

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : POLS 338	Course Title: American Foreign Policy
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : None
Catalog Description: The dynamics of political institutions and processes of the Federal Government. Main periods and trends in American foreign policy with special emphasis on the post-Cold War period.	Textbook / Required Material : Steven Hook and John Spanier. 2013. <i>American Foreign Policy Since World War II</i> . 19th edition. Los Angeles: Sage, CQ Press. Additional articles from foreign policy journals.
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
Extended Description : This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts, theoretical debates, and issues about foreign policy of the United States. U.S. foreign policy issues are studied in the context of major international relations theories. A major purpose of this course is to develop an understanding about what foreign policy is, how foreign policy decisions are formulated and implemented, and what types of political institutions play a major role in defining foreign policy issues and priorities in the U.S. The lectures cover divergent ideological perspectives about the appropriate role of the U.S. in the international arena. The focus is on the period after World War II. Course curriculum includes the origins and evolution of the Cold War, the American adaptation to the post-Cold War period, the effect of 9/11 on the U.S. foreign policy, the war on terrorism, and the current war in Iraq.	
Design content : None	Computer usage: Basic office word skills for student term papers
Course Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1. Possess knowledge about the basic theories of international politics (realism, liberalism and rational choice theory). 2. Have a general understanding about the institutional structure and the political atmosphere of the Cold War period from the US perspective. 3. Understand the changes in the course of American foreign policy in the post-Cold War period. 4. Acquire writing and research skills.	
Recommended reading: Bruce W. Jentleson. 2010. <i>American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century</i> . W. W. Norton & Company. Glenn P. Hastedt. 2008. <i>American Foreign Policy</i> (7th ed.), Prentice Hall.	
Teaching methods: Lectures	

Course Outline

Week	Topics
1	Introduction and Overview
2	Theoretical Approaches of International Politics
3	Theoretical Frameworks of American Foreign Policy
4	The Cold War and Containment I
5	The Cold War and Containment II
6	Vietnam and the Super Power Détente
7	Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan periods
8	Midterm Examination
9	The End of the Cold War and the Post-Cold War
10	The Effect of 9/11 on American Foreign Policy
11	Bush Doctrine and the War on Terror
12	Just War Theory and the Iraq War (2003)
13	Domestic Sources of US Foreign Policy
14	The Obama Period I
15	The Obama Period II

Assessment methods:

Attendance: 10 %

Pop quizzes: 15 %

Midterm: 25 %

Final Examination: 30 %

Research design paper: 20 %

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events					X
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions					X
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture					X
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations					X
IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political					X

	substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
IR6	Understand the international legal framework					X
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international relations					
PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events					
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions					
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)					
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)					
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought					
PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics					
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically					
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative					
10	Have self-confidence					
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences					
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups					
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms					
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly					X
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					
16	Understand, read, and write in English					X
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report					X
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research					
19	Understand and interpret statistical data					

20	Be prone to team work					
21	Possess computer and technological literacy					

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Pre-reading	65 hrs
Lectures	35 hrs
Exams and Quizzes	10 hrs
Writing paper assignments.....	40 hrs
TOTAL	150 hrs to match 25x6 ECTS

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