

**US Foreign Policy
Political Science 246
Fall 2008
Tuesday, 5:10-7pm
Funger 222**

Professor Elizabeth Saunders
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Office Hours: Thursday, 2-4pm, or by appointment

Course Goals and Description:

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the process and goals of US foreign policy. At the end of the course, you should be able to analyze the sources and purpose of past, present, and potential future US actions on a variety of foreign policy-related topics. In the first part of the course, we will discuss the intellectual and historical roots of US foreign policy, as well as the actors who make foreign policy. In the second and third parts of the course, we will turn to a discussion of historical case studies and contemporary issues. Although we will talk about historical cases, the course is not a chronological history of US foreign policy, nor does it cover every issue related to US foreign policy. Instead, it focuses on analytical approaches that help make sense of complex foreign policy issues and events.

Since many students may be thinking about careers related to US foreign policy, writing will be an important part of the course. Students will both analyze primary documents written by others, and produce their own writing about US foreign policy.

The 2008 presidential election will occur in the middle of the course, and we will pause to examine what the election will mean for US foreign policy. I will announce readings for this session closer to Election Day. I encourage you to follow the coverage of foreign policy issues in the campaign, in the media, and in the debates.

Prerequisite:

This course is open to Elliott School MA students only.

General Policies:

Please respect the following policies, which are intended to ensure that everyone in this class has an interesting and enjoyable learning experience:

Cell Phones and related devices: Before you enter the classroom, turn off all cell phones, pagers, blackberries, and other devices.

Laptops: You are welcome to bring a laptop to class, but the volume must be set to “mute.”

Email: If you have lengthy questions or comments about the course, I encourage you to come talk to me in person. In addition to regular office hours, I am happy to set up appointments to meet with you. Please keep email communications brief.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation: This is a seminar in which class participation and engagement is vital to the success of the course. You should come to class prepared each week, with all the readings for that week done ahead of time. Class participation counts for a significant portion of your grade (30%).

Memo, Discussion Questions, and Leading Class Discussion: Students will sign up to lead discussion for one week during the semester. For that week, students will be responsible for kicking off class discussion and providing questions to keep discussion flowing. In addition, in the week they are signed up to lead discussion, students must submit a 2-page memo synthesizing and analyzing the readings for that week, plus a list of 4-5 questions for discussion. The memo should not simply describe and summarize the readings, but should discuss how the readings relate to each other (if there are multiple readings), the issues they highlight, and their strengths and weaknesses. Students should email this memo and discussion questions to the entire class by Monday at 10am on the day before the seminar they are due to lead, so that we will have time to read them. Students must write memos and discussion questions individually, but will be expected to coordinate with any other student signed up for that week on how they will kick off discussion.

Policy Memo: Students will write a 2-page policy memo on any of the policy issues we will discuss. The memo will be due on **Tuesday, November 25**, in class. The memo can address issues we will not yet have covered in class, if you wish, but you will have to do the readings for that week in advance. Memos can be based on assigned course readings; additional research is not required. Memos will be graded on analytical clarity as well as written expression.

Final Paper: A final paper of 10-12 pages is required. Topics will be distributed in class. Papers will be graded on analytical clarity as well as written expression. Papers must include full and proper citations to all sources. The final paper is due on **Friday, December 12**. Papers must be delivered to my office by 6pm. Emailed copies will not be accepted.

- Late assignments will be penalized a half-letter grade for each day of lateness. Cases of illness or family emergency are exceptions *only* if you provide written documentation and communicate with me before the assignment is due.
- If an assignment falls on a day you will be observing a religious holiday, we will work together to find an alternative time to complete the assignment. Please communicate with me about holidays in advance of the original due date.

Grading:

Grading will be based on the following:

Class Participation: 30%

Memo on readings, discussion questions, and leadership of class discussion: 20%

Policy Memo: 20%

Final Paper: 30%

Academic Integrity:

By taking this course, you are agreeing to abide by the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Please read the code at <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>. Violations of the Code will be subject to the disciplinary penalties described in the Code.

