on their policies. In this course we will broach both theoretical - what is foreign policy? what is the role of the president in shaping foreign policy? what is the American tradition for foreign policy? - and practical questions regarding U.S. Foreign Policy - why has the U.S. been involved in so many wars and foreign interventions? how does the rise of China and Russia affect U.S. foreign policy?

There are three primary goals that shape the design of this course: first, this course aims to familiarize students with the literature on U.S. foreign policy, the classics as well as more contemporary works; second, the course aims to impart students knowledge of the history of U.S. foreign policy and the policymaking process that guided the main policy decisions of the past century; and third, the final objective of this course is to provide students with the tools to evaluate and analyse U.S. foreign policy, being able to contextualize the historical and bureaucratic roots of policy decisions they observe in the media.

## Reading Materials:

As of the development of this course, there was not one single textbook that covered all the aspects of U.S. Foreign Policy that are broached here, thus the reading material is a compilation of the relevant literature for each week. All materials are available on the course Canvas.

## Course Expectations and Policies:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate in class discussion, having read the material required for the class. The readings listed on the course schedule should be done on

the day they are listed. While there is no official attendance policy, participation in class is expected and will be graded, and at least half of the exam will reflect material covered in class.

**Course Info:** The UT Austin Canvas page for this course has all the information students should know, as well as grades, files, and important announcements. The Canvas page for this course can be accessed through the Canvas portal: after you log in with your UTEID you can select this course by clicking on the tab for GOV 312L.

**Paper Submissions:** All assignments are to be turned in electronically via Canvas. They can be submitted as PDF, Word, or Pages documents, and should be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font, with 1 inch margins on all sides. Work submitted via email or hard copy will not be accepted. Keep a copy of all submitted work for at least a year after the end of the course.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due by 11:55 PM on the date scheduled, but I will leave the assignment open the week before and the week after the due date, and you can submit it anytime during this 2 week window without penalty, no questions asked. If for some reason you cannot submit the assignment in this 2 week window, reach out to me and we can work on a fair deadline.

**Grade Appeals:** Students are welcome to discuss their grades with me within two weeks of the grade being posted. The student wishing to appeal a grade should come prepared with a substantive argument **in writing** about why they should have gotten a different grade. After this appeal process, the grade assigned is final.

**How to Contact Me:** The quickest and most efficient way to reach me is via email at laurac-quaglia@utexas.edu. I usually respond within 24 hours, on regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 9AM - 5PM). I will do my best to always respond in a timely manner, but I cannot guarantee a response at nights or on weekends. In addition, I am available during my regularly scheduled office hours. If these conflict with your schedule, email me and we can set up an appointment that works better.

## **Grading and Assignments:**

Quizzes .....	5%
Movie Reviews .....	15%
Midterm .....	15%
Final Exam .....	15%
Individual Policy Response .....	25%
Group Policy Response .....	15%
Group Presentation .....	10%

The grading scale adopted in this course is as follows:

A .....	93-100
A- .....	90-92.99
B+ .....	87-89.99
B .....	83-86.99
B- .....	80-82.99
C+ .....	77-79.99
C .....	73-76.99
C- .....	70-72.99
D .....	60-69.99
F .....	Less than 60

**Quizzes:** There will be 10-12 pop quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will ask a short question about the readings assigned for that class. You must have a piece of paper and a pen ready for each class in case we have a quiz. I will put the question(s) on the board and will give you around 3 minutes at the beginning of the class to answer the question. If you arrive late, you will not be allowed to take the quiz.

**Movie Reviews:** Students are required to watch and review three movies related to the topics covered in class: *Dr. Strangelove* (1964), *Vice* (2018), and a third movie of your choice (the movie topic has to be related to class in some way). The review must include a brief summary of the movie, as well as a thorough analysis of the foreign policy topic covered in the movie, anchored by the discussions we had in class. Each review should be between 500-750 words long in the format stated above. Students are free to hand them in earlier and separately if they so choose.

**Midterm and Final Exam:** Each exam will be a combination of multiple-choice questions, short or bullet-point answer questions, and a few long (one-page) essays, covering both the materials and class discussions. Students are allowed one sheet of A6 paper (4.1 x 5.8 inches, or roughly an A4 cut in half) with **handwritten** notes. After grades are posted, students are free to come to office hours to discuss any questions regarding the exam. If you cannot take the exam at the set date and time, reach out to me as soon as possible.

**Policy Responses:** On the 5th week of class groups of 6 students will be randomly selected (or let me know if you want to choose your own group). Each group will be a National Security Council, and each student will represent one key member of the Council (Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of National Intelligence, Homeland Security Advisor, and White House Chief of Staff). Each group will be given an event that warrants a foreign policy response. Individually, each member will develop a policy briefing in accordance to their role in the NSC, and a separate report contextualizing the briefing within the foreign policy process: what is the role of the actor assigned to you, what is their institution's role in the policy process, how does the policy they suggested reflect this institution, its interests, and relationships. The individual policy response and the accompanying report should be two pages long each, in the specifications delineated above, and are due a week after the midterm exam. Afterwards, the group will develop a unified policy response along with a report explaining the steps of the briefing and justifying the policy choice. The group briefing and the report should be two pages long each, in the formatting specified above, and are due a week before the final exam.

