

# POLI 4043 American Foreign Policy

## Course Syllabus Fall 2011

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Classroom: 229 Tureaud Hall  
Class Hours: T, TH 10:40-12:00  
Office Hours: T 9-10, TH 12:00-1:00  
and by appointment

### **Course description**

This seminar is designed to introduce students to the historical and contemporary issues related to U.S. foreign policy. We will first review the history of American foreign policy in the 20th century with an emphasis on national security issues. Then the course will proceed with an in-depth coverage of major groups and institutions involved in formulating American foreign policy. The particular focus will be on the roles of the presidency, Congress, executive branch (e.g., State Department), interest groups, mass media, and public opinion.

### **Required readings**

There is one required textbooks for the course that can be purchased at the LSU Student Union or Co-op bookstores:

- Walter La Feber (2008) *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2006*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw Hill. (listed in the syllabus as LaFeber)

In addition to this text, a number of book chapters, journal articles, and documents will also be required. They will be available online (following the web link in the syllabus) or on Moodle for this course. All the readings must be completed before the first class for which they are assigned.

### **Course requirements**

The final grade in this course will be based on four main components: (1) two in-class examinations, (2) one project and its presentation, (3) four in-class quizzes, and (4) class participation.

Summary of the grade components:

50% Two in-class exams (1<sup>st</sup> exam: 25%; 2<sup>nd</sup> exam: 25%)  
20% Project (project 15%; PPT in-class presentation 5%)  
20% Four pop quizzes  
10% Seminar participation

1. *Two in-class examinations* (50% total; 25% each)

The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Each exam will be worth a total of 25% of the student's final grade. Questions will be based on the student's comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures.

2. *Project and class presentation* (20%):

Each student will write a paper (maximum of 8 pages) and give a class presentation in PowerPoint on one from the list of project topics. It will be a joint project prepared by several students, though each student's presentation grade will be determined entirely independently from the others' in the group. I will lay out the parameters for each group topic on **September 13**. Each student will have approximately 6-8 minutes for his/her individual presentation. To facilitate the coordination among multiple topic preferences, by **September 20** you are required to submit to me your top three topic preferences, one of which will be assigned as the topic for your presentation. If I do not receive your topic preferences, I will assign you to one of the topics after considering all the remaining students' preferences. An assignment sheet listing presentation groups and topics for all students will be handed out in class on **September 22** and also posted on Moodle ( Project Group Assignments file). Only those internet sources that are listed for each topic will be used for preparing the presentation. Every student must e-mail their completed paper and PowerPoint presentation to me by 4 p.m. on **November 14**. On the scheduled date for your topic, you should bring your PowerPoint project in electronic form for the class presentation and **give me a printed copy of both the PPT presentation and essay**. Detailed instructions for the project requirements, format, each topic, deadlines, etc., is provided in a separate file available on Moodle ( Project file).

**Summary of important dates:**

**Students with Disabilities Policy**

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your Accommodation Letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible. For additional information, check the Office of Disability Services Faculty Handbook.

**Equal Opportunity Statement**

LSU's PS 1 assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran's status in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates. *This policy statement applies equally to the teaching and learning environment within all university recognized courses, curriculum and co-curriculum programs.*

## SCHEDULE

*August 23*

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

*August 25 - 30*

### **DIPLOMACY BEFORE WORLD WAR II**

LaFeber, Walter. 2008. The US Rise to World Power, 1776-1945. In M. Cox & D. Stokes (eds.) *US Foreign Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 3 (pp. 45-60).

\*posted on Moodle

Kissinger, Henry. 1994. The Hinge: Theodore Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson. In H. Kissinger, *Diplomacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, Chapter 2 (pp. 29-55). \*posted on Moodle

*September 1 - 6*

### **WORLD WAR II DIPLOMACY**

Document: [Yalta Conference \(1945\)](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/yalta.htm) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/yalta.htm>

LaFeber: Chapter 1. Open Doors, Iron Curtains (1941-1945)

*September 8 - 13*

### **COLD WAR BEGINNINGS**

Document: [Truman Doctrine \(1947\)](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/trudoc.htm) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/trudoc.htm>

LaFeber: Chapter 2. Only Two Declarations of Cold War (1946)

LaFeber: Chapter 3. Two Halves of the Same Walnut (1947-1948)

LaFeber: Chapter 4. The 'Different World' of NSC-68 (1948-1950)

**\*\*\*NOTE:** One part of the session on **September 13** will be reserved for reviewing project requirements and topics. Each student needs to submit her/his top three topic preferences in class on **September 20**. The topic assignment sheet for all students will be distributed in class on **September 22**. Project guidelines and group assignments sheet will also be posted on Moodle (see the details on p. 2 above).

*September 15 - 20*

### **KOREA AND THE 1950S**

LaFeber: Chapter 5. Korea: The War for Both Asia and Europe

LaFeber: Chapter 6. New Issues, New Faces (1951-1953)

LaFeber: Chapter 7. A Different Cold War (1953-1955)

LaFeber: Chapter 8. East and West of Suez (1954-1957)

LaFeber: Chapter 9. New Frontiers and Old Dilemmas (1957-1962) (read only pp. 201-216)

*September 22 - 27*

### **FROM CUBA TO VIETNAM**

LaFeber: Chapter 9. New Frontiers and Old Dilemmas (1957-1962) (read only pp. 216-228)

LaFeber: Chapter 10. Southeast Asia--and Elsewhere (1962-1966)

Document: [Tonkin Gulf Incident \(1964\)](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/tonkin-g.htm) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/tonkin-g.htm>

*September 29*

**THE END OF VIETNAM AND THE DETENTE ERA**

LaFeber: Chapter 11. A New Containment: The Rise and Fall of Detente (1966-1976)

*October 4*

**COLD WAR : ITS LAST DECADE AND THE END**

LaFeber: Chapter 12. From Cold War to Old War: Reagan and Gorbachev (1977-1989)

LaFeber: Chapter 13. A New World Order—

Graber, Doris A. 2006. Foreign Affairs Coverage. In Doris A. Graber, *Mass Media and American Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, Chapter 11 (pp. 318-359). \*posted on Moodle

(Recommended: Page, Benjamin I., and Jason Barabas. 2000. Foreign Policy Gaps between Citizens and Leaders. *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 339-364. \*posted on Moodle)

*October 25*

**SOCIETAL INFLUENCES II: INTEREST GROUPS**

Smith, Tony. 2000. Three. Historical Stages of Ethnic Group Influence In Tony Smith,

Lehrer, Eli. 2004. The Homeland Security Bureaucracy. *Public Interest*, No. 156 (Summer 2004), pp. 71-85. \*posted on Moodle

Jervis, Robert. 2006. Reports, Politics, and Intelligence Failures: The Case of Iraq. *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 3-52. \*posted on Moodle

**REMINDER:**

**Projects are due by November 14 (Monday) at 4 p.m.**

*November 15 - December 1*

**PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

\*\*\* **NOTE:** No Class on November 24 (Thanksgiving)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXAM #2</b> <b>Wednesday, December 7</b> <b>10:00 am - 12:00 pm (noon)</b></p>
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~ *Have a Good Winter Break* ~