

**Political Science 429: US Foreign Policy  
California State University, Northridge**

Fall, 2001

Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am - 9:50 am, SH 104

Ticket Number 94140

Instructor: Todd Belt  
Phone: 818-677-7237  
E-mail: belt@usc.edu

Office: ST 231  
Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri: 10:00-11:00am  
and by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course will explore the formulation of contemporary declaratory and action policies pursued by the U.S. in the conduct of its foreign relations. Various explanatory theories of International Politics will be evaluated in terms of their descriptive, analytical and predictive utility with respect to US Foreign Policy. In evaluating these theories, we will examine the individuals, institutions and broader social, economic, and political forces that influence US Foreign Policy agenda setting, formulation, legitimation, implementation, and evaluation. By the end of this class, students will be able to understand, explain, and even predict US Foreign Policy decisions.

**Required Texts**

There is no general "textbook" for this course. Rather, the required readings will be drawn from the following books:

- Allison, Graham T. and Philip Zelikow. 1999. *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Pearson Technology Group (Longman). ISBN# 0-321-01349-2.
- Greider, William. 1999. *Fortress America* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. PublicAffairs (Perseus Books Group). ISBN# 1-891620-45-2.
- Huntington, Samuel P. 1998. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. Touchstone (Simon & Schuster). ISBN# 0-684-84441-9.
- Janis, Irving L. 1982. *Groupthink: Psychological Studies of Policy Decisions and Fiascoes* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN# 0-395-31704-5.
- Lenin, Vladimir Illyich. 1969 (original 1916). *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. International Publishers Co. ISBN# 0717800989.
- Jentleson, Bruce W. 2000. *Perspectives on American Foreign Policy: Readings and Cases*. W.W. Norton. ISBN# 0-393-97564-9.

All of the above listed books will be available for purchase in the Matador Bookstore. Most, if not all, will be placed on reserve in Oviatt Library. In addition, handouts distributed in class will be required reading, and students are required to follow US Foreign policy in a national newspaper (*The New York Times* is suggested and is available for delivery with a student discount and is also available on-line).

**Course Requirements**

There are four requirements for this course:

1. Participation includes contributions to classroom discussion as well as attendance (do not be tardy or leave class early). In order to participate well in class you must complete all assigned readings prior to coming to class. To get credit for attending class, you must show up within 10 minutes of the start of class. If you are not in class within the first 10 minutes, you will be marked absent for the day. You

will also be marked absent if you leave class early. You will be permitted two unexcused absences. An excused absence is an illness that prevents you from attending class or a death in the family. Do not schedule meetings, banquets, vacations, or work for other classes during our regular class meeting time. Beyond your first two unexcused absences, your participation grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade for every time you are marked absent. For example, if you earned a participation grade of a B+ and had four unexcused absences, you will be penalized two-thirds of a letter grade, and your final participation would be a B-. Similarly, if you had six unexcused absences and you had earned an A- for your participation grade, you would be penalized for four-thirds of a letter grade, meaning that you would end up with a C+ for your final participation grade.

***Turn off all pagers, phones and other electronic devices prior to entering the classroom. If you have an electronic device that emits noise during class (even an audible “vibration”), you will be asked to leave and will be marked absent for that day —no excuses and no exceptions.***

2. Journals / Exercises: Every other week you will be required to turn in a 1-2 page written assignment. The written assignment will either be a class journal or a writing assignment. Specific writing guidelines for each exercise will be distributed on a handout. The course outline indicates whether a journal or exercise is due for each week. Do not ask me to email you the exercise handouts.

For each journal, write a *full*, handwritten page (or a full typewritten page, 12 point Times Roman font spaced at 1½ spacing, 1 inch margins on each side, top and bottom) of your reflections with respect to the course material (partial work will receive partial credit). Journals will be collected on the Monday of the week they are due. The subjects of your journal should include your emotional and intellectual reactions to things you observe outside of this course (in terms of what you have learned through this course) as well as your own responses to what you have learned. It is not important that you think and feel in any particular way, only that you do pay attention to what you are thinking and feeling, and that you become an active part in your own learning process. The emphasis of this class is on participatory education — you will get out of it what you put into it — rather than on a passive, consumer-student mentality.

