Course Overview:

This course examines U.S. foreign policy along different critical junctures. With a special focus in the second half of the twentieth century, the course critically addresses the U.S. role in global politics and its contemporary foreign policy challenges around the world. More generally, the course aims at developing a holistic analytic framework to understand in depth the linkages among America’s grand strategies, domestic politics, and the international system.

The class meets 15 times in all. The course begins with a review of the principal approaches to the study of foreign policy: realism, liberalism, constructivism, and neo-Marxism. The second section examines the institutions and processes that guide foreign policy formation and implementation. By tracing back America’s grand strategies during the Cold War (1945-1991) and the post-Cold War period (1991-2001), the third section focuses on the post-September 11 scenario, particularly the Bush and Obama administrations. The course concludes with a review of some of the more salient foreign policy challenges facing the U.S. in the contemporary era.

Course requirements

Participation: active participation in the class discussion is critical to academic success. Students are expected to complete the required weekly readings prior to each class meeting. Taking notes on each reading and discussing it prior to class is highly recommended.

Mid-term exam: there is a mid-term exam in order to evaluate each student progress during the first part of the class. The exam is based on questions taken from the assigned readings, class discussions, and lectures. The mid-term exam will be held on week 8.

Case presentation: students are responsible to make one individual presentation on a topic related to the Trump administration’s foreign policy. The presentation must be accompanied by a written report from 5 to 6 pages long (double-spaced, 12-font size) due the same day. Examples of topics are discussed in class. Case presentations will be held on week 14.

Final exam: the final exam is comprehensive, encompassing all the assigned readings during the course. The final exam will be held on week 15.
**Grading**

Final grades in the course are based on the following weighting system:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Required readings:**


**Schedule**

The class meets 15 times in all:

**Week 1: Course overview**

No required readings

**I. APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF FOREIGN POLICY**

**Week 2: Realism and U.S. Foreign Policy**

**Required readings**


**Recommended readings**


**Week 3: Liberalism and U.S. Foreign Policy**

**Required readings**


Recommended readings


Week 4: Constructivism and U.S. Foreign Policy

Required readings


Recommended readings


Week 5: Neo-Marxism and U.S. Foreign Policy

Required readings


Recommended readings


## II. INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

### Week 6: Executive-Legislative Relations

#### Required readings


#### Recommended readings


**Week 7: Interest groups, public opinion, and the media**

**Required readings**


**Recommended readings**

Week 8: MID-TERM EXAM

III. AMERICA’S GRAND STRATEGIES

Week 9: The Cold War era

Required readings

Recommended readings


Week 10: The post-Cold War Era

Required readings


Recommended readings


Week 11: The Bush administration

Required readings


Recommended readings

Week 12: The Obama administration

Required readings


Recommended readings


IV. FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES

Week 13: China, Terrorism, and Nuclear Proliferation

Required readings

Recommended readings


**Week 14: Case presentations**

**Week 15: FINAL EXAM**