

Department of International Relations
BILKENT UNIVERSITY

IR 5103
American Public and Foreign Policy
Fall 2009

TUE 13.40, 14.40 THU 15.40
Classroom: MAZ 05

Instructor

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Office Hours: TUE 15.30–16.30 and WED 15.30–16.30

Course

United States of America is the only superpower of the world in the post–Cold War era. It accounts for about a quarter of the world’s GDP, half of its military spending and is a leading power in culture and science. It is also world’s one of the oldest constitutional republics and democracies. Hence it is important for an IR student to learn about it.

This course will introduce you to processes and studies of American Foreign Policy (AFP). We will examine American foreign policy in connection with American politics, government, public opinion, media and economics. First part of the course introduces thematic and analytical concepts, a brief historical discussion and instruments of AFP. We will discuss external, societal and governmental sources in the second part. These include systemic as well as domestic factors that shape foreign policy–making, including political parties and culture, the presidency, the congress, public opinion, media and civil society. The course will also cover functional topics, such as American human rights and democratization policy, foreign aid, economic policy and US military strategies. All issues will be discussed in connection with current challenges US foreign policy makers face.

Readings and Required Textbooks

The assigned readings for each week are listed in the course schedule below. There is a reasonable amount of readings for each week. Therefore, please do keep up with the readings each week. This class will be far more rewarding for you if you do so. Reading the material every week will enable you to be more engaged while listening to lectures and contributing to discussions. Both your exam and participation grades will be positively affected by reading the material on a regular basis and prior to class.

Please buy the following textbook:
American Foreign Policy: Pattern and Process
Eugene R. Wittkopf, Christopher M. Jones
Seventh Edition
THOMSON – WADSWORTH

Course Requirements

Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	40%
Classroom Participation and Short Essays	30%

Exams and Quizzes

There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. These exams will be in-class exams. The final will be cumulative. Short essays will be based on films related to AFP. Your essays should demonstrate you can use the material learned in the class to understand and analyze US foreign policy decisions.

Attendance and Participation

Your progress in this class is highly dependent on your perfect attendance. Therefore, participation constitutes a substantial part of your grade (10%).

Make-up Policy

No make-up examinations will be granted without a university-approved excuse to miss a scheduled exam or quiz. In cases of severe illness or deaths in the family, I require proof (e.g. a signed doctor's note and an explanation on the doctor's letterhead describing why you cannot take the exam; obituaries; e-mails from your academic adviser explaining the specific situation). Make-up exams will be possible only if you contact me *in advance* by e-mail and provide me with the appropriate document. There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Also, I usually require a research paper as a replacement of a make-up exam.

Classroom Etiquette

I expect you to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct to provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all:

1. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers. No calls, incoming or outgoing, or text messaging are allowed.
2. Please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class;
3. Please come to class on time and do not leave early; if you must do so, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive. Unpunctuality will result in a lower participation grade.
4. Please do not read newspapers or any other publications in the classroom. Also, please do not play games or surf on the web when you use a laptop computer.

Policy on Academic Honesty

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the Bilkent Website: <http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/AcademicHonesty.htm>

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of examinations, unauthorized changing of grades. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

Office Hours

Please visit me during the following hours for questions regarding the class:
TUE 15.30-16.30 and WED 15.30-16.30

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Sep 10

Introduction, no reading.

Week 2 – Sep 14

Thematic/analytical concepts

Reading: CH 1 and CH 2

Week 3 – Sep 20

(Very brief) History

Reading CH 3

Excerpts from *Special Providence* (2002) by Walter Russell Mead.

Week 4 – Sep 27

Instruments: Military, political, economic

Reading: CH 4 and CH 5

Week 5 - Oct 5

External Sources, Hegemony

Reading: CH 6 and CH 7

Also read: “The Return of the Imperial Presidency? The Bush Doctrine and U.S. Intervention in Iraq”

Jeffrey S. Lantis and Eric Moskowit. In Ralph Carter, ed., *Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy: From Terrorism to Trade*, 3rd Edition

Week 6 - Oct 12

External Sources, Hegemony

Reading: CH 6 and CH 7

Film: Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

Week 7 - Oct 19

External Sources, Hegemony

Reading: CH 6 and CH 7

Excerpts from *Taming American Power* (2005) by Stephen Walt

Week 8 - Oct 26

Exam Week: Oct 27 Tuesday

Week 9 - Nov 2

Societal Sources

Reading: CH 8 and CH 9

Film: Wag the Dog (1997)

Also read: *Israel Lobby* by John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt

Week 10 - Nov 9

Governmental Sources

Reading: CH 10 Ch 11 CH 12

Also read: "American Values versus American Institutions" by Samuel P. Huntington.

Week 11 – Nov 16

Governmental Sources

Reading: CH 10 Ch 11 CH 12

Also read excerpts from *Folly of War* (2005) by Donald E. Schmidt

Also read: "The United States Political System and International Leadership: A "Decidedly Inferior" Form of Government?" by Michael Mastanduno.

Week 12 – Nov 23

Governmental Sources

Reading: CH 10 Ch 11 CH 12

Also read excerpts from *Folly of War* (2005) by Donald E. Schmidt

Film: *Fog of War* (2003)

Week 13 – Nov 30

Decision Making

Reading: CH 13

Film: *13 Days* (2000)

Also read: "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." by Graham T. Allison.

"Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland)." by Stephen D. Krasner.

Week 14 – Dec 7

US Security Policy

Reading: TBA

Also read: "The United States and North Korea: Avoiding a Worst-Case Scenario" by Patrick James and Özgür Özdamar.

Week 15 – Dec 14

US FP and the Middle East

Reading: TBA

Also read: “Iran’s Nuclear Program and Future of US-Iranian Relations”, by Nihat Ali Özcan and Özgür Özdamar

Week 16 – Dec 21

Review

Final exam: Date will be announced