

United States Foreign Policy

PSC 415, Spring 2004

T/Th 9.25-10.40, OS 524

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Office Hours: T/Th 8-9.15; 11-12, or by appointment

Goals of this Course

The purpose of this course is for you to acquire knowledge that will allow you to consider policy choices made by the United States and understand what actors, institutions, and influences affect those decisions. Toward this end, this course is structured in such a way as to encourage student participation and build problem-solving skills by looking at the issues that policy makers face on a daily basis. In the real world, policy makers (and you) are presented with different and conflicting information about issues and have to sort through it and make judgments and choices. The goal in this course is to help you better understand the American foreign policy process and why particular foreign policy choices are made.

Required Text

Christopher Herrick. 2003. Issues in American Foreign Policy. Addison Wesley Longman, Inc. ISBN 0-321-08078-5.

Contact Information

Office hours and location are as listed above. If you cannot come to office hours, you can arrange to meet me by appointment. If you need to contact me, emailing me is your best bet. I generally check my email at least once a day Monday through Friday.

Requirements

- Exam #1=10% of overall grade
- Exam #2=15% of overall grade
- Exam #3=15% of overall grade

- Final Exam=15% of overall grade
- Class Participation= 20% of overall grade
- Paper #1 with Presentation and Discussion= 15% of overall grade
- Paper #2= 10% of overall grade

Exams: There will be one make-up exam offered on Thursday, May 6, 2004, to those students who have a valid excuse and written documentation for missing class and who contact me prior to or on the day of the exam. You are required to bring a Blue Book to each exam.

Class Participation: This class is based largely on class discussion. You are responsible for coming to class prepared by having done the reading, even on the days that you are not presenting or writing a paper. As it is not possible to participate if you are not in class, it is in your best interest to attend class. Participation goes beyond showing up for class and breathing! Participation grades are based on the **quality** of your participation, not solely the **quantity**.

Papers and Presentation/Discussion: This course is structured around eight topic areas significant in American foreign policy. You are each responsible for presenting a paper on one of these topics as well as writing an additional paper that you do not have to present. For Paper #1, your grade will be determined by the quality of your paper, your presentation, and how well you lead the discussion for that topic. For Paper #2, your grade is based only on the content of your paper.

As in real life, grammar and spelling count and will affect your overall paper grade. Papers must be of the double-spaced, typed variety. It will be to your benefit to become familiar with the spell-check on your computer.

I will only accept papers that are stapled and in hard copy form on the day of that topic's presentation. Specific discussion and due dates will be determined as we go through the semester.

Additional Information

Late Assignments are not an option. Papers are due on the day of student presentations whether it is Paper #1 or Paper #2. As the purpose of these papers is to help you prepare for class discussions and analyses, papers will only be accepted during class on the day of that topic discussion.

Extra credit projects are not an option.

All University policies apply, including the honor code. The work you will do in this course is subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct, a commitment that, individually and collectively, the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

Students with disabilities who require accommodation(s) should make an appointment with the Student Support Services (572-5138) to discuss their specific needs as well as inform me of those needs.

Random quizzes may be given at my discretion. If I find that you are not keeping up with the reading, I will give quizzes.

If you encounter any problems throughout the session regarding this class or your ability to participate, please let me know. It is not advisable to wait until the end of the session to inform me of difficulties you are having, as it is then after the fact.

Schedule & Reading Assignments—Revised

JANUARY T 1/13	Introduction
Th 1/15	Introductory Chapter <i>Assignment:</i> Introductory Chapter-All pp.
T 1/20	Introductory Chapter
Th 1/22	International Political Economy <i>Assignment:</i> Chapters 12 (pp. 443-446; 455-461; 479-484) and Chapter 13-All pp.
T 1/27	International Political Economy
Th 1/29	International Political Economy Chapter 13-WTO Debate-presentation/discussion
FEBRUARY T 2/3	International Resources <i>Assignment:</i> Chapter 14-All pp.
Th 2/5	International Resources Chapter 14-International Fisheries Debate-presentation/discussion
T 2/10	International Energy Policy <i>Assignment:</i> Chapter 11-All pp.
Th 2/12	International Energy Policy Chapter 11-US Middle East Oil Debate-presentation/discussion
T 2/17	Exam #1
Th 2/19	International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime <i>Assignment:</i> Chapter 4-All pp., and Chapter 5-All pp.
T 2/24	International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime
Th 2/26	International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime
MARCH T 3/2	International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime Chapter 5-Plan Colombia & War on Drugs-presentation/discussion

Th 3/4	Conflict and Cooperation <i>Assignment:</i> Chapters 1 (pp. 37-38; 49-62) ,Chapter 2 (pp. 72-73; 73-75; 88-101) , Chapter 3-All pp.
T 3/9 & Th 3/11	SPRING BREAK
T 3/16	No Class-ISA Conference
Th 3/18	No Class-ISA Conference
T 3/23	Conflict and Cooperation
Th 3/25	Conflict and Cooperation
T 3/30	Conflict and Cooperation Chapter 3-Weapons of Mass Destruction-presentation/discussion
APRIL Th 4/1	Exam #2
T 4/6	Humanitarian Intervention <i>Assignment:</i> Chapter 6 (pp. 230-239; 260-265; one case study for intervention from pp. 239-253; and one case study from refraining from intervention pp. 253-260)
Th 4/8	Humanitarian Intervention Chapter 6-US Humanitarian Intervention Policy-presentation/discussion
T 4/13	Environment <i>Assignment:</i> Chapter 7 (pp. 275-280; 282-284; 296-303), Chapter 8-All pp.; and Chapter 9 (pp. 340-344; 353-355; 361-368)
Th 4/15	Environment Chapter 8- Biodiversity-presentation/discussion
T 4/20	World Health <i>Assignment:</i> Chapter 10-All pp.
Th 4/22	World Health Chapter 10-US Policy on AIDS-presentation/discussion
T 4/27	Exam #3
Th 4/29	Recap
MAY 5/4-5/11	FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 11, 10.10-12.10

Paper/Presentation Questions

You are not limited to these, but you might want to consider these questions for your papers/presentations:

- Is it possible for the US to come up with one uniform policy for an issue, or does the issue end up resulting in ad hoc or instance-specific policy measures?
- How does this policy affect you?
- What are the intermestic concerns for the policy area?
- What factor(s) most affect this policy decision for the US?
- What obstacles are there to the US implementing, carrying out, or (in some instances) enforcing its policy decision?