

**Political Science 130**  
**Recent U.S. Foreign Policy**  
**Spring 2012**

Instructor: Sarah P. Lockhart  
Class Time: 9:00 – 10:20 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Class Location: Olson 6  
Office Hours: 10:45-11:45 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Office Location: Kerr 664  
Email Address: splockhart@ucdavis.edu

**Course Description:**

This class is a broad survey of the development of U.S. foreign policy in the twentieth century with an emphasis on policy transformation during and after World War II. It also introduces analytic tools and concepts useful for understanding current foreign policy issues.

The class begins by examining the United States' dramatic rise to power following World War II. As Europe lay in ruins, the U.S. suddenly found itself in possession of more the half of the world's total capabilities. This strategic position, along with the rise of the Soviet Union that followed, led the U.S. to develop new foreign policy strategies. While these historic events did lead to radical changes in the way the U.S. interacted with the world, we will also learn how U.S. perspectives on foreign policy remain rooted in its history.

Second, we will learn about the domestic sources of foreign policy, the processes by which foreign policy leaders make decisions, and the tools available for achieving their foreign policy goals. This part of the class provides the theoretical structure for understanding foreign policy decisions, past and present.

Third, we will turn our attention to the Cold War, which dominated U.S. foreign policy decision making for most of the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The class will examine foreign policy strategies adopted during this period and examine some of the most significant Cold War events, particularly the Korean War and the Vietnam War. We will also examine how Cold War strategies and events have affected foreign policy during the post-Cold War period.

Fourth, we will next focus on the foreign policy challenges that have emerged since the end of the Cold War. These include transnational challenges such as ethnic conflict and economic integration. We will also look at the current security threats at the top of the U.S. foreign policy agenda: the Iranian nuclear program, the Iraq War, and the Afghanistan War.

The quarter will culminate with a simulation that will require students to take their new knowledge and apply it to foreign policy problems just like "real" policymakers.

## Course Objectives:

- (1) To provide a theoretical understanding of the sources, tools, and mechanisms of foreign policy.
- (2) To provide a historical context for the major U.S. foreign policy events of the twentieth century.
- (3) To develop students' abilities to apply theoretical concepts to historical and current foreign policy events.
- (4) To develop students' analytical and critical reading skills.
- (5) To develop students' analytical writing abilities.

## Course Policies:

- Attendance in lecture is required. Students that choose to miss lecture may miss important announcements or assignments, in addition to the lecture content.
- We will utilize the course SmartSite throughout the quarter. Regularly check the SmartSite for announcements, course resources, and lecture slides. I strongly recommend that students make use of the chat room to discuss the course with classmates. We will also use the SmartSite gradebook; check it frequently to make sure there are no typographical errors in your grades.
- All article briefs should be submitted online via the SmartSite (see the "Assignments" tab). No late article briefs will be accepted for any reason. If you miss a brief, or if you are dissatisfied with one of your scores, you may make it up by writing a brief during Week 10. **The top 3 brief scores will be counted towards your grade.**
- Email is best used for short, administrative or procedural questions. If you have substantive questions, please come to office hours or make an appointment with your TA or the instructor. We will attempt to answer emails promptly, during normal business hours.
- There will be no separate review session or study guide for the exams. If you come to lecture, take effective notes, do the reading carefully, and immediately ask questions as they arise, you should do very well on the exams.
- If you have accommodations through the Student Disability Center, you must bring your accommodation forms (2 copies) to the instructor's office hours at the beginning of the term. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor at least ONE WEEK before the relevant assignments or exams are due.
- Exams or assignments (other than briefs) may be made up if you can provide proof of a *demonstrated incapacity* to complete the assignment by the due date, or take the exam on the set date. It is your responsibility to notify your TA as soon as physically possible if you need a make-up. If you do not do this, you may be denied the opportunity to make up the exam or assignment. For example, if you miss an exam and do not contact your TA for 48 hours, you would have to provide evidence that you were physically unable to make contact for the entire 48 hours. Paper extensions will not be granted except in extreme circumstances (becoming ill two

days before the term paper is due is not extreme). Talk to the instructor or your TA *as soon as possible* if you find yourself struggling with the class or unable to complete assignments/exams as assigned. The longer you wait, the less likely it will be that we will be able to find solutions to your problem. Final decisions about if and how make-ups will be granted are left to the discretion of the instructor.

