

GOV 312L (38205): UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

The University of Texas, Austin
Fall 2023
Tu/Th 12:30 – 2pm
PAR 201

Instructor:	Kevin Galambos
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Office Hours:	W/Th 10-11:30am, MEZ 3.224

Prerequisites:

Undergraduate standing in the government department.

Course Page:

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1372282>

Objectives:

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of how the United States interacts with other countries through its contemporary foreign policy statements and actions, help students develop the tools necessary to consume daily international news stories, and engage in meaningful discussion of the merit and ramifications of relevant policy decisions. The goal of developing these skills is to understand why the United States takes certain actions and provide an outlook on future international events, from interstate war and peace to the signing and ratification of treaties to the imposition of quotas on refugee settlement. Material will be presented from the perspective of the United States foreign policy making apparatus.

We will necessarily cover historical foreign policies of the United States but material will focus on contemporary challenges in the international system. Students will be taught to evaluate policies objectively, meaning being able to understand and explain arguments on either side of a given policy. This process will culminate in a final essay to be turned in at the end of the semester that reflects what students have learned in terms of factual knowledge and the presentation of opposing ideas. Time permitting, part of each class will be open for students to ask questions on any (relevant) US foreign policy. We may brainstorm solutions as a class. These skills will be important for students in developing their own ideas and the way they think about the world, as well as engaging the ideas of others.

The course conforms to a typical undergraduate class in the department. Two exams will be given in class and a final paper will be assigned in lieu of a final exam. Attendance is expected but will not be recorded unless participation drops below a manageable level. Instead, weekly homework assignments will be collected randomly to encourage attendance. Please come to class ready to participate and be respectful. The instructor is available during his office hours and by appointment.

Grading Policy: Final grades consist of four components. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior authorization from the instructor or documentation of a valid conflict, which includes university-sponsored events, family or medical emergencies, and religious holidays, but not personal travel. Please ask the instructor about specific events.

25% Participation and Attendance. Students will write a brief memo on some contemporary news story about US foreign policy each week. Memos will be collected randomly during class and graded for completion. Two (2) memos will be excused, no questions asked (I get it, life happens). Assignment details are posted to Canvas.

20% Midterm Exam. A midterm exam will evaluate student progress. The exam will take place in class over Canvas. Part of the class before will be dedicated as an in-person study session where students will form groups, ask questions, and discuss the material. Exam format is true/false and multiple choice.

25% Final Exam. A second exam will test students' objective knowledge over material presented since the first exam (non-cumulative). The exam will take place in class over Canvas. Exam format is true/false and multiple choice. Note that there is no exam for this course during the allotted finals week.

30% Paper. In an essay, students will address a fictitious situation in the international system and present potential responses by the United States. Essays should enumerate multiple policy options, including pros and cons for each. Student responses will be evaluated based on their feasibility and fidelity to previous US responses to similar situations. This exercise is meant to allow for student creativity and critical thinking, and to improve writing skills. A first draft worth 10% of the final grade will be collected roughly halfway through the semester. The instructor will provide feedback. The final draft is worth the remaining 20%. Separate rubrics will be distributed.

The final paper is due December 8, 2023; submitted online to Canvas as a PDF by 5 pm.

Grading scale:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • A 92.5 - 100 | • B- 79.5 - 82.49 | • D+ 66.5 - 69.49 |
| • A- 89.5 - 92.49 | • C+ 76.5 - 79.49 | • D 62.5 - 66.49 |
| • B+ 86.5 - 89.49 | • C 72.5 - 76.49 | • D- 59.5 - 62.49 |
| • B 82.5 - 86.49 | • C- 69.5 - 72.49 | • F 0 - 59.49 |

The grading scale is already rounded. Requests for regrading may result in lowered grade.

Important Dates:

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|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Exam #1 | October 5, 2023 |
| Exam #2 | November 30, 2023 |
| Final Paper Deadline | December 8, 2023 |

University Policies:

- **Accommodations:** If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability and Access (D&A). You may refer to D&A's website for contact and more information [here](#). If you are already registered with D&A, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to the instructor as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations.
- **Academic dishonesty:** Students are expected to abide by the University honor code: [link](#). Don't cheat. This includes:
 - Providing your UT EID to any other person
 - Collaborating or sharing information with another person on any quiz, assessment, or assignment
 - Using unauthorized materials or sources of information on an assessment
 - Recording or capturing any quiz, assessment, or assignment material in any format
 - The public (such that it can be viewed by more than one person) posting of any form of a test bank or group of questions from any assignment or assessment
 - Distributing any course material without explicit permission from the instructor
 - Failing to properly cite language, ideas, data, or arguments that are not originally yours

Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to the student conduct process and potential disciplinary action. A student found responsible for academic misconduct may be assigned both a status sanction and a grade impact for the course. The grade impact could range from a zero on the assignment in question up to a failing grade in the course. A status sanction can range from probation, deferred suspension and/or dismissal from the University. To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the overall conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website [here](#).

- **Title IX:** Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. All faculty members are considered "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. We are Responsible Employees and must report any Title IX related incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with the instructor, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, please remember that we will be required to report this information. If you would like to speak with a Case Manager for Support and Resources, who can provide support, resources, or academic accommodations, in the Title IX Office, please email: supportandresources@austin.utexas.edu. A Case Manager can also provide support, resources, and accommodations for pregnant, nursing, and parenting students.