If you are unsure about any aspect of this policy, or about how to properly cite or attribute work, please ask – I am happy to help. The Writing Center (<http://www.gwu.edu/~gwriter/>) can also provide assistance on citation or other aspects of writing papers. Claiming ignorance about how or when to cite sources is not an excuse for academic dishonesty.

Course Materials:

There are 6 required books, available for purchase at the GW Bookstore or online. All books are also on reserve at Gelman Library.

1. Robert Kagan, *Dangerous Nation* (Knopf, 2006).
2. John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War*, Revised and Expanded Edition (Oxford, 2005).
3. Ernest May and Philip Zelikow, *The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis* (Norton, 2002).
4. George Packer, *The Assassin's Gate: America in Iraq* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005).
5. James H. Lebovic, *Deterring International Terrorism and Rogue States: US National Security Policy after 9/11* (Routledge, 2007).
6. Derek Chollet and James Goldgeier, *America Between the Wars: 11/9 to 9/11* (Public Affairs, 2008).

I may adjust the readings as necessary – you are responsible for any changes to the readings.

Blackboard:

This course will use the Blackboard system. Many readings and announcements will be posted on Blackboard (for readings, see “Electronic Reserves”). I strongly encourage you to make sure you have access to and are familiar with the Blackboard system as soon as possible.

Course Schedule:

PART ONE: THE SOURCES OF US FOREIGN POLICY

Week 1 (September 2): Introduction to US Foreign Policy

- Washington's Farewell Address, 1796, available online at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/washing.htm>
- Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers*, chapter 4, "The Farewell" (available on Blackboard)

Week 2 (September 9): US Foreign Policy Traditions

- Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998), pp. 29-46 (Blackboard)
- Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy* 145 (Nov/Dec 2004), pp. 52-62 (Blackboard)
- President Woodrow Wilson's War Message of April 2, 1917 at: <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/1917/wilswarm.html>
- Hans Morgenthau, "Another Great Debate: The National Interests of the United States," *American Political Science Review* 46 (December 1952), pp. 961-988 (Blackboard)
- Walter Russell Mead, "The Jacksonian Tradition and American Foreign Policy," *The National Interest* (Winter 1999/2000), pp. 1-25 (Blackboard)

Week 3 (September 16): US Foreign Policy Actors

- The United States Constitution. Available at: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/usconst.htm> (concentrate on Articles 1&2)
- Testimony of John Yoo and Louis Fisher before Senate Judiciary Committee, April 17, 2002:
 - Yoo: http://judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=225&wit_id=437
 - Fisher: http://judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=225&wit_id=432
- James M. Lindsay, "Congress and Foreign Policy: Why the Hill Matters," *Political Science Quarterly* 107 (Winter 1992-93), pp. 607-628 (Blackboard)
- Graham T. Allison and Morton H. Halperin, "Bureaucratic Politics: A Paradigm and Some Policy Implications," *World Politics* 24 (1972), pp. 40-79 (Blackboard)

Week 4 (September 23): Historical Roots of US Foreign Policy

- Robert Kagan, *Dangerous Nation*

PART TWO: US FOREIGN POLICY, 1945-PRESENT

Week 5 (September 30): The Origins and Evolution of Containment

- George F. Kennan, “Long Telegram,” February 22, 1946, available at <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm>
- NSC 68: United States Objectives and Programs for National Security, April 14, 1950, available at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/nsc68.htm> (concentrate on Sections I-VI, and Section IX)
- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment* (concentrate particularly on chapters 1-4)

Week 6 (October 7): Managing the Nuclear Stalemate: The Cuban Missile Crisis

- Ernest May and Philip Zelikow, *The Kennedy Tapes*

Week 7 (October 14): The Vietnam War

- James C. Thomson, “How Could Vietnam Happen? An Autopsy,” *Atlantic Monthly*, April 1968, <http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/68apr/vietnam.htm>
- Fredrik Logevall, “Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 34 (March 2004), pp. 100-112 (Blackboard)
- Leslie Gelb, “Vietnam: The System Worked,” *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1971), pp. 140-167 (Blackboard)
- Review Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, Chapter 8 (“Implementing Flexible Response: Vietnam as a Test Case”)
- David Kaiser, “Vietnam: Was the System the Solution?” *International Security* 4 (Summer 1980), pp. 199-218 (Blackboard)
- Andrew Z. Katz, “Public Opinion and Foreign Policy: The Nixon Administration and the Pursuit of Peace With Honor in Vietnam,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (Summer 1997), pp. 496-513 (Blackboard)