- Cheating and plagiarism will be punished to the fullest extent possible. For more information, see the Student Judicial Affairs website: <http://sja.ucdavis.edu>.

- When citing sources, please use American Political Science Association (APSA) style. See this website for guidelines: <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html>.

### **Course Requirements:**

- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Three Article Briefs (15%)
- Term Paper (25%)
- Simulation Participation (10%)
- Final Exam (30%)

### **Readings:**

#### ***Required –***

Mead, Walter Russell. 2001. *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

*Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics*. The simulation packet can be purchased online at: <http://www.guisd.org>. Enter the search term “nation” and the simulation should be the first one you see on the list. It is item # 169.

*Various assigned articles*. These will be posted on the SmartSite under the “Resources” tab. They can also be found on Google Scholar and downloaded, but you may need to use a computer on campus or be logged into the library’s VPN or proxy server to access the articles (see the library homepage for more information: <http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu>).

*International News*. You should spend about 15 minutes every day reviewing the international page of a major daily newspaper, either in print or online.

#### ***Recommended –***

Ambrose, Stephen E., and Douglas G. Brinkley. 2011. *Rise to Globalism. American Foreign Policy Since 1938*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Penguin Books.

## **Paper Assignment:**

Walter Russell Mead, in his book *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*, explains U.S. foreign policy through four “schools” or paradigms: Hamiltonian, Wilsonian, Jeffersonian, and Jacksonian. He argues that these four paradigms have been present throughout U.S. history, with certain paradigms dominating certain eras.

Your assignment is to apply these paradigms to a current U.S. foreign policy challenge. First, identify an important foreign policy challenge facing the U.S. today. Then, choose the paradigm you think is most suited for addressing this foreign policy challenge. You may only choose one paradigm. Make an argument for both why this issue should be central in the U.S. foreign policy agenda and why the paradigm you chose is most appropriate. Your chosen paradigm should lead to specific policy recommendations meant to address your chosen foreign policy challenge. So, the paper is prescriptive; moving forward, what should the U.S. do to address your policy challenge? There are no minimum requirements for outside sources; use as many as you need to make an accurate, compelling argument.

Papers should be between six to eight pages in length. All papers must be submitted as hard copies, typed, in Times or Times New Roman 12-pt. font with 1-inch margins (which is not the default on Microsoft Word). Papers should be double-spaced and *stapled*. You may print double-sided to save trees! In an emergency, you may email your paper to your TA so that it will be marked on time, but you must submit a hard copy as soon as possible. We will not grade emailed papers. You can submit work in class or to the Department of Political Science main office (469 Kerr Hall). Be sure to put your TA’s name on any work submitted to the office.

Late papers will be accepted with a 10% penalty per 24-hour period. Papers will be considered late if submitted after class begins. So, if the paper is due at 9:00 am on Thursday, and a student submits it at noon on Friday, the student will receive a 20% deduction. Late papers will not be accepted more than six days after the due date (no later than May 30).

There are multiple documents with further paper writing tips and guidelines under the “Resources” tab on the SmartSite, which will help you with this assignment.

## **Teaching Assistant Assignments**

Students are assigned TAs based on their last names. Your TA is your first stop for all course-related questions.

**Tracy Lin** – [tklin@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tklin@ucdavis.edu)

Students: A. Abdelrahman – E. Kensinger

Office Hours/Location: Tuesdays, 11:45 am – 1:45 pm / Kerr 568

**Tim Taylor** – [twTaylor@ucdavis.edu](mailto:twTaylor@ucdavis.edu)

Students: A. Khan – S. Zenda

Office Hours/Location: Mondays, 8:30 – 10:30 am / Kerr 662

## Class Schedule and Reading Assignments:

*Readings should be read before class on the day listed.*

### **Week 1: Introduction. The Rise of U.S. Supremacy.**

Tues. 4/3: NONE

Thurs. 4/5: - Mead, Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. xv – 29).  
- Lepgold, Joseph, and Timothy McKeown. 1995. “Is American Foreign Policy Exceptional? An Empirical Analysis.” *Political Science Quarterly* 110 (3): 369-384. (See Sample Brief on SmartSite).

