

FOREIGN POLICY
PSCI 437
Fall 2019

Dr. Ozum Yesiltas

Ferguson Social Science Room: 147

Ozum.Yesiltas@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: T-R 12.30 - 2.30 pm

W 12.00 – 1.00 pm

and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a broad-based introduction to the major theoretical trends and scholarly traditions that define, organize, and drive foreign policy analysis. The overall aim of the course is to enable students to broaden their understanding of world politics by using foreign policy decision making as an analytical tool.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Steve Smith, Amelia Hadfield, Tim Dunne. 2016. *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases*, 3rd Edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0198708902
- Steven W. Hook, John W. Spanier. 2018. *American Foreign Policy since WWII*, 21st Edition. CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1506385648

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ***Critical Thinking:*** Students will be able to critically assess and discuss international issues through use of foreign policy decision making paradigms, theories, and concepts.
- ***Communication:*** Students will be able to communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with evident message and organizational structure.
- ***Personal Responsibility:*** Students will be able to form their own research agendas in foreign policy analysis and will practice academic honesty in their writing assignments.
- ***Social Responsibility:*** Students will be able to demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues in the international arena.
- ***Empathy skills:*** Students will be able to look at issues from multiple perspectives and get out of their comfort zones in analyzing the complexity of the world.

FORMAT OF THE COURSE

The class will be a mix of lectures, discussions and group activities. An outline of the reading schedule is provided in this syllabus. Students are required to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned materials. A great portion of the course is designed as a seminar where all participants will share responsibility for the success of each individual session.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is vital to your success in class. If you're found absent more than "twice" without an excuse, your final grade will automatically drop by "5 points" (e.g. if the student earned 82 out of 100 in the end of the semester, the final grade will drop to 77). In addition, students will also collect points through their participation to in-class group activities.

Weekly Quizzes: Every week, in the beginning of the class, there will be a short quiz based on the week's readings. There will be a total of 13 quizzes.

Presentations: Starting 5th week, each class will be run by 2-3 students who will introduce us to the assigned reading material and present their opinions on the topics. The purpose is not to rehash the readings, but to spark new insights into the subject at hand, to highlight critical aspects of the readings and to raise informed questions to set the stage for productive discussion. Guidelines regarding how to run a discussion will be provided on MyLeo.

Group Activities: Throughout the semester, there will be group activities during each session in the form of debates, discussions and simulations. Students will collect points towards their final grade through participating in these group activities every week. Your grade for this requirement will depend on 1) being present in class, and 2) being proactive throughout the activity.

Policy Memo: President Trump has asked you to analyze an issue in American foreign policy and to recommend a specific course of action. You must use either a realist, liberalist or a constructivist understanding of international politics as a basis for your recommendation. You are required not only to justify why your recommendation is the most rational option, but also to address why the other two theoretical perspectives would not provide viable recommendations.

The memo has three purposes. First, it gives you the opportunity to apply your understanding of theory to an important issue in U.S. foreign policy. Second, it allows you to dive into a foreign policy issue that interests you. Third, it will improve your research and writing skills.

Policy memos are expected to be 5-7 pages long, or 1500-2000 words. A detailed grading rubric for this assignment will be provided on MyLeo. Policy memos are due **October 13, 11.55 pm**.

Final Group Project: Final research project will be a collaborative effort. Students will form groups of 4 and develop a grand strategy to address an issue in US foreign policy. This is a semester-long project which should not be left to last few weeks of classes. In order to ensure equal distribution of responsibility within the group, each member will have a specific task to fulfill. The specific division of labor that the groups must follow as well as the detailed grading rubric for this assignment will be provided on MyLeo.

Final research projects are expected to be 7-10 pages in length. Groups will make short preliminary presentations about their projects mid-semester and will get feedback on their progress. Final project presentations will take place during the last week of classes. Presentation dates can be found on the course schedule. Final projects are due **December 12, 11.55 pm**.

Format Requirements: All assignments must be double-spaced, typed and written with Times New Roman, 12-point font. Sources for each assignment must include books, academic articles and news pieces. All sources must be cited properly and listed in a bibliography or in footnotes/endnotes format. Regarding citations, you may use any academically accepted format.

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weight
Attendance & Participation	10%
Presentations	10%
Weekly Quizzes	15 %
Group Activities	10 %
Policy Memo	25%
Final Research Project	30%
Total	100%

GRADE SCALE

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 =F

MAKE-UP POLICY

Late submission of assignments is allowed only under special circumstances such as medical or family emergencies. However, you must request them prior to the deadline and present documentary proof. Post-deadline late submission requests will not be granted under any circumstances.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS

Unless we assign a day to use technology as part of the learning process, use of cell phones, computers or any other electronic devices in the classroom is strictly prohibited.

CIVILITY AND RESPECT

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. I expect everyone to be respectful of each other’s perspectives and opinions during class discussions. Any behavior that disrupts the class or impedes other student’s ability to fully engage with the course will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student is required to be responsible for purposefully pursuing and honestly submitting research and work that is original and is the sole work of the individual. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism occurs when a student purposefully or unintentionally takes information directly from a source without proper citation. If you are unclear about the ethics of an academic action, please consult me during my office hours.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Texas Senate Bill-11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-0Commerce Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02R1.pdf> (and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

8/28 Overview of the syllabus/Introduction to Foreign Policy Analysis

Week 2

9/4 Realism and Foreign Policy Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 2

The Primacy of National Security Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 11

Week 3

9/11 Liberalism and Foreign Policy Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 3

The Role of Media and Public Opinion Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 10

Week 4

9/18 Constructivism and Foreign Policy Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 4

Week 5

9/25 The American Approach to Foreign Policy Hook & Spanier Ch 1

From World War to Cold War Hook & Spanier Ch 2

Week 6

10/2 Containment: From Theory to Practice Hook & Spanier Ch 3

North-South Tensions and the Vietnam War Hook & Spanier Ch 4

Case Study: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 14

Week 7

10/9 Détente and World-Order Politics Hook & Spanier Ch 5

Breakthroughs in the Superpower Struggle Hook & Spanier Ch 6

Case Study: Israeli-Egyptian (in)security: The Yom Kippur War

Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 21

Week 8

10/16 The End of the Cold War Hook & Spanier Ch 7

Preliminary Presentations

Week 9

10/23 Old Tensions in a New Order Hook & Spanier Ch 8

Case Study: China and the Tian'anmen Crisis of June 1989

Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 17

Week 10

10/30 The Shifting European Landscape Hook & Spanier Ch 9
Case Study: What Kind of Power? European Union Enlargement and Beyond
Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 22

Week 11

11/6 America under Fire Hook & Spanier Ch 10
Hot Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq Hook & Spanier 11
Case Study: Neoconservatism and the Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: The Role of Ideas in Operation Iraqi Freedom
Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 16

Week 12

11/13 Aftershocks of the Arab Spring Hook & Spanier Ch 12
Case Study: The Failure of Diplomacy and Protection in Syria
Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 24

Week 13

11/20 The Revival of Power Politics Hook & Spanier Ch 13
The End of the American Century Hook & Spanier Ch 14
Case Study: Energy and Foreign Policy: EU-Russia Energy Dynamics
Smith, Hadfield & Dunne Ch 23

Week 14

11/27 Thanksgiving No Class

Week 15

12/4 Final Presentations

Week 16

Finals Week

Final Group Projects due December 12, 11.55 pm