

Northern Illinois University
POLS 380, DuSable Hall Room 459
T/Th 2:00-3:15pm

Fall 2017: American Foreign Policy

Dr. John Kitch
Email: jkitch@niu.edu
Office: 408 Zulauf
Office Hours: 12:15-1:45pm, T/TH

Required Texts

Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World
By Walter Russell Mead

Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War
By John Lewis Gaddis

The University wants the following statements included on all syllabi. You should review them before at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Dishonesty

Regarding plagiarism, the NIU Undergraduate Catalog states: "Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university." The above statement encompasses a paper written in whole or in part by another; a paper copied word-for-word or with only minor changes from another source; a paper copied in part from one or more sources without proper identification and acknowledgment of the sources; a paper that is merely a paraphrase of one or more sources, using ideas and/or logic without credit even though the actual words may be changed; and a paper that quotes, summarizes or paraphrases, or cuts and pastes words, phrases, or images from an internet source without identification and the address of the web site.

Students with Disabilities

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NIU is committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Those students with disabilities that may have an impact on their course work must register with the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR) on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building (753-1303). CAAR will assist students in making appropriate instructional and/or examination accommodations with course instructors. It is important that CAAR and instructors be informed of any disability-related needs during the first two weeks of the semester.

Department of Political Science Web Site

Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff,

reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to polisci.niu.edu.

Undergraduate Writing Awards

The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Winners are expected to attend the Department's spring graduation ceremony, where they will receive a certificate and \$100.00. Papers, which can be submitted by students or faculty, must be supplied in triplicate to a department secretary by the end of March. All copies should have two cover pages – one with the student's name and one without the student's name. Only papers written in the previous *calendar* year can be considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year's competition even if the student has graduated.

Classroom Decorum

Students are to arrive to class on time. Students are to remain for the entire session unless excused by the professor beforehand or confronted with a serious personal emergency. Cell phones, pagers, or any electronic devices that make noise must be *turned off* during class unless the instructor has been notified beforehand of a special circumstance (e.g., sick family member, pregnant wife, special childcare situation, etc.). No one should talk while someone else is talking; this includes comments meant for a classmate rather than the entire group. Overall, classroom dialogue and behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Grades:

Quizzes: 25% (5 count, 7 administered)

Midterm: 30%

4 Case Study Papers: 20%

Final Paper: 25 %

Quizzes will be tests of whether you have kept up to date with the course readings. They will be designed to be easy if you have read and taken good notes, but difficult if you have not read. They will be given in class only and there will be no make-up quizzes. Your two lowest grades will be dropped.

The **Midterm Exam** will be part multiple choice and part short answer. It will cover material from the readings and from class lectures and discussions. Study groups are encouraged and I will provide more information as the exam nears about how you can best prepare for it.

The **Case Study Papers** will provide with the chance to imagine yourself as a participant in the American foreign policy process. For each of these four case studies you will be asked to read a small collection of documents relating to a real crisis from American foreign policy history and to then write a one page recommendation paper to the president, from the perspective of a high-level advisor. These documents will be posted on blackboard no later than one week

before the case study is due. These will be due in class the day that we discuss the case study and will only be accepted in hard copy format.

The **Final Paper** will be 4-5 page critical book review. The assignment is to engage with the author's argument with a critical, yet charitable eye for what the reader should take away. We will discuss the particulars of this in more depth during the semester. The review must be of one of the following books: Students should email me their choice of book by October 9. No more than 5 students will be allowed to review any specific book.

America's War for the Greater Middle East: Andrew Bacevich (2016)

The Irony of American History: Reinhold Niebuhr (1952)

Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy since 1938, 9th Revised Edition by Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley (2010)

America and the World : Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft (2009)

American Foreign Policy and its Thinkers: Perry Anderson (2017)

By More than Providence: Grand Strategy and American Power in the Asian Pacific since 1783: Michael Green (2017)

Five to Rule them all: David Bosco (2009)

A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order: Richard Haas (2017)

Between Threats and War: U.S. Discrete Military Operations in the Post-Cold War World: Micah Zenko (2010)

Diplomacy: Henry Kissinger (1995)

The Crisis of American Foreign Policy: Wilsonianism in the Twenty-First Century: John Ikenberry et al. (2008)

Restraint: A New Foundation for U.S. Grand Strategy: Barry Posen (2014)

Aug 29: First day of class

Aug. 31: No Class (Instructor out of town for political science conference)

Sept. 5: *Beginning Assessments of American Foreign Policy*, Mead, Ch. 1-2

Sept. 7 *Rethinking American Foreign Policy as a Tradition*, Mead Ch. 3

Sept. 12 *Hamiltonian Commercialism*, Mead Ch. 4

Sept. 14 *Wilsonian Moralism*, Mead Ch. 5

Sept. 19 *Jeffersonian and the Homeland*, Mead Ch. 6 (**Case Study Rubric handed out in class**)

Sept. 21 *Jacksonian Conquest*, Mead Ch. 7

Sept. 26 Case Study: The League of Nations

Sept. 28 *Cold War Beginnings: Kennan and Containment*, Gaddis, Ch. 2

Oct. 2 *Korea as Global Conflict*, Gaddis, Ch. 4

Oct. 4 *Eisenhower as Peaceful Chess Player*, Gaddis Ch. 5

Oct. 9 *Implementing Eisenhower's New Look*, Gaddis Ch. 6
Oct. 11 *A New Flexibility with Johnson and Kennedy*, Gaddis Ch. 7
Oct. 16 Case Study: Cuban Missile Crisis
Oct. 18 *Vietnam*, Gaddis Ch. 8
Oct. 23 Midterm
Oct. 25 *Détente: Kissinger and Nixon*, Ch. 9
Oct. 30 *Regan, Gorbachev, and the Cold War's End*, Ch. 11

Nov. 1 *A New Epoch in International Affairs: Charles Krauthammer*, "The Unipolar Moment", 1990 address to the Conservative Leadership Conference (Available online)
Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?", *The National Interest*, Summer 1989 (Available online)

Nov. 6 *The Lead up to 9/11: Free Trade and Tremors of Terrorism*,
Amy Skonieczny "Constructing NAFTA: Myth, Representation, and the Discursive Construction of U.S. Foreign Policy" *International Studies* (2001) 45, 433-454. (Available on JStor)
USS Cole Bombing, 9/11 Memorial Webpage, www.911memorial.org/uss-cole-bombing

Nov. 8 9/11 and its immediate aftermath
9/11 Commission Report, Executive Summary (Available Online)

Nov. 13 case study: Iraq War (Bush as Wilsonian)

Nov. 15 *Bush in Africa and Latin America: Wilsonianism Revisited*
John Dietrich, *The George W. Bush Foreign Policy Reader*, Ch. 9

Nov. 20 *Reset with the Middle East? Obama's early presidency*
Barack Obama, "Speech to Muslim World in Cairo", June 4, 2009. (Available online)

Nov. 25: No class, Thanksgiving

Nov. 27 Case Study: Syria

Nov. 29 Obama and Russia
U.S./Russia Missile Treaty (2010), (Available Online)
BBC News, "US and Russian Leaders Hail Nuclear Arms Treaty," (Available Online)
NY Times, "Russia is Moving Ahead with Missile Program that Violates Treaty, U.S. Officials Say" (Available Online)
Defense News, "US Lawmakers urge Obama to Punish Russia over Missile Treaty Breach," (Available Online)

Dec. 5 Trump's First year (Readings TBA)

Dec. 7 Looking ahead (Readings TBA)

Book Review Assignment must be turned in (in person in hard copy form) to me at my office by 4pm on December 12.