Journal Writing Guidelines: Do not reiterate what happened in lecture or discussion. Since only the instructor will read the journals, there is no need to recap. You may also give feedback on the readings and the exercises — points that you like, dislike, or feel could be improved. This is your chance to express yourself without being given any specific topic — enjoy this freedom, do not run away from it. Write whatever you are thinking and feeling, not what you think the instructor wants to hear. Be sure to keep your journal on subjects relating to the course, it is not a diary of your daily life. Examples might include your reactions to political events you read about in the newspaper, or trying to explain a current event in terms of what is learned in this class, or reflecting upon a point made in class or in the readings — did it seem correct in terms of what you know (or might it need further exploration)? You will occasionally be given ideas for journal topics during lecture.

Journals receive credit/no-credit and exercises receive letter grades. Late journals will receive partial credit if the work is complete and turned in by the next class meeting. Any journals or exercises turned in after the first 10 minutes of class will be treated as late by one day. Late exercises will be deducted one-third of a letter grade for every day (not class period) that they are late (see above for an example of this type of calculation). Late exercises should be turned into me directly or placed in my mailbox in the Political Science Department office and date-stamped. Exercises may not be emailed. It is your responsibility to follow up on missed journals and exercises.

3. Examinations: The examinations will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The final exam will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material covered after the midterm. Make-up exams are rarely given and only when a university-authorized excuse is provided. These excuses

include illness and a death in the family only. You will not be excused from an exam simply because you missed the prior class. Any requests for a makeup exam must be made *before* the exam is given (call me). You will not be permitted to take a make-up exam if you do not request one before the exam is given. If you wear a hat with a brim on the day of an examination, you will be asked to remove it.

4. For the final research paper, you will be asked to analyze a contemporary policy problem of your choice in terms of the analytical skills learned during this course. The paper is to be 6-7 pages in length and must include at least five textual (not internet) sources. Do not be afraid of the library. You may cite internet sources, but they must be authoritative and will not count towards your requisite five. The paper must:
  - be typewritten in 12 point Times Roman font
  - be double spaced
  - have 1 inch margins on top, bottom, and both sides
  - include a title and cover page
  - include a bibliography page
  - done in the citation style of your choice (footnotes or parenthetical — be consistent)
  - include page numbers
  - include an introduction, body, and a conclusion that looks toward the future

Late papers must be turned in to the Political Science Department Office and date stamped. Late papers will be down-graded one full letter grade for every day that they are late (i.e. a B becomes a C if the paper is one day late). Purchasing a paper constitutes plagiarism. I am familiar with all of the on-line term-paper sites and I *will* check your paper against those available on-line. Plagiarism is a *very serious* offense, and you should be familiar with this university's policy and penalties for plagiarism.

### **Grading**

Participation	10%
Journals and Exercises	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	25%
Research Paper	25%

A plus/minus system of grading will be used. A letter grade will be assigned for each of the above categories. The grade will be converted to grade points and weighted by the corresponding percentage (see above). Here is an example: Suppose Lisa received a B+ for Participation, an A- for Journals and Exercises, a C+ for her Midterm Exam, a B for her Final Exam, and an A- for her Research Paper. Lisa's final grade would be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Final Grade} = (3.3 * .10) + (3.7 * .20) + (2.3 * .20) + (3.0 * .25) + (3.7 * .25)$$

$$\text{Final Grade} = .330 + .740 + .460 + .750 + .925$$

$$\text{Final Grade} = 3.205, \text{ which is closest to } 3.3 \text{ grade points, which is equivalent to a B+}.$$

### **Course Outline**

**Week 1 (8/27, 8/29). No Class 8/31 (Friday).**

#### **Course Introduction**

*Reading:* Jentleson, pp. 1-17.

- ◆ Syllabus Distributed
- ◆ Background on US Foreign Policy

- ◆ Declarative vs. Active Foreign Policy
- ◆ The (Anarchic?) Nature of the International System

**Week 2 (9/5, 9/7). No Class 9/3 (Monday).**

**Theories of International Politics**

*Reading:* Lenin, pp. 16-46, 88-128.

*First Journal Due Wednesday*

- ◆ Realism and Neorealism
- ◆ Liberalism and Neoliberalism
- ◆ Marxism and Neomarxism
- ◆ Feminism

**Week 3 (9/10, 9/12, 9/14).**

**Institutional Context and Formal Actors**

*Reading:* Jentleson, pp. 32-60.

- ◆ Constitutional Foundations
- ◆ Isolationism
- ◆ Formal vs. Informal Actors
- ◆ The Presidency
- ◆ Congress
- ◆ The National Security Council
- ◆ The Intelligence Community
- ◆ The State Department
- ◆ The Defense Department
- ◆ The War Powers Act

**Week 4 (9/17, 9/19, 9/21).**

**Models of Foreign Policy Making I**

*Reading:* Allison and Zelikow, pp. 13-185.