**Group Presentations:** On the last week of class before the review and final the NSC groups will

present their policy briefs/findings. This can be either a pre-recorded video or you can do it live. In this presentation you will present the situation you are responding to, the policy you decided to pursue, and the debate/rationale that led you to it.

**Discussion Participation & Attendance:** All students are expected to attend class and actively engage in class discussion. You should come prepared with questions about the materials and hopefully to have lively and respectful debates with your peers. While there is not a participation grade, I will use my personal judgment based on your in-class participation to bump your grade up if your final grade ends up very close to the higher letter grade.

## Course Outline:

Date	Topic	Materials	Due
08/25	Introduction	Syllabus	
08/27	Introduction to US Foreign Policy	Kauffman Ch 1 Neack Ch 1 Evans FP Entry	
08/30	Theories of IR	Jentleson Ch 1	
09/1	Realism + Liberalism + etc	Brown & Ainley Ch 2 & 3	
09/3	FP Frameworks	Mintz & DeRouen Ch 2	
09/8	FP Actors - President I	Jentleson Ch 2 Hook Ch 4	
09/10	FP Actors - President II	Podcast: Foreign Exchange, Ep "The Institutions of US Foreign Policy"	
09/13	FP Actors - Congress I	Council of Foreign Relations (2017)	
09/15	FP Actors - Congress II	The Atlantic (2019) Hook Ch 5	
09/17	FP Actors - Judiciary	Carter Ch 4 (the Judiciary part, but the rest is useful too) CFR (2006) Supreme Court and Foreign Policy NYT (2008) When Judges Make Foreign Policy	
09/20	FP Actors - Bureaucracy I	Carter Ch 6	
09/22	FP Actors - Bureaucracy II	Hook Ch 6	

Date	Topic	Materials	Due
09/24	How to Write a Policy Brief		
09/27	FP Actors - Media	Jentleson Ch 3 Hook Ch 8	
09/29	FP Actors - Public Opinion	Hook Ch 7	
10/1	FP Actors - Interest Groups	Hook Ch 9	
10/4	Dimensions of FP - Economy	Snow & Haney Ch 10	
10/6	Dimensions of FP - Politics	Snow & Haney Ch 11	
10/8	Dimensions of FP - Defense	Snow & Haney Ch 9	Individual Policy Brief
10/11	Review		
10/13	Midterm		
10/15	Post-Exam		Movie of Choice Review
10/18	History of US FP I - Isolationism and WWI	Kaufman Ch 2 Podcast: The President's Inbox, Ep "The History of US Foreign Policy"	
10/20	History of US FP I - Isolationism and WWI		
10/22	History of US FP I - Isolationism and WWI		
10/25	History of US FP II - Interwar and WWII	Kaufman Ch 3	
10/27	History of US FP II - Interwar and WWII		
10/29	History of US FP II - Interwar and WWII		

Date	Topic	Materials	Due
11/1	History of US FP III - Cold War	Kaufman Ch 4 Podcast: American Prestige, Ep 3 "Cold War"	"Dr. Strangelove" Review
11/3	History of US FP III - Cold War		
11/5	History of US FP III - Cold War		
11/8	History of US FP IV - 1990's	Kaufman Ch 5	
11/10	History of US FP IV - 1990's		
11/12	History of US FP IV - 1990's		
11/15	History of US FP V - Post 9/11	Kaufman Ch 6 Podcast: History Does You, Ep "The US-China Relationship"	"Vice" Review
11/17	History of US FP V - Post 9/11		
11/19	History of US FP V - Post 9/11		
11/22	Pre-Thanksgiving		
11/29	Group Presentations		Group Policy Brief
12/1	Group Presentations		
12/3	Review		
12/6	Final		

## Practical Stuff:

**Academic Honesty:** Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a

violation. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit the Student Judicial Services web site <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259 (Videophone: 512-410-6644) or <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. You do not need to disclose your particular disability to me - only to the appropriate services -, but if you do I will maintain your confidentiality.

**Safety Information:** In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>

**Personal Pronoun/Chosen Name Policy:** Class rosters at UT are provided to the instructor with students' legal names. I will gladly honor any request to address students by a different name. Please inform me of any preferred names, nicknames, or gender pronouns as early as possible so I can adopt them for the entirety of the semester and onward. If there are further accommodations that will make you feel more comfortable in class, please come to office hours so we can discuss them.

**Religious Holidays:** By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Excused Absences:** Papers and projects are due on specific days. Absences may be excused if the student provides verifiable documentation of accident, illness, or university or legal obligation. Unexcused absences from examinations will result in a score of zero for that exam/paper/project. In addition, if an emergency occurs (that you hopefully can document), take care of yourself first and we will sort it out later. You do not need to call me from the ER or jail to let me know you will not be there. In those situations, you have bigger problems than this class at that moment in time.

**Drop Policy:** If you would like to drop this course after the 12th class day, you will need to execute a Q drop before the Q- drop deadline. This typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution.

For more info, please access <https://ugs.utexas.edu/vick/academic/adddrop/qdrop>.