

**Political Science 5345  
American Foreign Policy**

**Professor David Clinton**

**Goals and Objectives:**

This course will examine the development and current state of American foreign policy by analyzing the factors that are often said to influence the conduct of the United States toward other countries: this country's history, the ideas and the institutions that its history has bequeathed to the present, and external conditions. To do this, we shall look first at the intellectual background of American diplomacy, and then at the interaction of constitutional, legal, and informal institutions that shape official actions. The final section of the course deals with the choices faced by the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century, and the dilemmas confronting a country of unrivaled power.

The principal aims of this course are these:

1. to appreciate the role that historical development has played in contemporary conceptions of American foreign policy
2. to understand the complexity of the process that the United States has developed for making foreign policy
3. to apply these sources of background knowledge to analyzing contemporary American actions in the world

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Patrick Callahan, *Logics of American Foreign Policy* (Longman, 2003).

Ralph G. Carter, ed., *Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy: From Terrorism to Trade* (CQ Press: Washington, DC, 2004).

Rosemary Foot, Neil MacFarlane, and Michael Mastanduno, eds., *US Hegemony and International Organization* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Robert Kagan and William Kristol, eds., *Present Danger: Crisis and Opportunity in American Foreign and Defense Policy* (New York: Encounter Books, 2002).

Emmanuel Todd, *After the Empire: The Breakdown of the American Order* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003).

Eugene Wittkopf and James McCormick, eds., *The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: Insights and Evidence* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003).

In addition, several court opinions—marked (R) in the course outline—will be on reserve as required readings.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Paper proposal:	10%
First paper:	35%
Second paper:	40%
Class attendance and participation:	15%

Class attendance is mandatory, and roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period. In accordance with Baylor's attendance policy, a student who misses more than 25% of the scheduled classes, will fail the course. Late arrivals are counted as absences. The other members of the class deserve your informed participation in discussions. Readings in the following section are to be completed before the date on which they are listed.

Grading Scale:

95-100%=A	91-94%=A-	87-90%=B+	84-86%=B	81-83%=B-
77-80%=C+	74-76%=C	71-73%=C-	60-69%=D	0-59%=F

Papers: In your papers you are to do for one current issue what the class as a whole is doing for the entirety of American foreign policy: look at the different influences acting on the policy-making process. The range of issues open to you is very wide, as long as you choose a topic that is currently on the United States' foreign policy agenda (not a historical topic). You may choose a topic relating to a specific region or country. Or you may address some issue that touches a number of countries. In any case, you should choose a topic that is broad enough for you to find plenty of material on it, without being so broad that it loses focus or is too ambitious for you to complete it in the allotted time. You are to submit to me a written proposal of one full double-spaced page, describing the suggested topic and your approach to it, with a second page containing a preliminary list of at least seven specific sources, of which at least three must be non-internet sources.

The first paper is to be ten pages (plus notes) and the second fifteen pages (plus notes) for undergraduates. The first paper is to be fifteen pages (plus notes) and the second twenty pages (plus notes) for graduate students. The two papers will deal with different facets of the same topic. In the first, you will answer the question, "Why is this issue important to the United States?" That is, what does the United States want, need, or have to fear on this issue or from this country? Who are the other international players, and why does this country have to respond to them? In the second paper, you answer two questions. The first is this: "Inside the United States, who has influence in shaping American policy on this issue, and what are the goals of those with this influence?" In other words, what domestic players shape American policy on your issue? What are their preferences? The second question is this: "What do you recommend as a policy for the United States government to follow on the issue?" You will demonstrate why the policy you advocate is compatible with both the foreign and the domestic forces you have discussed in both papers.

Your grade will be determined both by the quality of your argument and by the thoroughness of your research and the quality of your sources. You will avoid the weekly news magazines and search the newspaper of national circulation (*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Christian Science Monitor*, for example), the journals of opinion (*New Republic*, *National Review*, *Nation*, *Commentary*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, among others), and the scholarly journals (*Orbis*, *International Security*, or *International Organization*, for instance), as well as books on your subject. You will also need to become familiar with the Government Documents resources at the library. No other government in the world makes available to the public so much information so quickly as the United States. Each paper must use at least three government documents among its sources.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Date	Topic	Readings
Week one	Introduction	
<u>Part I: The Background of American Foreign Policy</u>		
Week two	The Founding through the Early Twentieth Century	Callahan, vii-10, 29-112
Week three	The Cold War	Callahan, 11-28,113-131; Wittkopf and McCormick, 259-70

Week four	–paper proposals due The Post-Cold War World	W&M, 303-334
 <u>Part II: The Making of American Foreign Policy</u>		
Week five	The President and the Executive Branch	U.S. Constitution, Art. II; W&M, 129-246
Week six	Congress	U.S. Constitution, Art. I; W&M, 183-95; Carter, 88-130, 160- 247, 270-90, 317-63
Week seven	The Judiciary	Court decisions (R)
Week eight	Interest Groups	W&M, 67-83; Carter, 248-69, 291-316
Week nine	–first paper due The Media and Public Opinion	Carter, 11-58; W&M, 15-65, 85-127
 <u>Part III: The Future of American Foreign Policy</u>		
Week ten	US Hegemony & International Organizations	Foot, MacFarlane, and Mastanduno, 1-263; Carter, 364-86
Week eleven, twelve	The Case for US Hegemony	Kagan and Kristol
Weeks thirteen, fourteen	The Case Against US Hegemony –second paper due	Todd
Week fifteen	Conclusion	FMM, 265-72; Carter, 387-94; Callahan, 132-81; W&M, 1-13