

**U.S. Foreign Policy
Political Science 344
Northwestern University
Spring 2014, Tu/Th 12:30-1:50 in Harris Hall 107**

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104 Scott Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00-4:00 and by
appointment ([link](#))

Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description

This course explores relations between the United States and the world primarily since September 11, 2001. Over the course of the quarter, we will examine American international power, the goals for which this power is employed, and the United States' relative effectiveness at achieving these goals.

The key objective is to give students the conceptual and critical tools to understand theory, policy outcomes and current events associated with contemporary foreign policy. Students will be encouraged to learn how to think and write along these three 'tracks' simultaneously.

By the end of the course, students should be able to employ basic concepts in International Relations to analyze American foreign policy as well as become critical consumers of policy and journalistic writing on the subject. Students are therefore expected to stay current with foreign policy developments by reading a major newspaper on a daily basis (the *Financial Times* is most highly recommended, but the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Washington Post* will also do).

Course Requirements

This course entails a substantial amount of reading and preparation. Class attendance and section participation will be crucial components of the final grade. Exams will cover both lectures and readings. No late work will be accepted without a written medical excuse.

An in-class midterm will be held on Thurs., May 1. A second “final” exam on the second half of the course will be given during the exam week.

An 8-12 page paper will be due electronically by 4 PM on Monday, June 2. You must give your TA a topic sentence for the paper in the section following the Oct. 18 lecture, and a 5 page rough draft of the paper in section following the Nov. 15 lecture.

Final grades will be based on: attendance and participation: (25%), midterm (25%), paper (25%), and final exam: (25%). Final exams will be kept and made available for retrieval two weeks into fall quarter 2014 during Professor Caverley’s regular office hours, after which they will be discarded. If you are unable to pick up your exam at the scheduled time and place and before the two-week period has passed, inform the professor or your TA to arrange an alternative means of delivery.

Note that the schedule of lectures and readings may change based on the availability of guest lectures or even current events. If so, students will be informed at least a week in advance unless under exceptional circumstances.

Research Study Participation Requirement

Students enrolled in this course are required to complete a research assignment that can include up to 4 hours of research study participation. These studies require that students set up an appointment to complete participation at a laboratory on campus (or via an on-line survey). Students will learn how studies are conducted and will receive a synopsis at the conclusion of the quarter describing the study’s goal, result, and relevance to the class. Students who prefer not to participate in research as subject may opt for an alternative that entails reading any one chapter about political science research and writing a five page reaction paper. The typical chapter is about 20 pages and thus reading it and writing a five page paper should take approximately four hours. During the first week of the quarter, students will receive an e-mail asking them whether they prefer study participation or the alternative assignment. The e-mail will also include details on how to complete either requirement. Failure to complete the requirement during the quarter will result in an incomplete. Failure to complete the requirement during the following quarter will result in a failing grade for the class. Note that if you are enrolled in multiple classes that require participation, you only need to satisfy the requirement one time. Also, if you already completed the requirement in another course in a previous quarter, you are excused from the requirement.

Paper

The paper should draw from the following two articles (part of Oct 4. reading):

Condoleezza Rice, “Rethinking the National Interest,” *Foreign Affairs* 87, 4 (July/August 2008): 2-26.

Condoleezza Rice, “Promoting the National Interest,” *Foreign Affairs* 79, 1 (Jan/Feb 2000): 45-62.

Briefly and accurately summarize both articles' main points, offer a thoughtful appraisal, and come to your own reasoned conclusion on a number of important issues of contemporary American foreign policy and world politics. This is not a research paper; there is no need for any additional reading beyond those assigned for this course (although should you choose to focus on topics not explicitly covered in class, such as combating climate change or the Arab Spring, that is fine).

Readings

All readings will be posted on e-reserve via Blackboard or are available on the web via the Northwestern network.

There is one required book, copies of which will be placed on reserve:

Sagan, Scott and Kenneth Waltz. *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: An Enduring Debate, Third Edition* New York: Norton, 2012.

Academic Integrity

Any student who violates the University's principles of academic integrity will automatically fail this course and be referred to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies' office for further action by the University. There are no exceptions. The Dean's policy for WCAS is available at:

<http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/academic.html>.

All student work may be analyzed electronically for violations of the university's academic integrity policy and may also be included in a database for the purpose of testing for plagiarized content.

Accessibility

Any student with a verified disability requiring special accommodations should speak to the course instructor and to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, (847) 467-5530, as early as possible in the quarter, preferably within the first two weeks of the course. All discussions will remain confidential.

Course Topics

4/1: **Introduction**

Begin readings for 10/2.

4/3: **American Power**

Krauthammer, Charles. "The Unipolar Moment Revisited." *National Interest*, no. 70 (2002): 13p
([link](#))

Mahbubani, K. "The Case against the West - America and Europe in the Asian Century."
Foreign Affairs 87, no. 3 (2008): 111-24.

Zakaria, Fareed. "The Future of American Power." *Foreign Affairs* 87, no. 3 (2008): 26p.

Brooks, Stephen, and William Wohlforth. "International Relations Theory and the Case against
Unilateralism." *Perspectives on Politics* 3, no. 3 (2005): 509-19.

4/8: **American Grand Strategy**

McCain, John. "An Enduring Peace Built on Freedom." *Foreign Affairs* 86, no. 6 (2007): 16p.

Obama, Barack. "Renewing American Leadership." *Foreign Affairs* 86, no. 4 (2007): 15p.

4/10: **Spreading Democracy: Review of International Relations Theory**

Ikenberry, G. John. "America's Liberal Grand Strategy: Democracy and National Security in the
Post-War Era." In *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays*, 268-90. London:
Pearson Educational, 2000.