For more information about reporting options and resources, visit titleix.utexas.edu.

- **Religious Holidays:** By university policy, you must notify the instructor 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, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

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- **AI:** For policies on the use of artificial intelligence tools (AI), see the university guidelines [here](#).

Class Materials:

There is no book assigned for this course. Instead, chapters from Oxford Handbooks Online are assigned, which are available for free through the university library. College is expensive enough.

Readings can be accessed directly online and/or downloaded as PDF for print. All chapters are available through the university library system, so students must be signed in to access them. Access issues are generally solved by (a) making sure you are signed in to UT's system; (b) restarting your browser; or (c) restarting your computer.

Note the following abbreviations for assigned readings:

- OHGS Balzacq, Thierry, and Ronald R. Krebs (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Grand Strategy* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 8 Sept. 2021)
- OHPI Binder, Sarah A., R. A. W. Rhodes, and Bert A. Rockman (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* (2008; online edn, Oxford Academic, 2 Sept. 2009)
- OHMD Cooper, Andrew, Jorge Heine, and Ramesh Thakur (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy* (2013; online edn, Oxford Academic, 1 Aug. 2013)
- OHIS Gheciu, Alexandra, and William C. Wohlforth (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Security* (2018; online edn, Oxford Academic, 5 Apr. 2018)
- OHPC Paul, T. V. and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Change in International Relations* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 8 Oct. 2020)
- OHSPF Richmond, Oliver and Gëzim Visoka (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Peacekeeping, Statebuilding, and Peace Formation* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 2021)
- OHUSNS Reveron, Derek S., Nikolas K. Gvosdev, and John A. Cloud (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. National Security*, Oxford Handbooks (2018; online edn, Oxford Academic, 6 Nov. 2017)
- OHUN Weiss, Thomas G., and Sam Daws (eds), *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, 2nd edn (2018; online edn, Oxford Academic, 8 Aug. 2018)

Note: reading assignments are subject to change by the instructor. I will try to let the class know as far as possible in advance of changes to the readings, etc.

Course Outline:

Week 1 – Aug 22/24

Intro/How we know what we know

- Gheciu, Alexandra. “Liberalism and Peaceful Change.” *OHPC*.
- Shifrinson, Joshua. “Realism and Peaceful Change: A Structural and Neoclassical Realist First-Cut.” *OHPC*.

Week 2 – Aug 29

Key Concepts

- Nye Jr, Joseph S. “Hard, soft, and smart power.” *OHMD*.
- Nexon, Daniel H. “Network Theory and Grand Strategy.” *OHGS*.

Note: No class held August 31; replacement assignment TBD.

Week 3 – Sept 5/7

Grand Strategy

- Nau, Henry R. “America’s Foreign Policy Traditions.” *OHUSNS*.
- Dombrowski, Peter. “Alternatives to Grand Strategy.” *OHGS*

Week 4 – Sept 12/14

Foreign Policy Procedures

- Schake, Kori. “The National Security Process.” *OHUSNS*.
- Serafino, Nina M., and Eleni G. Ekmektsioglou. “Congress and national security.” *OHUSNS*.

Week 5 – Sept 19/21

Public Foundations of Policy

- Reveron, Derek S., and Nikolas K. Gvosdev. “National Interests and Grand Strategy.” *OHUSNS*.

Week 6 – Sept 26/28

Foreign Policy in Global Perspective

- Wivel, Anders. “The Grand Strategies of Small States.” *OHGS*
- “How Small States Can Influence World Politics.” May 24, 2023. Global Dispatches Podcast. [Tom Long Podcast Interview - link](#)

Week 7 – Oct 3/5

Great Power Politics & Exam 1

- Buzan, Barry. “Great Powers.” *OHIS*.
- In-class review of material; group discussion
- Exam 1, in class

Week 8 – Oct 10/12

International Organizations

- Higgott, Richard. "International political institutions." *OHPI*.
- Legrenzi, Matteo, and Fred H. Lawson. "Regional Security Complexes and Organizations." *OHIS*.

Week 9 – Oct 17/19

Economic Statecraft

- Early, Bryan R., and Keith Preble. "Grand Strategy and the Tools of Economic Statecraft." *OHGS*.
- Martin, Lisa. "International Economic Institutions." *OHPI*.

Week 10 – Oct 24/26

Alliances

- Rynning, Sten, and Olivier Schmitt. "Alliances." *OHIS*.
- Vielledent, Marc C. "Alliances, Military Basing, and Logistics." *OHUSNS*.
- Mattox, Gale A. "The Transatlantic Security Landscape in Europe." *OHUSNS*.

Week 11 – Oct 31/Nov 2

Diplomacy

- Sending, Ole Jacob. "Diplomacy and Grand Strategy." *OHGS*.

Week 12 – Nov 7/9

Peacekeeping

- Pugh, Michael. "Peacekeeping." *OHPSPF*. 2021
- Welsh, Jennifer M. "Humanitarian Intervention." *OHIS*.

Week 13 – Nov 14/16

Terrorism

- Moore, Pauline. "International Terrorism." *OHUSNS*.

Week 14 – Nov 28/30

Cyber Conflict & Exam 2

- Kello, Lucas. "Cyber threats." *OHUN*.

Essay – Due December 8, 5pm CST

Note: this course does not have an exam during the allotted finals period