*Second Journal Due Monday*

- ◆ Rational Actor Model
- ◆ Organizational Process Model

**Week 5 (9/24, 9/26, 9/28).**

**Models of Foreign Policy Making II**

*Reading:* Allison and Zelikow, pp. 197-366.

- ◆ Governmental Politics Model
- ◆ Decision Making under Crisis

**Week 6 (10/1, 10/3, 10/5).**

**Policymaking Patterns and Pathologies I**

*Reading:* Janis, chs. 1-3, 6, 8.

*Exercise:* September 29 Mobilization Writing Assignment

- ◆ Presidential Politics
- ◆ Bureaucratic Politics
- ◆ Senior Advisory Process

**Week 7 (10/8, 10/10, 10/12).**

**Midterm Examination Friday**

**Policymaking Patterns and Pathologies II**

*Reading:* Janis, chs. 10-11.

*Term Paper Topic Due Monday*

- ◆ Information Filtering
- ◆ Groupthink and Policy Fiascoes

**Week 8 (10/15, 10/17, 10/19).**

**Informal Domestic Actors in Foreign Policymaking**

*Reading:* Jentleson, pp. 159-193.

Fordham, “Building the Cold War Consensus” (Handout)

*Exercise:* Foreign Affairs News Writing Assignment

- ◆ The Growing Relevance of Informal Actors
- ◆ Interest Groups
- ◆ Corporations
- ◆ The Press and the Media
- ◆ Issue Networks and Iron Triangles
- ◆ The Defense Industry

**Week 9 (10/22, 10/24, 10/26).**

**Cold War Foreign Policy to Vietnam**

*Reading:* Jentleson, pp. 96-129.

Schlessinger, “The Imperial Presidency” (Handout)

*In-class Film:* *Dr. Strangelove (clip)*

- ◆ The Imperial Presidency
- ◆ Bipolar Foreign Policymaking
- ◆ Nuclear Deterrence and Warfighting Theories
- ◆ The Arms Race
- ◆ The Red Scare (Redux)

**Week 10 (10/29, 10/31, 11/2).**

**Vietnam and the Vietnam Hangover**

*Reading:* Jentleson, pp. 130-155.

“Vietnam Reconsidered” (Handout, articles by Steel, Ellsberg, Gitlin, Halberstam, Hersh et al.)

*In-class Film:* *Hearts and Minds*

*Third Journal Due Monday*

- ◆ How and Why the US Got Involved
- ◆ The First Televised War
- ◆ US Defeated
- ◆ Kissinger and Machiavellian Policy
- ◆ Nixon Goes to China

**Week 11 (11/5, 11/7, 11/9).**

**The End of the Cold War I**

*Reading:* Greider, pp. 3-96.

- ◆ The Peace Dividend
- ◆ Base Closures
- ◆ Strategic Modifications
- ◆ Trade Policy

**Week 12 (11/12, 11/14, 11/16).**

**The End of the Cold War II**

*Reading:* Greider, pp. 97-198.

*Fourth Journal Due Monday*

- ◆ Democratic Transitions
- ◆ Security and Surveillance

**Week 13 (11/19, 11/21). No Class 11/23 (Friday).**

**US Hegemony and/or Multipolarity I**

*Reading:* Huntington, pp. 19-179.

- ◆ The New World Order
- ◆ Civilizations
- ◆ The West vs. The Rest
- ◆ Power and Conflict among Civilizations

**Week 14 (11/26, 11/28, 11/30).**

**US Hegemony and/or Multipolarity II**

*Reading:* Huntington, pp. 183-321.

*In-class Film: The Panama Deception*

*Fifth Journal Due Monday*

- ◆ Weapons Proliferation: Biological, Chemical, and Nuclear
- ◆ Terrorism
- ◆ Economic Globalization
- ◆ Money and Investment
- ◆ The Diversionary Use of Force

**Week 15 (12/3, 12/5, 12/7).**

**Future Trends**

*Reading:* Jentleson, pp. 278-296, 305-321.

*Term Paper Due Friday (12/7)*

- ◆ National Missile Defense
- ◆ The Environment
- ◆ Humanitarian Intervention
- ◆ Foreign Aid
- ◆ Debt Forgiveness
- ◆ War Crimes Trials and Trials in Absentia
- ◆ The Drug War
- ◆ The Internet

**Final exam Monday, Dec. 10, 8:00am-10:00am.**