

**Summer 2010**  
**Psychology Building**  
**Room 305**  
**Mon - Fri**  
**9:00am – 10:45am**

**Instructor - Ryan G. Baird**  
**Office: Social Science 328 A-1**  
**Office Hours: By Appt.**  
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## **POL455: American Foreign Policy**

### **Course Description:**

This course serves as an introduction to American Foreign Policy. The course is presented through the intersection of international relations theory, diplomatic history and foreign policy analysis. Bruce Jentleson's text characterizes foreign policy strategy as the *essence and process of choice* (pg. 5).

### **Course Objectives:**

The general goal of this course is to introduce students to American Foreign Policy, and help them understand the key issues of foreign policy and the actors that determine it. When you successfully completes this course should:

- Be familiar with the major events that shape American Foreign Policy
- Understand what is meant by “the essence and process of choice”
- Comprehend economic what U.S. national interest is and which policies best serve it
- Understand the roles that individuals and institutions within the American political system play in foreign policy, as well as their varying influence
- Understand the major theoretical principles of and differences in foreign policy *strategy* and foreign policy *politics*

### **Evaluation:**

Every student's evaluation in this course will be based on a mid-term, a series of unannounced quizzes that will be based on previous classes, an evaluation of class participation, which includes current events, and a series of reaction papers, and a final. The quizzes will be combination a multiple choice and short answer, while the in class exams will be short answer and essay in nature. The final will be of the take home variety and will be an 7 to 10 page paper analyzing the assigned book “Taming American Power” by Stephen M. Walt. More details on the final will be discussed as the class moves farther along.

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The mid-term will count for 25% of the final grade. The final is take home, and will count for 35% of the final grade. The six highest quiz scores from the seven to nine given will account for 6% of the final grade (1% each). The reaction papers will count for another 24% of the final grade (4% each). And finally participation in class discussion and current events will count for 10% of your final grade.

Every class period, you are required to bring an article to class concerning a current event that deals with American foreign policy, and is hopefully of interest to you. As a class, we will discuss these during the first half-hour of each class, except on test days. You will then turn your article in with your name on it. This is an integral part of your participation grade.

There will be readings that accompany each chapter of the main textbook. Most of these are already apart of the main text; however, I may assign other articles if I feel they fit the material better than what is included in the text. There are 11 chapters and readings for each one; you are required to write a reaction paper over these additional readings for 6 of the 11 assigned chapters. In each paper you should analyze and synthesize the arguments and points presented in the readings, take a position, and then argue why you believe it is the correct position. Each paper should be 3 to 4 pages long and are due at the beginning of class each Monday. We will discuss the readings towards the end of each class.

Mid-term		25%
Final Exam		35%
Six Best Quizzes		6%
Reaction Papers		24%
<u>Participation</u>		<u>10%</u>
Total	=	100%

Final grades will be assigned based on the following schedule of points earned over the semester:  
A = 100% - 90%; B = 89% - 70%; C = 79% - 70%; D = 69% - 60%; E < 60%.

### **Required Texts:**

Assigned readings are from texts listed below which are available from the ASUA Bookstore.

Jentleson, Bruce, 2010. "American Foreign Policy," 4<sup>rd</sup> edition. W.W. Norton & Company (Be sure to get the fourth edition as older ones may not make the curriculum.) This will be referred to as AFP in calendar portion of the syllabus.

Walt, Stephen, 2005. "Taming American Power." W.W. Norton & Company. Referred to TAP

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All students are expected to keep abreast of the current events that are shaping American foreign policy by reading high quality daily sources such as the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), the Globe and Mail ([www.theglobeandmail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com)), the Financial Times ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)), or the weekly Economist ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)).

### Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings:

Order/Date	Topic	Readings
1. (06-07-10)	Introduction to American Foreign Policy	Preface in AFP (Fog of War – video)
2. (06-08-10)	American Exceptionalism in Foreign Policy	“American Ideals vs. American Institutions” – Samuel P. Huntington
3. (06-09-10)	The Strategic Context	AFP – Chap. 1 & 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4
4. (06-10-10)	The Domestic Context	AFP – Chap. 2 & 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
5. (06-11-10)	The Historic Context	AFP – Chap. 3 & 3.1, 3.2
(Monday 6 – 14: Two reaction papers are due)		
6. (06-14-10)	American Primacy	TAP – Introduction and Chap. 1
7. (06-15-10)	Cold War I	AFP – Chap. 4 & 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
8. (06-16-10)	Cold War II	AFP – Chap. 5 & 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4
9. (06-17-10)	Cold War III	“The Centrality of the Bomb” – Alperovitz & Bird; “Who Won the Cold War” – Deudney & Ikenberry
10. (06-18-10)	<i>Mid-term</i>	<i>In Class Exam</i>
(Monday 6 – 21: One reaction paper is due)		
11. (06-21-10)	A New Era	AFP - Chap. 6 & 6.1, 6.2
12. (06-22-10)	Cold War Geopolitics	AFP - Chap. 7 & 7.1, 7.2
13. (06-23-10)	Roots of Resentment	TAP – Chap. 2
14. (06-24-10)	The Middle East	AFP - Chap. 8 & 8.1, 8.2, 8.3
15. (06-25-10)	Strategies of Opposition	TAP – Chap. 3

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(Monday 6 -28: Two reaction papers are due)

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|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 16. (06-28-10) | Strategies of Accommodation               | TAP – Chap. 4                     |
| 17. (06-29-10) | Humanitarian Intervention                 | AFP - Chap. 9 & 9.1, 9.2          |
| 18. (06-30-10) | Economics & Health                        | AFP – Chap. 10 & 10.1, 10.2       |
| 19. (07-01-10) | Financial Crisis and National Health Care | Readings to be announced          |
| 20. (07-02-10) | The Triumph of Democracy                  | AFP – Chap. 11 & 11.1, 11.2, 11.3 |

*Friday 07-02: Final Take-home exam question will be given)*

(Monday 07-05: One reaction paper due)

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|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 21. (07-05-10) | Americas Best Interest  | TAP – Chap. 5                       |
| 22. (07-06-10) | Obama’s Foreign Policy  | “The Carter Syndrome” – Walter Mead |
| 23. (07-07-10) | Class Canceled to allow time to finish take-home final                      |                                     |
| 24. (07-08-10) | <i>Take home final is due in my mailbox in Social Sciences 315 by 11am.</i> |                                     |

### Course Policies:

Class time will largely consist of lectures; however, the beginning of class will be devoted to discussing the current event articles that you bring in and the end of class will be used to discuss the AFP readings. Because the topics covered can be technical, please feel free to ask me questions at any point, as I guarantee that other people have similar questions.

### Attendance & Participation:

I do not formally record attendance; however, if you do not attend class, your test and quiz scores will reflect this. Additionally, while I do not record attendance, I will collect your current event articles during each class. Not turning in the articles or discussing will greatly affect your participation grade. If your absence is unavoidable please get notes from a classmate. Lectures are given once and will not be summarized during office hours. Arriving late or leaving early will reflect poorly on your participation score as you are disrupting your fellow classmates. Finally, if your cell phone goes off once you will receive a warning, if it goes off again you lose 2% of your participation score automatically. Similarly, if my cell phone rings, I will give everyone there that day a 2% bonus to their participation grade. However, 1) All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion; and 2) Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

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### **Missed Exams or Quizzes:**

There are no make-ups for the mid-term exam. If you are unable to make the test you will need to present something in writing to verify your absence. And then your grade will be figured without those points. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes, period.

### **Extra Credit:**

There is no extra credit given, period.

### **Code of Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to observe the rules contained in the Code of Academic Integrity. Please be aware that any form of cheating in exams or assignments will not be tolerated, and will result in a failing grade (E) for the course. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity, point a browser to <http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai1.html>.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must be registered in the Disability Resources Center (DRC). If you have still not registered, please call 621-3268, or visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>. We will then work out the necessary accommodations for you in this class.

### **Disruptive or Threatening Behavior:**

The University and the instructor will not tolerate behavior that is disruptive to the instructional process (see <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/disruptive.pdf>) or that is deemed threatening to any person (see <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/threatening.pdf>).

### **Disclaimer:**

I reserve the right to make any changes to the syllabus that I deem necessary for the class.