

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POL 2080 America and the World
SUMMER SEMESTER 2017

Professor: Igor Kovač

Email: kovacir@mail.uc.edu

Skype: ig.kovac

Office hours: by appointment over skype, or over email

The syllabus is a guide for the class; as such, it subject to change by the discretion of the Professor. Everything that is not listed on the syllabus should be resolved by email with the Professor.

1. Course Description

Like great powers before it, the United States of America plays an extraordinarily influential role beyond its borders. This course will focus on the role and the relations that the United States plays in world politics. The course is thematically divided into two halves. First, we will consider how America sees the world and how that has been changing from 1776. Second, we will look into the relations that the US has with different International Organizations, world powers, and regions of the world. Students will focus on selected current issues and be introduced to the key rationales for US policy and the manner in which the world community reacts and interacts with those policies, applying classic as well as state of the art political science concepts and methodologies to address these issues.

2. Course Objective

- Understand historical development of US foreign policy doctrines
- Comprehend the difference between foreign policy doctrine and Grand Strategy
- Critically assess the evolution of US foreign policy
- Understand today's US foreign affairs
- Comprehend contemporary issues in international relations

- Develop sensitivity for interdisciplinary analysis
- Learn how to approach research

3. Assignments

- 20 short answers (2 % each, thus 40 % on aggregate)
- Final paper (50 %)
- Paper discussion (10 %)

20 short answers

There are 24 ‘working days’ in the time in which this class takes place. The course has 20 modules – topics. For each module, specific readings and questions are assigned. After the student does the readings assigned for a particular module, he needs to answer the question provided for that module. The answer should be 250 words long ($\pm 10\%$) and it should be submitted through the Blackboard. The readings and the questions are available on Blackboard under the heading of each module. Alternatively, you can also answer your question by submitting a Kalutra video – recording yourself answering the questions.

Although there is no deadline for an individual module, the final deadline is 2 July 23:59. All assignments submitted by then will be counted towards your grade. **THERE ARE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS.**

Some modules will contain a short video, which will explain some concepts related to the topic, or provide some additional help in fulfilling the assignment.

Final paper

The final paper, which will be due 2 July 23:59 (submitted through Blackboard), should be 2000 words long ($\pm 10\%$), unless otherwise agreed with the Professor. **THERE ARE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS.**

The students will imagine that they are advising the new administration and develop a Trump foreign policy doctrine/grand strategy. The paper should not be considered as an ‘official’

document, but a sort of draft or explanation of the proposed policy. Thus, it should explain the objectives (short-term goals, mid-term goals, and long-term goals) of the new foreign policy, tools and means how to achieve them, criteria how to assess its objectives (criteria for all three types of goals), and specify this doctrine for particular regions (where applicable) of the world and global governance. Students will have a one-on-one on-line session with the professor to bounce of their ideas (see Paper discussion subheading).

Paper discussions

The student will coordinate through email with the professor and set up a skype appointment. The session should take place until 17 June, 23:59. A failure to schedule a session until this deadline will result in 0 credit under this subheading.

At this on-line conversation, the student will present ideas for Trump foreign policy doctrine and answer questions posed by the professor. The session will serve as a sort of brain-storm of ideas to help students crystalize their thoughts and policy recommendations.

4. Grading

100 = A +

95-99 = A

90-94 = A-

85-89 = B+

80-84 = B

75-79 = B-

70-74 = C+

65-69 = C

60-64 = C-

55-59 = D+

50-55 = D

<50 = F

There WILL NOT be any extra credits.

5. Academic integrity

The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct and other documented policies of the Department, College, and University related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating, will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct. A copy of the policy can be found on the University website at: http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Academic_Integrity.html.

6. Special needs policy

If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the Professor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval by Disability Services.

7. Course plan

The goal is to follow the course outline as presented below; however, some adjustments may be necessary during the class. The following course outline and readings are subject to change with appropriate notice to the students. All readings will be available in PDF through Blackboard or available online through Langsam. I have assigned around 30 pages per class. Yet, some classes might be heavier than others.

