

Political Science 246
U.S. Foreign Policy
M-W-F, 8:00-8:50
Welles 128

Prof. E. Drachman

Fall 2009

Office: Welles 3B
Office Phone: X 5456
Office Hours: M: 12:45-1:45, W: 1:30-3:30 and by appointment

Course Description and Purpose

This course surveys U.S. foreign policy from the end of World War II to the present. It places current policy issues in their historical context and examines the determinants of the contemporary U.S. role in world affairs.

Reading Requirements

- A. TEXTS
- Stephen Ambrose. RISE TO GLOBALISM. Viking, 8th ed., 1997
 - Edward Drachman and Alan Shank. PRESIDENTS AND FOREIGN POLICY. SUNY Press, 1997
 - Z. Brzezinski. SECOND CHANCE. Basic Books, 2007
 - Robert Kennedy. THIRTEEN DAYS. Norton, 1971
 - Foreign Policy Association. GREAT DECISIONS 2009
- B. *The New York Times* (daily)

Course Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to attend, be prepared for, and participate in all classes for successful completion of the course. **Students with more than four unexcused absences will not receive academic credit for this course.**

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| 1. quizzes and class participation | 20% of grade |
| 2. midterm exams | 30% of grade |
| 3. position paper | 20% of grade |
| 4. final exam | 30% of grade |

Quizzes and Class Participation

Your grade, which is worth 20% of the course, will be based partly on scores on a number of unannounced quizzes and partly on your class participation. The following is expected of all students:

- Volunteer responses in class discussion.
- Answer questions from instructor when asked.
- Support, question, and challenge positions/ideas/arguments of instructor and fellow students.
- Raise pertinent questions regarding class discussions and readings.

Position Paper (10-12 pages, including references and bibliography)

Students will select an issue currently facing the White House and then do the following:

- a. Write a one paragraph synopsis of this issue.
 - b. Write a brief historical background of this issue.
 - c. Identify and briefly outline three major options for dealing with this issue.
 - d. Argue persuasively for one option. Your goal is to persuade the president to adopt your selected option.
- You must utilize at least 2 primary sources, 2 research journals, and 2 books.
 - A warning on plagiarism: All work must be your own. If plagiarism is detected, you will fail the course and your case will be submitted to the Dean for disciplinary action.

GRADES will be based on the quality of content, research, analysis, and writing.

DUE DATE: Wednesday, December 2 at the beginning of class. No late papers or email submissions will be accepted.

Accommodations:

The instructor will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented physical, emotional, or learning disabilities. Students should consult with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (Tabitha Bugge-Hunt, 105D Erwin) and the instructor regarding any needed accommodations as early as possible in the semester.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS

1. Introduction: The Tradition of U.S. Foreign Policy August 31
Reading: Ambrose, Introduction; Great Decisions, Introduction

2. World War II and its aftermath Sept. 2- Sept. 9
Discussion Topics:
 - How to treat the defeated countries of Germany and Japan
 - War crimes and their historical impact
 - Controversy over dropping the atomic bombs on JapanReading: Ambrose, chs. 2-3; Jonathan Rosenberg, "What Truman was thinking when he decided to drop the atomic bomb," *Christian Science Monitor*, 8/21/05

3. Origins of the Cold War Sept. 11-14
Discussion Topics:
 - Controversial decisions at the Yalta Conference
 - Whose fault was the Cold War?Reading: Ambrose, ch. 4

4. Truman and the First Postwar Crises Sept. 16-21
Discussion Topics:
- Formulation and significance of the Marshall Plan
 - George Kennan's containment strategy
 - Greek Civil War, Creation of Israel, Coup in Czechoslovakia, Berlin Blockade, Establishment of NATO
- Reading: Ambrose, chs. 5-6; X, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947
5. Containment in the Far East Sept. 23
CASE STUDY: Should the U.S. have recognized the PRC?
 Reading: Drachman & Shank (D&S), ch. 1
6. The Korean War Sept. 25-30
Discussion Topics:
- NSC 68; decision to build the hydrogen bomb
 - Changing goals and strategy of the war
 - Historical impact of the war
- Reading: Ambrose, ch. 7
7. The Eisenhower Years Oct. 2-Oct. 7
Discussion Topics:
- Intervention in Iran and Guatemala; dealing with post-Stalin USSR
 - Suez Crisis, U-2 flights, New Look in defense policy, Quemoy and Matsu
- Reading: Ambrose, chs. 8-9; D&S, ch. 2
- MIDTERM EXAM: Friday, October 9**
- FALL BREAK: October 12**
8. Kennedy and the New Frontier Oct. 14-16
Discussion Topics:
- Berlin Wall, Congo, Alliance for Progress, flexible response strategy, Bay of Pigs, Peace Corps
- Reading: Ambrose, Chapter 10, D & S, ch. 3
- Discussion Topic: Cuban Missile Crisis** Oct. 19
 Reading: Robert Kennedy, THIRTEEN DAYS (entire)

9. The Vietnam Tragedy Oct. 21-30

Discussion Topics:

- How and why did the U.S. make war in Vietnam?
- The impact of the antiwar movement

Reading: Ambrose, chs. 11-12; and D & S, chs. 4 and 5

Watch film: "The Fog of War"

MIDTERM EXAM: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

10. Détente: From Nixon to Ford to Carter Nov. 4

Discussion Topics:

- Meaning of détente strategy
- Opening to PRC, arms control, third world conflicts
- Helsinki Accords (1975)

Reading: Ambrose, ch. 13

11. Carter and Emphasis on Human Rights Nov. 6

Discussion Topics:

- Fall of Shah and Iran hostage crisis
- Camp David Peace Accord
- Panama Canal Treaty
- OPEC and the energy crisis

Reading: Ambrose, ch. 14

CASE STUDY: Carter's 1980 Olympic Games Boycott Nov. 9

Reading: D & S, ch. 7

12. Reagan: From the "Evil Empire" to Cooperation with Gorbachev Nov. 11-13

Discussion Topics:

- "Star Wars"
- Aid to the Contras

Reading: Ambrose, ch. 15

CASE STUDY: Dealing with terror: the decision to bomb Libya

Reading: D & S, ch. 8

* For 13-15, Read Brzezinski, *Second Chance* (entire)

13. George H. W. Bush: End of the Cold War

Nov. 16-18

Discussion Topic:

- Did the U.S. "Win" the Cold War?

Reading: Ambrose, ch. 16; Donald Sasson, "Seeing Red: Why Communism Really Failed," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August, 2007

CASE STUDY: Bush's Decision to Stop Gulf War at 100 Hours

Reading: D & S, ch. 9

14. Clinton's Foreign Policy

Nov. 20-23

Discussion Topics:

- De-linking human rights and trade policy toward PRC
- Wars in Kosovo and Somalia; non-intervention in Rwandan genocide
- Bombing of the World Trade Center
- Return of President Aristide to Haiti

Reading: Ambrose, ch. 18; D & S, ch. 10

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

15. George W. Bush's Foreign Policy and Challenges for Obama Nov. 30-Dec. 11
(Readings 2, 5, and 7 from *GREAT DECISIONS* 2009)

- Afghanistan and Pakistan Nov. 30-Dec. 2
- Egypt Dec. 4-7
- Cuba Dec. 9
- Discussion of Fareed Zakaria, "The Future of American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2008 and Obama's speech in Cairo to the Muslim World in June 2009 Dec. 11

16. Evaluating Presidents as Foreign Policy Leaders

Dec. 14

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 21: 8-11 A.M.