Governments are expected to provide for the security and well being of their citizenry, and both of these functions require governments to engage with states and other actors in international society. That engagement is the stuff of foreign policy. The United States, after World War II, broke with its own history of isolation and became a fully engaged world power. And since the cold war ended in the early 1990s, it has become the predominant and largely unchallenged power, an exceedingly rare occurrence in world history. This course is about these two eras in U.S. foreign policy. Although it is partly a course about the policy process (how policy is made), it is mostly a course about policy content—what policies have the United States adopted toward both friends and rivals, and why?

There are several dimensions to U.S. foreign policy, including diplomacy, national security, economic relations, international order, and humanitarianism. The course addresses all of these dimensions because all have been integral to the rise of American power and reflect the nation’s self-image as key player on the world stage. Roughly one-half of the course will be devoted to the cold war and one-half to the period since then.

**Learning Objectives**

The general objective of this course is to develop the student's capacity to critically examine U.S. foreign policy issues, consider a range of perspectives on these issues, and communicate the results of this analysis to others. These objectives are to be accomplished by exposing students to the history of U.S. foreign policy, contemporary developments in American diplomacy, and concepts from the field of foreign policy analysis. By the end of the term, students should be able to:

- show a familiarity with a wide range of substantive issues in U.S. foreign policy;
- understand the worldviews and strategies that have shaped the U.S. government’s response to opportunities and challenges in international affairs;
- understand the basic functioning of the most important organizations involved in the U.S. foreign policy process; and
• articulate coherent positions on a key normative debates arising from the America’s pursuit of national interests overseas.

Requirements and Evaluation

Course grades are based on two midterm exams, covering weeks 1-3 (30%) and weeks 4-6 (30%), and a final exam covering weeks 7-10 (40%). The exams consist of questions requiring both short answers and longer essays. Attendance is expected; course grades will be adversely affected by excessive absence from class.

Readings and Other Course Materials

Assigned readings come from one textbook. Available from the Portland State Bookstore:

• Steven W. Hook and John Spanier, American Foreign Policy since World War II, nineteenth edition (CQ Press, 2013)

In addition to the assigned readings, you should be reading, on a regular basis, the New York Times, the Washington Post, or some other newspaper with thorough international coverage. Your performance in the course will reflect your familiarity with current issues of international organization and governance, and not just an understanding of lecture material and course readings.

For each weekly topic, there are also links to one or two websites where you will find blogs, documentaries, or discussions by experts in foreign policy and international affairs. You are encouraged to explore this content to the extent it interests you. This material is not part of course requirements, but it will certainly enhance your grasp of the topics covered in the class.

All slides used during lectures will be made available online by adding a link to the list of weekly reading assignments and supplementary material.

Conduct and Courtesy

Students are responsible for being familiar with the PSU Student Code of Conduct, especially the section concerning academic misconduct -- that is, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure of the definition or consequences of academic misconduct, consult your instructor.

Because they are distracting to others, cell phones (voice or text) and MP3 players may not be used during lecture and should be turned off at the start of class. Laptops and tablets may be used to take notes, but not for email, web browsing, or social media. Electronic devices may not be used to photograph, video, or stream course lectures or discussion, but lectures may be audio recorded with permission of the instructor.
COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS

30 Mar – 3 Apr  America and the World

Reading
• Hook and Spanier, chap. 1

Other
• Website: Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
• Website: U.S. Diplomacy: An Online Exploration of Diplomatic History and Foreign Affairs, Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
• Blog: Passport: Big Stories from a Small World (Foreign Policy magazine)
• Blog: Foreign Policy Blogs (Foreign Policy Association)
• Blog: Just Foreign Policy

6-10 Apr  Cold War and the Policy of Containment

Reading
• Hook and Spanier, chaps. 2-3

Other
• Guest lecture: Peter Bechtold (on the Foreign Service), 8 Apr
• Video: George Kennan and American Grand Strategy during the Cold War, John Lewis Gaddis, Naval War College, October 2011
• Video: Cold War Roadshow, American Experience, November 2014
• Slides: Containment, NATO

13-17 Apr  America and the Periphery

Reading
• Hook and Spanier, chap. 4

Other
• Video: The Meaning of the Vietnam War, Fredrik Logevall, Cornell University, June 2013.
• Slides: Nuclear Strategy, War Powers Resolution

22 Apr  MIDTERM EXAM 1

20-24 Apr  Détente and Back

Reading
• Hook and Spanier, chaps. 5-6
27 Apr – 1 May  End of the Cold War

Reading
• Hook and Spanier, chap. 7

Other

4-8 May  Unipolar Moment

Reading
• Hook and Spanier, chap. 8

Other
• Video: The Wall: A World Divided. PBS, June 2010
• Podcast: New Book Dissects Reagan’s Role in the Cold War. Interview with James Mann, All Things Considered (NPR), March 2009
• Slides: Maps

13 May  MIDTERM EXAM 2

11-15 May  New World Order

Reading
• Hook and Spanier, chaps. 9-10

Other
• Slides: Post-9/11 policy positions
18-22 May  

**Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

*Reading*
- Hook and Spanier, chaps. 11-12

*Other*
- Video: *Kill/Capture*, Frontline, May 2011
- Video: *The Rise of ISIS*, Frontline, October 2014
- Slides: *National Security Strategy, Detainee Rights, Iraq War Resolutions*

25-29 May  

**World Disorder**

*Reading*
- Hook and Spanier, chap. 13

*Other*
- Guest lecture, 27 May: Kristin Bork (on Peace Corps and USAID)
- *Understanding the Rise of China*. Martin Jacques, TED Talk, October 2010
- Video: *Battle Zones: Ukraine and Syria*, Frontline, May 2014
- Slides: *ISIS, Counterterrorism under Obama*

1-5 Jun

**Indispensable Nation?**

*Reading*
- Hook and Spanier, chap. 14

*Other*
- Slides: *NATO Enlargement*

8 Jun (Mon.)  

**FINAL EXAM**, 12:30-2:20

This syllabus is available online at [web.pdx.edu/~kinsella/ps345s15.pdf](http://web.pdx.edu/~kinsella/ps345s15.pdf) and all course materials can be linked from there.

*Last updated on 5 June 2015.*