Week 8 (October 21): From the End of the Cold War to September 11, 2001

- Derek Chollet and James Goldgeier, *America Between the Wars*

Week 9 (October 28): The US Response to the September 11 Attacks and the Iraq War

- George W. Bush, National Security Strategy of the United States, September 2002, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/2002/nss.pdf>
- Colin Dueck, “Ideas and Alternatives in American Grand Strategy, 2000-2004,” *Review of International Studies* 30 (October 2004), pp. 511-535 (Blackboard)
- George Packer, *The Assassin’s Gate* (concentrate on Chapters 1-7, Chapter 9, and the epilogue and afterword)

PART THREE: ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

Week 10 (November 4): US Foreign Policy and the 2008 Election

November 4: Election Day

- Re-familiarize yourself with the transcript of the first debate:
<http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/26/debate.mississippi.transcript/>
- John McCain, “An Enduring Peace Built on Freedom: Securing America’s Future,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2007 (Blackboard)
- Barack Obama, “Renewing American Leadership,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2007 (Blackboard)
- Michael R. Gordon, “Rivals Present Sharp Divide on Iraq Goals,” *New York Times*, October 5, 2008, available at
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/06/us/politics/06elected.html>
- Nicholas Lemann, “Worlds Apart,” *The New Yorker*, October 13, 2008, available at
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/10/13/081013fa_fact_lemann?currentPage=al1
- David E. Sanger, “Rivals Split on U.S. Power, but Ideas Defy Easy Labels,” *New York Times*, October 22, 2008, available at
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/23/us/politics/23policy.html>

Week 11 (November 11): Terrorism and Nuclear Proliferation

- James Lebovic, *Deterring International Terrorism and Rogue States*

Week 12 (November 18): Humanitarian Crises

- Jon Western, “Sources of Humanitarian Intervention: Beliefs, Information, and Advocacy in the U.S. Decisions on Somalia and Bosnia,” *International Security* 26 (Spring 2002), pp. 112-142 (Blackboard)
- Richard Betts, “The Delusion of Impartial Intervention,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1994 (Blackboard)
- Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen,” *Atlantic Monthly*, September 2001, available at
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200109/power-genocide>
- Scott Strauss, “Darfur and the Genocide Debate,” *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2005 (Blackboard)
- Council on Foreign Relations Darfur Crisis Guide, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/13129/>

Week 13 (November 25): Globalization: Trade and Climate Change

Policy Memos Due in Class

- Daniel W. Drezner, “U.S. Trade Strategy: Free Versus Fair” (Council on Foreign Relations, 2006), available at
<http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/CPCTrade.pdf> (concentrate on the “Memorandum to the President”)
- Thomas Friedman, “The Power of Green,” *New York Times Magazine*, April 15, 2007, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/15/magazine/15green.t.html>

- Ruth Greenspan Bell, “What to Do About Climate Change,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006 (Blackboard)
- David G. Victor, Joshua C. House, and Sarah Joy, “A Madisonian Approach to Climate Policy,” *Science*, September 16, 2005, available at <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/309/5742/1820>

Week 14 (December 2): The End of American Primacy?

- Robert Kagan, “Power and Weakness,” Policy Review 113 (June & July 2002), available at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3460246.html>
- James P. Rubin, “Building a New Atlantic Alliance: Restoring America’s Partnership With Europe,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2008 (Blackboard)
- Fareed Zakaria, “The Post-American World,” *Newsweek*, May 12, 2008, available at <http://www.newsweek.com/id/135380/page/1>
- Aaron Friedberg, “The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?” *International Security* 30(2) (Fall 2005), pp. 7-45 (Blackboard)
- Stephen Sestanovich, “What Has Moscow Done? Rebuilding U.S.-Russian Relations,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2008 (Blackboard)
- Charles King, “The Five-Day War: Managing Moscow After the Georgia Crisis,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2008 (Blackboard)

Final Paper Due: Friday, December 12, 6pm