

Political Science 2300 – American Foreign Policy

Daniel Silverman

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Fall 2016

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:10–10:05 a.m.

Scott Lab E040

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:15am–12:15pm, 3044 Derby Hall

Course Description

This course examines America's role in world politics. The course is broadly divided into two parts. The first half is the "Nuts and Bolts," with a brief introduction to International Relations (IR) theory and examination of the key actors – elected officials, bureaucrats, citizens, journalists, and lobbies – in the U.S. foreign policy making process. The second half uses this toolkit to study a number of the most salient issues facing the U.S. in world affairs today, from the rise of China to the emergence of drone warfare and the strategies to counter terrorist organizations.

Within this structure, the course revolves around a series of scholarly debates about different actors and approaches in American foreign policy. These debates address crucial questions such as: "Who makes U.S. foreign policy?", "Is a conflict with China inevitable?", and "Why is anti-Americanism so pervasive around the world today?" The purpose of these debates is not for me to simply tell you the "right answer," but for you to understand and engage with the contest of ideas and to reach your own conclusions with logic and evidence. This will also help equip you to think beyond this course and discriminate between conflicting causal claims more broadly.

Course Objectives

This course can count as Social Science—Organizations and Politics AND Global Studies. As such, these are the goals and objectives of the class.

Category: Social Science: Organizations and Politics

"Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources."

- "Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics."
- "Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts."
- "Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making."

Category: Global Studies "Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and prin-

ciplered citizens.”

- “Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.”
- “Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world’s nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.”
- “Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.”

Course Readings

There is no required textbook for the course. Instead, I will expose you to a rich variety of readings from academic as well as non-academic journals, books, textbooks, and magazines. These readings will be made available to you via Carmen.

Course Evaluation

All students must carefully read assigned materials prior to class and come prepared to participate in each session. To ensure that everyone does so, you will have attendance and participation grades, as well as a short “reading check” quiz every two weeks. These will be fairly straightforward exercises with five questions on the readings from the previous two weeks. I will also add one bonus question on each quiz based on a foreign policy news story from the same timeframe. Thus, it is to your great benefit to follow international events, which will be referenced frequently in class.

Grading in the class will be based on attendance and participation as well as the reading quizzes and the midterm and final exams. The midterm will be a take-home exam consisting of short answer and essay questions, while the final will be an in-class exam consisting of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Proper documentation of a medical or a personal emergency is required for any make-ups to qualify as excused, otherwise they will be penalized at a rate of 10% for the exams and 20% for the quizzes. Make-ups must be taken within one week of the scheduled exam, except under exceptional circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Any questions about grading on the quizzes and exams must be submitted in writing to the instructor within a week as well. Final grades will be based on the OSU standard grading scale.

All cellphones should be silenced and stowed during class. Laptops may be used for class purposes such as note-taking. Inappropriate or disruptive technology use will affect your participation grade. My role this semester is to guide you through the process of learning about this important topic and to build up your analytical abilities along the way. I will be available in office hours every week, or by individual appointment if you have a time conflict. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the course or the material.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Attendance/Participation: | 10% |
| Reading Checks: | 30% (5% each, highest 6 out of 7 used) |
| Midterm Exam: | 30% |
| Final Exam: | 30% |

Academic Misconduct

All the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation of them) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism must be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct and handled according to university policy. For questions about this policy, see the Committee of Academic Misconduct's website: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>

Special Needs

Students with any disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; and on the web: <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>

Part 1 – Nuts and Bolts

Wednesday 8/24 & Friday 8/26. Intro to IR theory.

- Walt, Stephen M. 1998. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy* 110: 29-44.
- Snyder, Jack. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." *Foreign Policy* 145: 52-62.

Monday 8/29 & Wednesday 8/31. American engagement. 1st reading quiz.

- Posen, Barry. 2013. "Pull Back: The Case for a Less Activist Foreign Policy." *Foreign Affairs* 92(1):116-128.
- Brooks, Stephen G., G. John Ikenberry, and William C. Wohlforth. 2013. "Don't Come Home, America: The Case against Retrenchment." *International Security* 37(3): 7-51

Wednesday 9/7 & Friday 9/9. Elected officials.

- Lindsay, James M. 2003. "Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 33(3): 530-546.
- Howell, William G., and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2007. "When Congress Stops Wars: Partisan Politics and Presidential Power." *Foreign Affairs* 86(5): 95-107

Monday 9/12, Wednesday 9/14 & Friday 9/16. The bureaucracy. 2nd reading quiz.