You can access the readings and the questions for a particular module by clicking on Course Content – Learning modules in your Blackboard. All modules are available from day 1; therefore, you can do more than one module a day.

The readings for the first 9 modules are taken from:

Colucci, Lamont. 2012. *The National Security Doctrines of the American Presidency: How They Shape Our Present and Future*. Santa Barbara: Praeger.

This book is available online through UC library system. Therefore, you can download the necessary pages, or read them online.

Readings for the modules 10 through 20 are all available in pdf on Bb.

1 MODULE

- National Security Doctrines
Colucci, 1-21
- The Grand Strategy of the United States
Colucci, 500-509
- Posen, Barry R., and Andrew L. Ross. 1996/1997. Competing visions for US grand strategy. *International Security*, 21(3). Pp. 5–53. See only page 4.
- Art, Robert. 2003. *A Grand Strategy for America*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. See only pages 82-84.

2 MODULE

- Washington
Colucci, 22-36
- Monroe
Colucci, 37-48

3 MODULE

- Polk
Colucci, 49-59
- Lincoln
Colucci, 60-73

4 MODULE

- Roosevelt
Colucci, 74-94
- Wilson

Colucci, 95-112

5 MODULE

- Hoover
Colucci, 112-120
- FDR
Colucci, 121-139

6 MODULE

- Truman
Colucci, 309-335
- Eisenhower
Colucci, 336-355

7 MODULE

- Nixon
Colucci, 356-371
- Carter
Colucci, 372-387

8 MODULE

- Reagan
Colucci, 388-408
- Clinton
Colucci, 409-428

9 MODULE

- Bush
Colucci, 429-473
- Obama
Colucci, 474-499

10 MODULE

- US and the UN

Dreher, Axel, Peter Nunnenkamp, and Rainer Thiele. 2008. Does US aid buy UN general assembly votes? A disaggregated analysis. *Public Choice*, 136(1–2). Pp. 139-164.

11 MODULE

- US and the IMF

Oatley, Thomas, and Jason Yackee. 2004. American interests and IMF lending. *International Politics*, 41(3). Pp. 415–29.

12 MODULE

- US and the WB

Wade, Robert Hunter. 2002. US hegemony and the World Bank: the fight over people and ideas. *Review of international political economy*, 9(2). Pp. 215–43.

13 MODULE

- US and the WTO

Horn, Henrik, Petros C. Mavroidis, and André Sapir. 2010. Beyond the WTO? An anatomy of EU and US preferential trade agreements. *The World Economy*, 33(11). Pp. 1565–88.

14 MODULE

- US and NATO

Press-Barnathan, Galia. 2006. Managing the hegemon: NATO under unipolarity. *Security studies*, 15(2). Pp: 271–309.

15 MODULE

- US and EU

Cohen, Benjamin J. 2009. Dollar dominance, euro aspirations: recipe for discord? *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 47(4). Pp. 741–66.

16 MODULE

- US and CHI

Silove, Nina. 2016. The pivot before the pivot: US strategy to preserve the power balance in Asia. *International Security*, 40(4). Pp. 45–88.

17 MODULE

US and RUS

- Monaghan, Andrew. 2006. Calmly critical: Evolving Russian views of US hegemony. *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 29(6). Pp. 987–1013.

18 MODULE

- US and IND

Scott, David. 2013. India's Aspirations and Strategy for the Indian Ocean—Securing the Waves? *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 36(4). Pp. 484–511.

19 MODULE

- US and Africa

Moore, Adam, and James Walker. 2016. Tracing the US military's presence in Africa. *Geopolitics*, 21(3). Pp. 686–716.

20 MODULE

US and Latin America

- Canova, Fabio. 2005. The transmission of US shocks to Latin America. *Journal of Applied econometrics*, 20(2). Pp. 229–51.