College of Charleston
POLITICAL SCIENCE 361.01
Topics in Foreign Policy

Dr. Guoli Liu
Spring 2020
Maybank Hall 307, Tuesday and Thursday 10:50 am-12:05 pm
Office: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 103
Office Hours: W 9 am-11:30 am, Tuesday 3:00-4:30 pm; and by appointment
843-953-5883 (office); E-mail: Liug@cofc.edu

COURSE CONTENT AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The key topic of this course is the United States in world affairs. We provide an overview and analysis of the influences, challenges, and opportunities of contemporary U.S. foreign policy. We examine the outstanding issues confronting U.S. foreign policy today, as well as the foreign policies of other key global actors in the foreseeable future. We systematically explore the forces that influence decisions among alternative policies and carefully outline the potential advantages and disadvantages of those alternatives. The major emphasis of the course is the analysis of alternative policy options available to the U.S. with the potential positive and/or negative outcomes associated with each alternative. This course examines the assumptions, theories, and concepts that shape U.S. policies overseas. We will study U.S. foreign policy in an international setting with an emphasis on the post-World War II and especially the post-Cold War periods. We will also study comparative grand strategy. The diverse factors, national and global, influencing the position and actions of the United States in international society will be analyzed.

The course focuses on six aspects: (1) analytical perspectives and theoretical models of U.S. foreign policy, and domestic and external influences on foreign policy decisions; (2) the enduring and competing emphases in U.S. foreign policy: isolationism versus internationalism, unilaterism versus multilateralism, and interventionism versus non-interventionism; (3) challenges confronting American policymakers in key issue areas: military strategy, the proliferation of weapons of destruction, trade and investment policies, democracy and human rights, and the global environment; (4) challenges in key regions and countries with particular importance to U.S. security and well-being: Israel-Palestine, Islamic extremism and terrorism, Europe and NATO, and resurgent Russia; (5) comparative grand strategy; and (6) U.S. leadership in a changing world and the future of U.S. foreign policy.

By the end of the semester, you should have more critical thinking and a deep understanding of the following: (1) the effect of historical legacy on American foreign policy; (2) the vital connections between domestic and international affairs; (3) competing perspectives on the role of the United States in world affairs; (4) key issues and policy options confronting American policymakers, and (5) the changing nature of power in an increasingly interdependent world.
COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING POLICY

You are expected to (1) complete and study carefully all required reading; (2) participate in class discussion on key issues, (3) prepare a critical case study paper and a grand strategy research paper; (4) present your papers to the class, and (5) follow current events and news analysis.

You will be evaluated on the basis of one critical case study paper and presentation (10%), one comparative grand strategy research paper and presentation (20%), one midterm exam (20%), three quizzes (30%), and active class participation including two written reports (20%). Attendance is required and students are strongly advised to complete the assigned readings for each class before attending that class meeting. If you don’t attend, you can’t participate in class discussion; if you don’t read assignments before attending class, you can’t participate intelligently. Attendance and participation count for 20% of the course grade.

Due to the intensive nature of this course, regular attendance and participation in class is required. A class sign-up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class. You must come to every class on time and remain active until the end of the class. You are allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences during the semester; additional absences, unless you can clearly prove personal emergencies or illnesses, will result in the loss of 2 points each additional time. This course will only work successfully if everyone attends class regularly, comes prepared, and participates in discussion. The readings are designed to provoke, and discussion will focus on the readings and relevant academic issues. Contributions to seminar discussion should be informed by the assigned material, although you are of course encouraged to bring to discussion knowledge, ideas, and opinions you have acquired outside the class. It is also essential that students tolerate competing views and treat each other with respect.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any student with a diagnosed learning or psychological disability which impedes you carrying out required course work, or which requires special accommodations, should advise me during the first two weeks of the course so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Academic honesty is very important! When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed the Honor Code. I expect you to abide to the code and it is the only way to maintain the integrity and value of your degree. You will fail this course if you have found to have cheated on an exam or plagiarized any portion of your paper. I will turn the case of Honor Code violation to the Honor Board and vigorously pursue further disciplinary action. Everyone must highly value academic integrity and abide to the Honor Code.
REQUIRED TEXTS


RECOMMENDED READINGS


The following scholarly journals and magazines may provide useful resources for your independent work. For complete access to the digital contents of these newspapers and journals, go to the CoF C Libraries site https://library.cofc.edu/ Use the “Ask Us” (online chat) service http://answers.library.cofc.edu/ if you need assistance accessing these or any other sources.

American Political Science Review
Foreign Affairs
International Organization
International Studies Quarterly
Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Politics
Political Science Quarterly
TIME
The New York Times
National Interest
Foreign Policy
International Security
American Diplomacy
Journal of Peace Research
Perspectives on Politics
World Politics
The Economist
The Washington Post

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Analytical Perspectives and Models of U.S. Foreign Policy
   Mansbach and Taylor, Introduction.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapters 1-3.
   Balzacq, Dombrowski, and Reich, Introduction.
   (Date to complete the reading: January 9, 2020)

2. Sources of U.S. Foreign Policy
   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapter 1.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapters 4-6.
   Balzacq, Dombrowski, and Reich, Chapter 1
   (January 14)

3. Competing Currents in U.S. Foreign Policy
   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapter 2.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapters 7-8.
   (January 21)

   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapters 3-4.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapter 18.
   (January 28)

   Critical case study paper is due on Thursday, January 30.