- Jervis, Robert. 2006. "Reports, politics, and intelligence failures: The case of Iraq." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 29(1): 3 - 52.
- Krasner, Stephen. 1971. "Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland)." *Foreign Policy* 7: 159-79.

Monday 9/19, Wednesday 9/21 & Friday 9/23. The public.

- Zaller, John. 1994. "Elite Leadership of Mass Opinion: New Evidence from the Gulf War." In *Taken by Storm: The Media, Public Opinion, and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Gulf War*, ed. W. Lance Bennett and David L. Paletz. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Aldrich, John H., et al. 2006. "Foreign Policy and the Electoral Connection." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 477-502.

Monday 9/26, Wednesday 9/28 & Friday 9/30. The media. 3rd reading quiz.

- Hayes, Danny, and Matt Guardino. 2010. "Whose Views Made the News? Media Coverage and the March to War in Iraq." *Political Communication* 27(1): 59-87.
- Baum, Matthew A.. 2002. "Sex, Lies, and War: How Soft News Brings Foreign Policy to the Inattentive Public." *The American Political Science Review* 96(1): 91-109.

Monday 10/3, Wednesday 10/5 & Friday 10/7. Interest groups. Midterm distributed on Friday.

- Mearsheimer, John, and Stephen Walt. "The Israel Lobby." *London Review of Books* 28(6): 3-12. Read article and skim response letters that follow.
- Brooks, Stephen G.. 2013. "Economic Actors' Lobbying Influence on Support for War and Peace." *International Organization* 67(4): 863-88.

*****MIDTERM EXAM IS DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, BY 5:00PM ON CARMEN*****

Part 2 – Contemporary Issues

Monday 10/10 & Wednesday 10/12. The rise of China.

- Friedberg, Aaron L. 2005. "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security* 30(2): 7-45.
- Khong, Yuen Foong. 2014. "Primacy or World Order? The United States and China's Rise – A Review Essay." *International Security* 38(3): 153-175.

Monday 10/17, Wednesday 10/19 & Friday 10/21. Russian revisionism. 4th reading quiz.

- Mearsheimer, John. 2014. "Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West's Fault: The Liberal Delusions that Provoked Putin." *Foreign Affairs* 93(5): 77-89.
- Shteyngart, Gary. 2015. "Out of My Mouth Comes Unimpeachable Manly Truth: What I Learned from Watching a Week of Russian TV." *The New York Times Magazine*.

Monday 10/24, Wednesday 10/26 & Friday 10/28. (Counter)-terrorism.

- Mueller, John. 2005. "Six Rather Unusual Propositions About Terrorism." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 17(4): 487-505.
- Pape, Robert A. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97(3): 343-361.
- Abrahms, Max. 2008. "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy." *International Security* 32(4): 78-105.

Monday 10/31, Wednesday 11/2 & Friday 11/4. (Counter)-insurgency. 5th reading quiz.

- Kilcullen, David. 2005. "Countering Global Insurgency." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 28(4): 597-617.
- Porch, Douglas. 2011. "The Dangerous Myths and Dubious Promise of COIN," *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 22(2): 239-257.

Monday 11/7 & Wednesday 11/9. Anti-Americanism.

- Cole, Juan. 2006. "Anti-Americanism: It's the Policies." *The American Historical Review* 111(4): 1120-29.
- Ajami, Fouad. 2002. "The Falseness of Anti-Americanism." *Foreign Policy* 138: 53-61.

Monday 11/14, Wednesday 11/16 & Friday 11/18. Democratization. 6th reading quiz.

- Russett, Bruce et al. 1993. *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World*, Chs. 1-2. Princeton University Press.
- Mansfield, Edward, and Jack D. Snyder. "Democratization and War." *Foreign Affairs* 74(3).

Monday 11/21, Monday 11/28, & Wednesday 11/30. Arab-Israeli dispute.

- Pressman, Jeremy. 2003 "Visions in Collision: What Happened at Camp David and Taba?" *International Security* 28(2): 5-43.
- Pearlman, Wendy. 2009. "Spoiling Inside and Out: Internal Political Contestation and the Middle East Peace Process." *International Security* 33(3): 79-109.

Friday 12/2, Monday 12/5 & Wednesday 12/7. Drone warfare. 7th reading quiz.

- Cronin, Audrey K. 2013. "Why Drones Fail: When Tactics Drive Strategy." *Foreign Affairs* 92(4): 44-54.
- Byman, Daniel. 2013. "Why Drones Work: The Case for Washington's Weapon of Choice." *Foreign Affairs* 92(4): 32-43.

Final Exam: Monday, December 12th, from 10:00–11:45 a.m.