American Foreign Policy  
INR-3102  
Fall 2008

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Introduction

This course examines the politics and economics of American foreign policy from World War II to the present. Using historical, theoretical and chronological approaches, we will examine major transitions in foreign policymaking, including the U.S. role in establishing global institutions after World War II; the escalation of the Cold War with the Soviet Union in 1949; the origins of the Korean and Vietnam Wars and their long-term implications for American Foreign Policy; the escalation of the Cold War during the 1980s and the ensuing transition to a post-Cold War period; and the impact of 9/11 on U.S. foreign policymaking in the post-Cold War period. The course will compare and contrast the U.S. war in Vietnam with the U.S. war in Iraq in order to provide a broader understanding of historical and contemporary themes.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend class regularly, to take good notes, to participate in class discussion, and to complete two in-class exams, one multiple choice quiz, and one 9-10 page paper assignment (due November 19) for this course. The first exam will include one long essay question based on readings and lectures from the first half of the course. The final exam will consist of two long essay questions based on material covered in the second half of the course. Students will be expected to write approximately 4-5 bluebook pages for each long essay question.

The paper assignment requires students to analyze the CAUSES of a particular U.S. military or CIA intervention in a foreign country. Students will be required to use at least 5 scholarly sources, such as scholarly journals and/or scholarly books, defined as sources that rely on extensive documentation/footnotes, in researching your topic. Books already assigned in this course may be used, but they do not count as part of the 5 required scholarly sources. In other words, you must use 5 sources that have not been assigned for this class. For help with sources, go to my website and click on “links” to proceed to sites that may be helpful for writing the paper.

The paper should be focused on an EXPLANATION of WHY the U.S. undertook a particular intervention. The best papers will include attention to academic debates on the topic, since not all scholars will agree on the reasons. Also, keep in mind that explanations of interventions in
U.S. foreign policy are complex, and often require attention to several different aspects of U.S.
foreign policy: economic, political, bureaucratic, cultural, and psychological.

Students are required to provide documentation for ALL material drawn from outside sources.
This documentation means indicating author name, book or article title, publisher, year of
publication and page number(s) that you have drawn information from. Any quote that you take
from a source must be either enclosed in quotation marks, followed by a clear citation, or
indented in a single paragraph (for long quotes), followed by a clear citation. You may use
either endnotes or footnotes as your citation method, just be consistent and comprehensive in
using citations. A BIBLIOGRAPHY is also required. Failure to use appropriate citations and to
acknowledge the sources used in your paper will be considered plagiarism and will result in an F
for the course and possible disciplinary action from the university.

The total point distribution in the course is as follows:

Multiple Choice Quiz 40 points
Midterm Exam: 100 points
Final Exam: 100 points
Paper Assignment 100 points
Total: 340 points

Out of 340 total points, students will receive an A that have attained anywhere from 93 to 100
percent of total points; an A- for 90-92 percent; a B+ for 88-89 percent; a B for 83-87 percent; a
B- for 80-82 percent; a C+ for 78-79 percent; a C for 73-77 percent; a C- for 70-72 percent; a D+
for 68-69 percent; a D for 63-67 percent; a D- for 60-62 percent and an F for 59 percent or lower.

There will be no makeup exams allowed unless the student has an emergency that can be
documented.

Required Books

Students are required to purchase the following books, available at the University Book Store.


Layne, Christopher and Thayer, Bradley. *American Empire: A Debate*. New York: Routledge,
2007.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25:</td>
<td>Introduction to Syllabus</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27, 29:</td>
<td>World War II and the Origins of the Cold War</td>
<td>Lafeber, pp. 2-59, Blum, pp. 21-44</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>See article by Melvyn Leffler at: <a href="http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/leffler.htm">http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/leffler.htm</a></td>
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<td>For extensive bibliography of cold war history, see: <a href="http://www.onpower.org/history_cold.html">http://www.onpower.org/history_cold.html</a> For extensive bibliography on Vietnam: <a href="http://tigger.uic.edu/~rjensen/vietnam.html">http://tigger.uic.edu/~rjensen/vietnam.html</a></td>
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<td>September 1:</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
<td>University Closed</td>
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<td>September 3, 5:</td>
<td>NSC-68 and the Korean War</td>
<td>Lafeber, pp. 60-94, Blum, pp. 45-55</td>
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<td>September 8, 10, 12:</td>
<td>Intervention in the Third World</td>
<td>Lafeber, pp. 95-152, Blum, pp. 64-103</td>
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<td>September 15:</td>
<td>Multiple Choice Quiz</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>September 17, 19:</td>
<td>The Lessons of the Vietnam War</td>
<td>Lafeber, pp. 153-185, Campbell, all</td>
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<td>October 6, 8:</td>
<td>The End of the Cold War</td>
<td>Lafeber, pp. 251-286</td>
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<td>Oct. 10:</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Oct. 13, 15, 17:</td>
<td>The Clinton Administration</td>
<td>Lafeber, pp. 287-322</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20, 22, 24:</td>
<td>The Post-Cold War Interventions</td>
<td>Blum, pp. 370-383</td>
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For reading: google search Jeffrey McMaster, “The United States and Humanitarian Intervention After the Cold War” (pages 1-85)

October 27, 29, 31: George W. Bush and 9/11 Lafeber, pp. 323-358

Nov. 3, 5, 7: The U.S. Decision to Occupy Iraq Campbell, chaps. 1, 5, 6

Go to the following website: http://www.crf-usa.org/Iraqwar_html/iraqwar_links.html and read all the articles under the heading “Bush Doctrine”

Nov. 10, 12, 14: U.S. Policies in Iraq

See article by Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. Ambassador-designate to Iraq at: http://www.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rm/47363.htm

For opposing view, see Antonia Juhasz at: http://www.thebushagenda.net/article.php?id=81

Nov. 17, 19, 21: US Empire: A Debate All of Layne, Thayer

Nov. 19: PAPER DUE

Nov. 24, 26: The U.S.-Iranian Conflict

For background, read the following: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States-Iran_relations

Also read Robert Dreyfuss at: http://dissidentnews.wordpress.com/2007/07/16/the-geopolitics-of-oil-next-we-take-iran/

Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday University Closed

Dec. 1, 3, 5: Review of Course Material: From Cold War to Post-Cold War Has U.S. Foreign Policy Changed?

Final Exam TBA at a later date.