

The University of Texas at Austin
US Foreign Policy
REVEL COURSE CODE: chw9xjf

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DESCRIPTION

Since its founding, the United States has played a central role in shaping the larger international political order. American victories in World War I, World War II, and the Cold War coupled with its support for democracy and open global markets stand at the heart of this legacy. At the same time, external pressures in the form of war, globalization, and the spread of transnational ideological movements have stressed American institutions and shaped an evolving American national identity. This course explores this mutually interactive relationship between the United States and the broader international system by examining the making of American foreign policy over the past two centuries more broadly. It explores such topics as the role of Congress in foreign policy making, the construction of the national security state in the twentieth century, competing partisan conceptions of America's national interest, nuclear deterrence and proliferation, imperialism and territorial expansion, trade liberalization, nation building, humanitarian intervention, terrorism, climate change, and globalization.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be two sets of requirements for this course. First, you will be expected to attend class, keep up with the assigned readings, and participate in our discussions. We will track this participation through graded online discussions in the classroom and the completion of the activities assigned in your digital textbook. Second, you will complete three in-class examinations. These requirements contribute to your final grade as follows:

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| Participation in graded chat during class | 15% |
| Textbook activities | 10% |
| Exam 1 | 25% |
| Exam 2 | 25% |
| Exam 3 | 25% |

READING MATERIALS

We have one required book for this course--a digital textbook. We will also add a few digital article readings that will be made available to you through Canvas.

McDonald, Patrick J., Terrence L. Chapman, and Robert Moser. 2020. *An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System*. Pearson. (**Hereafter: OGS**)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Session 1: Course Introduction

Readings: OGS, Module 1; Daniel Immerwahr. 2020. History Isn't Just for Patriots. *Washington Post* (December 27)

Session 2: Introduction to International Politics

Readings: OGS, Module 2

Session 3: The US Foreign Policy Apparatus and the National Interest

Readings: George W. Bush. 2002. National Security Strategy of the United States. Available at: <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/nsc/nss/2002/>.

Session 4: Grand Strategy I

Readings: Barack Obama. 2014. Commencement Speech at West Point. Available at: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/05/28/remarks-president-united-states-military-academy-commencement-ceremony>.

Barry R. Posen. 2013. Pull Back. *Foreign Affairs* 92(1): 116-128.

Session 5: Grand Strategy II

Readings: John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt. 2016. The Case for Offshore Balancing. *Foreign Affairs* 95(4): 70-83.

Session 6: The President in Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Sections 18.4-18.5

James Goldgeier and Elizabeth N. Saunders. 2018. The Unconstrained Presidency: Checks and Balances Eroded Long Before Trump. *Foreign Affairs* 97(5): 144-156.

Session 7: Congress in Foreign Policy

Readings: Stephen R. Weissman. 2017. Congress and War. *Foreign Affairs* 96(1): 132-145.

Session 8: The American Public and US Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Sections 18.1-18.3, 18.6

Session 9: Exam 1

Session 10: Violence, War, and the International Political Order

Readings: OGS, Sections 8.1-8.3, 16.1-16.3

Session 11: Great Powers, the United States, and the International Political Order

Readings: OGS, Sections 16.4, 16.5, 20.1

Session 12: The Politics of Empire and US Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Sections 20.2, 9.3

Bridey Heing and Daniel Immerwahr. 2019. How to Hide an Empire. Longreads. Available at: <https://longreads.com/2019/03/08/how-to-hide-an-empire/>

Session 13: Great Power Politics in the 21st century: US-Russian relations, US-China relations

Readings: OGS, Sections 11.3, 11.4, 20.4, 20.5

Session 14: Civil War and the Challenges of Intervention

Readings, OGS, Module 12

Session 15: Civil War II: US Civil War and Syrian Civil War

Readings: OGS, Section 35.4

Session 16: Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Readings: OGS, Module 15

Session 17: Nuclear Weapons and US Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Modules 13-14

Session 18: Exam 2

Session 19: The United States and International Organizations

Readings: OGS, Module 21

Session 20: Democracy Promotion in US Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Module 19; Stephen D. Krasner. 2020. Learning to Live with Despots: The Limits of Democracy Promotion. *Foreign Affairs* 99(2): 49-55.

Session 21: Globalization and US Trade Policy (Part 1)

Readings: OGS, Module 26

Session 22: Globalization and US Trade Policy (Part II)

Readings: OGS, Module 27

Session 23: Finance and US Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Module 28

Session 24: The United States and the Bretton Woods Institutions

Readings: OGS, Module 30

Session 25: The Environment and US Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Module 33

Session 26: US Immigration Policy

Readings: OGS, Module 32

Session 27: Global Poverty and Foreign Aid in US Foreign Policy

Readings: OGS, Module 31

Session 28: Exam 3