### **Week 2: Sources of Foreign Policy – Congress. Sources of Foreign Policy – The Executive.**

Tues. 4/10: - Mead, Chapters 2 (pp. 30-55).

Thurs. 4/12: - Mead, Chapter 3 (pp. 56-98).  
- *For Syria Discussion:*

- Slaughter, Anne-Marie. “How to Halt the Butchery in Syria.” *New York Times*, Feb. 23, 2012.
- Tepperman, Jonathan. “The Perils of Piecemeal Intervention.” *New York Times*, Mar. 8, 2012.
- Miller, Aaron David. “How Not to Intervene in Syria.” *Foreign Policy*, Mar. 8, 2012.
- Byman, Daniel. “Preparing for Failure in Syria: How to Stave Off Catastrophe.” *Foreign Affairs*, Mar. 20, 2012.

### **Week 3: The Dynamics of Decision Making. Instruments of Foreign Policy.**

Tues. 4/17 - Mead, Chapter 4 (pp. 99-131).

Thurs. 4/19: **BRIEF 1 DUE**  
- Schafer, Mark, and Scott Crichlow. 2002. “The ‘Process-Outcome’ Connection in Foreign Policy Decision Making: A Quantitative Study Building on Groupthink.” *International Studies Quarterly* 46 (1): 45-68.

**Week 4: The Emergence of the Cold War.  
Cold War Policy and the Korean War.**

Tues. 4/24: - Mead, Chapter 5 (pp. 132-173).

Thurs. 4/26: - Mead, Chapter 6 (pp. 174 – 217).

- For Iran Discussion:

- Kroenig, Matthew. “Time to Attack Iran – Why a Strike is the Least Bad Option.” *Foreign Affairs*, Jan. 1, 2012.
- Kahl, Colin H. “Not Time to Attack Iran: Why War Should Be a Last Resort.” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2012.
- Zakaria, Fareed. “Another War in the Middle East? Why Israel and the U.S. Must Not Launch a Preventive Strike against Iran.” *TIME*, Mar. 19, 2012.

**Week 5: The Vietnam War.**

Tues. 5/1: - Mead, Chapter 7 (pp. 218-263).

Thurs. 5/3: **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 6: The Dark Side of Cold War Policy.**

Tues. 5/8: - Mead, Chapter 8 (pp. 264-309).

Thurs. 5/10: **BRIEF 2 DUE**

- Jervis, Robert. 1980. “The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 24 (4): 563-592.

**Week 7: The End of the Cold War and New Challenges.  
Foreign Policy and the Economy.**

Tues. 5/15: - Mead, Chapter 9 and Afterword (pp. 310-338).

Thurs. 5/17: - Betts, Richard K. 1994. “The Delusion of Impartial Intervention.” *Foreign Affairs* 73 (6): 20-33.

**Week 8: Afghanistan and Iraq.**

- Tues. 5/22: - Sky, Emma. 2011. "Iraq, From Surge to Sovereignty. Winding Down the War in Iraq." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (2): 117-127.  
- Blackwill, Robert D. 2011. "Plan B in Afghanistan. Why a De Facto Partition Is the Least Bad Option." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (1): 42-50.  
- Miller, Paul D. 2011. "Finish the Job. How the War in Afghanistan Can Be Won." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (1): 51-65.

Thurs. 5/24: **TERM PAPER DUE**

**Week 9: Simulation.**

Tues. 5/29: **SIMULATION**  
- Simulation Packet.

Thurs. 5/31: **SIMULATION**  
**BRIEF 3 DUE**  
- Enterline, Andrew J., and Michael Greig. 2008. "Against All Odds? The History of Imposed Democracy and the Future of Iraq and Afghanistan." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 4 (4): 321-347.

**Week 10: Simulation.**  
**Conclusion.**

Tues. 6/5: **SIMULATION**

Thurs. 6/7: **MAKE-UP BRIEF DUE**  
- Pape, Robert A. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97 (3): 343-361.

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, June 11, 1:00-3:00 pm.**