Mearsheimer, John J. "Structural Realism." In *International Relations Theories: Discipline and
Diversity*, edited by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith, 71-88. Oxford: Oxford
UP, 2006.

Krauthammer, Charles. "In Defense of Democratic Realism." *The National Interest* 5, p. 15-25.

4/15: **The United States Military**

Boot, M. "The New American Way of War." *Foreign Affairs* 82, no. 4 (2003): 41-58.

Biddle, S. "Afghanistan and the Future of Warfare." *Foreign Affairs* 82, no. 2 (2003): 31-.

Posen, B. R. "Command of the Commons - the Military Foundation of US Hegemony." *International Security* 28, no. 1 (2003): 5-46.

4/17: **Economic Carrots and Sticks**

Haass, R. N. "Sanctioning Madness." *Foreign Affairs* 76, no. 6 (1997): 74-85

Gottemoeller, R. "The Evolution of Sanctions in Practice and Theory." *Survival* 49, no. 4 (2007)

Lopez, G. A., and D. Cortright. "Containing Iraq: Sanctions Worked." *Foreign Affairs* 83, no. 4 (2004).

4/22: **Economics, Globalization and "Hegemony"**

Altman, Roger C. "The Great Crash: A Geopolitical Setback for the West." *Foreign Affairs* 88, no. 1 (2009): 2-14.

Wade, Robert Hunter. "The Invisible Hand of the American Empire." *Ethics and International Affairs* 17, no. 2 (2003): 77-78.

Naim, M. "The Five Wars of Globalization." *Foreign Policy*, no. 134 (2003): 28-37.

Topic Sentence for Paper Due in Section this Week

4/24: **Trade**

Rodrik, D. "Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate." *Foreign Policy*, no. 107 (1997): 19-37.

Blinder, A. S. "Offshoring: The Next Industrial Revolution?" *Foreign Affairs* 85, no. 2 (2006): 113-28.

4/29: **Dollars and Deficits**

Levey, D. H., and S. S. B. Romn. "The Overstretch Myth - Can the Indispensable Nation Be a Debtor Nation?" *Foreign Affairs* 84, no. 2 (2005): 2-7.

Setser, B., and N. Roubini. "How Scary Is the Deficit? American Power and American Borrowing." *Foreign Affairs* 84, no. 4 (2005): 194.

5/1: **Midterm exam (in class)**

5/6: **America's Relationship to International Institutions (Climate Change)**

Ikenberry, G. John. "Democracy, Institutions, and American Restraint." In *American Unrivalled: The Future of the Balance of Power*, edited by G. John Ikenberry, 213-59. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 2002.

Tharoor, S. "Why America Still Needs the United Nations." *Foreign Affairs* 82, no. 5 (2003): 67.

5/8: **Alliances (Europe)**

Art, R. J. "Creating a Disaster: NATO's Open Door Policy." *Political Science Quarterly* 113, no. 3 (1998): 383-403.

Kagan, Robert. "The End of the End of History: Why the Twenty-First Century Will Look Like the Nineteenth." *The New Republic* (2008).

Joffe, Josef. "Defying History and Theory: The United States as The "Last Remaining Superpower"." In *America Unrivalled: The Future of the Balance of Power*, edited by G. John Ikenberry, 155-80. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 2002

5/13: **Great Power Transition (Asia)**

Drezner, D. "The New New World Order." *Foreign Affairs* (2007).

Friedberg, A. L. "The Future of U.S-China Relations - Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security* 30, no. 2 (2005): 7-+.

Christensen, Thomas J. "Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster? The Rise of China and US Policy toward East Asia." *International Security* 31, no. 1 (2006),

5/15: **Energy (Persian Gulf)**

Takeyh, R. "Iran's New Iraq." *Middle East Journal* 62, no. 1 (2008): 13-30.

5/20: **Nuclear Proliferation (Iran)**

Sagan, Scott Douglas, and Kenneth Neal Waltz. *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed : With New Sections on India and Pakistan, Terrorism, and Missile Defense*. [2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2003.

Byman, Daniel. "Iran, Terrorism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 31, no. 3 (2008): 169-81.

5 Page Rough Draft for Paper Due in Section this Week

5/22: **Preventative War (Iraq...Iran?)**

Jervis, R. "Understanding the Bush Doctrine." *Political Science Quarterly* 118, no. 3 (2003): 365-88.

Mearsheimer, J. J., and S. M. Walt. "An Unnecessary War." *Foreign Policy*, no. 134 (2003): 50-59.

Pollack, K. M. "Next Stop Baghdad?" *Foreign Affairs* 81, no. 2 (2002): 32-+.

5/27: **Terrorism ("AfPak")**

Bush, George W. "Commencement Address at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York." *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* 38, no. 23 (2002): 5p.

Obama, Barak H. "Remarks by the President in Address to the Nation on the Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan." West Point, NY. ([link](#))

Mueller, J. "Six Rather Unusual Propositions About Terrorism." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 17, no. 4 (2005): 487-505.

Stewart, Rory. "The Irresistible Illusion." *London Review of Books* 31, no. 16 (2009): 3-6.

5/29: **Humanitarian Intervention (Kosovo but not Rwanda; Libya but not Syria)**

Michael Mandelbaum, "A Perfect Failure," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 78, no. 5 September/October 1999", p. 2-8;

Javier Solana, "NATO's Success in Kosovo," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 78, no. 6 November/December 1999", pp. 114-120.

Western, J. "Sources of Humanitarian Intervention - Beliefs, Information, and Advocacy in the US Decisions on Somalia and Bosnia." *International Security* 26, no. 4 (2002): 112-42.

Power, Samantha. "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen." *The Atlantic* 288, no. 2 (2001): 84-108. (SKIM for background)

6/2: **Paper due at 4pm.**

Friday, June 13th, 3:00-5:00 PM: Final exam.