5. Foreign Economic Policy: Neoliberalism or Neo-Mercentilism?
   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapter 5.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapter 9. (February 18)

   **Midterm Exam: Tuesday, February 25.**

6. Democracy, Human Rights
   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapter 6.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapters 10-11. (February 27)

   **First participation report is due on Thursday, February 27.**

   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapters 7-8.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapter 16-17, and 21. (March 5)

8. Challenges of the Middle East
   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapters 9-11.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapter 12.
   Balzacq, Dombrowski, and Reich, Chapters 9-11. (March 12)

   **Spring Break: March 15-21, 2020.**

9. The U.S. and China: Engagement or Containment
   Mansbach and Taylor, Chapter 12.
   Cox and Stokes, Chapter 15.
   Balzacq, Dombrowski, and Reich, Chapters 4 and 8. (March 24)

10. Europe and NATO
    Mansbach and Taylor, Chapter 13.
    Cox and Stokes, Chapters 13, and 22-23.
    Balzacq, Dombrowski, and Reich, Chapters 5-6, and 12. (March 31)

    **Comparative Grand Strategy Research Paper due on Tuesday, March 31.**

11. America and Russia: Value versus Power
Mansbach and Taylor, Chapter 14.
Cox and Stokes, Chapter 14.
Balzacq, Dombrowski, and Reich, Chapter 3.
(April 14)

Cox and Stokes, Chapters 24-25.
Balzacq, Dombrowski, and Reich, Chapter 13.
(April 21)

Second participation report is due on Tuesday, April 21.
POLI 361: Critical Case Study Paper

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) enhance your ability to evaluate the key perspectives on a critical issue of U.S. foreign policy and develop a position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, and (c) further develop your effective writing skills.

You can choose one of issues or cases from chapters 12-23 in Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, *US Foreign Policy*. 3rd edition. You should start with the reading for your topic and summarize the key arguments. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you must develop your own position on the issue under review. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least six additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at http://polisci.cofc.edu).

Please select your topic no later than Thursday, January 16, 2020. No more than three people can have the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between 5-7 pages. The paper is due on **Thursday, January 30, 2020**. Please submit your paper as a MS Word or PDF file to the Dropbox under Grades in OAKS. If you do not receive a confirmation of your submission in 24 hours, please assume that your paper is not received and submit it again both to OAKS and send it as attachment to liug@cofc.edu.

1. US Foreign Policy in the Middle East
2. The USA and the EU
3. US Foreign Policy in Russia
4. US Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific
5. US Foreign Policy in Latin America
6. US Foreign Policy in Africa
7. Global Terrorism and US Foreign Policy
8. Religion and US Foreign Policy
9. Gender and US Foreign Policy
10. Global Environment and US Foreign Policy
11. The American Liberal Order
12. Drifting Apart? The Emerging End of the Transatlantic Partnership
POLI 361: Comparative Grand Strategy Research Paper

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) enhance your ability to evaluate the key perspectives on a comparative grand strategy and develop a position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, (c) conduct independent research on grand strategy of a selected country in comparative perspective, and (d) further develop your research ability and effective writing skills.

You can choose one of chapters from Thierry Balzacq, Peter Dombrowski, and Simon Reich eds., *Comparative Grand Strategy*. You should start with the reading for your topic and summarize the key arguments. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you must develop your own position on the issue under review. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least ten additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at http://polisci.cofc.edu).

Please select your topic no later than Thursday, February 6, 2020. No more than three people can have the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between 8-10 pages. The paper is due on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Please submit your paper as a MS Word or PDF file to the Dropbox under Grades in OAKS. If you do not receive a confirmation of your submission in 24 hours, please assume that your paper is not received and submit it again both to OAKS and send it as attachment to liug@cofc.edu.

1. Comparing Grand Strategies
2. Grand Strategy of the USA
3. Grand Strategy of Russia
4. Grand Strategy of China
5. Grand Strategy of France
6. Grand Strategy of the United Kingdom
7. Grand Strategy of Brazil
8. Grand Strategy of India
9. Grand Strategy of Iran
10. Grand Strategy of Israel
11. Grand Strategy of Saudi Arabia
Participation Report Assignment

Spring 2020

Active class participation by everyone is very important for the success of our class. The participation report is designed to encourage you to actively and constructively contribute to our joint academic endeavor. You are required to submit two written reports. The first report is due on Thursday, February 27. The second report is due on Tuesday, April 21. Please limit each report to a total of five to seven pages. The participation report is a summary of your contribution to the class. Please submit your report as a MS Word or PDF file to the Dropbox under Grades in OAKS. If you do not receive a confirmation of your submission in 24 hours, please assume that your report is not received and submit it again both to OAKS and send it as attachment to liug@cofc.edu. Please include the following in your report:

1. Comments and questions about the required readings;
2. A summary of your comments and questions in class;
3. Concise discussion of relevant academic issues and current events;
4. Additional readings that you have done for the class;
5. Additional comments and suggestions about the class;
6. Anything else that is significant for the progress of our class.
7. Do you have perfect attendance? If not, why?
8. What are the strengths and weaknesses of our textbooks? Please comment on all main textbooks that you have read. Please answer this question in more details in your second participation report.
9. **What is the most interesting book or journal article beyond our required readings that you have read for the class?** Please feel free to examine any scholarly work that you find most interesting and significant for your study. Please limit this section of your paper to two pages.
10. An objective of your second report is for you to review your course experience. You can carefully examine your main objectives, progress, and future work/study plan for this class. Please limit this section of your report to three pages.