

**POL SC 4540**  
**American Foreign Policies**  
**SPRING 2014**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Nieman

**Time and Location:** MWF 1-1:50am, 212 Middlebush Hall

**Office Hours:** MW, 2:00-3:30pm, 217 Professional Building

**Contact:** NiemanM@missouri.edu

**Teaching Assistant:** Zachary Bowersox

**Contact:** email: zhbt33@mail.missouri.edu

**Office Hours:** MWF, 10:00am-12:00pm, 22 Professional Building

## Overview and Objectives

America's preeminent role on the world stage makes its foreign policy actions a topic of significant interest for Americans and individuals in other nations. As such, it is important to understand American foreign policy and how it is made.

This class will introduce you to American foreign policy in two ways. First, it will examine the history of American foreign policy and how the priorities and capabilities of America have changed over the past 225 years. Knowing the history of American foreign policy will help you to understand the current issues and controversies in American foreign policy. Second, this class will introduce you to American foreign policy by examining the institutions that shape American foreign policy. We will use this knowledge to critically analyze historical and current events in light of the theoretical processes discussed in class. Thus, this class will introduce you to America's foreign policy and provide you with the analytical tools to understand how foreign policy decisions have been made and how they will be made by the current and future administrations.

## Requirements

**Two Exams:** 50%

There will be two non-cumulative midterm examinations for this class. The exams will be based on the readings, lectures, and in class discussions. The exams are composed of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students who wish to do well on the exams should read the assigned material and attend all lectures.

**Class Presentation: 15%**

Students are required to give a presentation to the class applying a theory or lesson from that week's readings to a historical or current event. These presentations should only be about 6-7 minutes long and will be followed by a question and answer period. Topics for each presentation will be assigned beforehand. These presentations will generally require students to formulate a foreign policy based on the readings. Presentations will be graded on the argument presented, the information they cover, the structure of their presentation, and the presentation itself (a grading rubric will be provided). The presentation should not be just a summary of the material. A good presentation will incorporate the readings AND present an original argument.

**Class Discussion: 10%**

This is an upper division class and will be treated as a seminar. This means that you are expected to have read that week's assignment, be prepared to describe its theory and findings, and be ready to critically discuss them. While I will give a brief lecture at the start of class to provide background for that day's topic and reading and provide some direction to the conversation, the class will be much more valuable if you as a collective body do most of the talking. To encourage this, all students start with a participation grade of "D" and improve on this by constructively participating in the class discussion. This means that if you attend every class but do not participate, you have earned a "D".

**Poster Presentation: 25%**

Students should analyze a current American foreign policy, which the student thinks should be changed. This policy can either be topical (Non-proliferation) or related to an area/state (Syria or China). If you choose an area/state, you should think about a particular policy area for that area/state to make your poster manageable. In this poster, discuss 1) what the current policy is towards this area, 2) why you think it fails to achieve an important American foreign policy goal, 3) an alternative policy and why it will achieve this goal, and 4) the strengths and weaknesses of this policy. The position you take is irrelevant to your grade. Rather, the criterion for grading this paper will be the quality of your analysis and your use and presentation of evidence. A detailed description of what I will be looking for in the poster is available and will be discussed in more detail later in the semester.

**Grading Scale:**

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	≤ 59

## Required Texts

McCormick, James. 2014. *American Foreign Policy and Process, 6th Edition*. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

All assigned scholarly articles are available on [www.scholar.google.com](http://www.scholar.google.com). Just search using the author's name and article title.

We also encourage you to keep up-to-date on current events by reading articles relating to foreign policy and international relations in a major news media source. Two good sources are the New York Times and the Washington Post. They have substantial coverage of international events, and you can subscribe to either at a very reasonable student rate. A major weekly news magazine, such as the Economist, will also provide strong coverage of international events. You will also find that many news organizations provide news online, free of charge (i.e., [www.news.google.com](http://www.news.google.com)).

## Administrative Issues

*Missing an Exam:* I expect at least two weeks advance notification that you will miss an exam (i.e. participating in university sponsored activity). You must arrange with me to make up the work in a timely manner. If you are physically unable to contact me in advance (e.g., if you wake up extremely ill), you must contact me (via email or phone) as soon as possible and then bring some form of verification from a physician. Failure to complete an exam without appropriately notifying me will result in zero credit for that exam.

*Grade Complaints:* If for some reason a student is unhappy with their grade on an exam, they may submit their complaint in writing in hard copy form to the instructor. The complaint must explain the particular discrepancy, and recommend an appropriate recourse. The instructor will read the memo, re-read the disputed answer, and then assign a new grade. The instructor reserves the right to assign a lower grade after re-reading the answer a second time.

*Academic Honesty:* Academic integrity 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. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

*Students with Disabilities:* If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share

with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. This sample statement is posted on the web at: <http://provost.missouri.edu/faculty/syllabus.html> and at: <http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu/faculty/syllabus.php>. If disability-related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

*Intellectual Pluralism:* The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>) or the MU Equity Office ([equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu)); All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

*Recording Lecture:* University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus to reflect the pace of the course.

## Course Outline

### **Week 1 (Jan. 20): Values and Policies**

McCormick, Ch 1

### **Week 2 (Jan. 27): Global Involvement and Cold War**

McCormick, Ch 2

Lake, David A. 1996. Anarchy, Hierarchy, and the Variety of International Relations. *International Organization* 50(1): 1-33.

### **Week 3 (Feb. 3): After Vietnam**

McCormick, Ch 3

Mueller, John E. 1971. Trends in Popular Support for the Wars in Korea and Vietnam. *American Political Science Review* 65(2): 358-375.

### **Week 4 (Feb. 10): End of the Cold War**

McCormick, Ch 4

Blanton, Shannon Lindsey. 2005. Foreign Policy in Transition? Human Rights, Democracy, and U.S. Arms Exports. *International Studies Quarterly* 49(4): 647-667.

### **Week 5 (Feb. 17): Post-Cold War and 9/11**

McCormick, Ch 5

Renshon, Jonathan. 2008. Stability and Change in Belief Systems: The Operational Code of George W. Bush. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(6): 820-849.

### **Week 6 (Feb. 24): Contemporary Foreign Policy**

McCormick, Ch 6

Gibler, Douglas M. and Steven V. Miller. 2012. Comparing the Foreign Aid Policies of Presidents Bush and Obama. *Social Science Quarterly* 93(5): 1202-1217.

### **Week 7 (Mar. 3): Review and Exam**

Midterm 1 on Wednesday, Mar. 5.

No class on Friday, Mar. 7

Turn in Poster Topic to TA by midnight Friday, Mar. 7.

### **Week 8 (Mar. 10): The President**

McCormick, Ch 7

Drury, A. Cooper. 2001. Sanctions as Coercive Diplomacy: The U. S. President's Decision to Initiate Economic Sanctions. *Political Research Quarterly* 54(3): 485-508.

### **Week 9 (Mar. 17): Congress**

McCormick, Ch 8

Putnam, Robert D. 1988. Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games. *International Organization* 42(3): 427-460.

**Week 10 (Mar. 24): Spring Break - No Class**

**Week 11 (Mar. 31): Diplomatic and Economic Bureaucracies**

McCormick, Ch 9

Weymouth, Stephen and J. Muir MacPherson. 2012. The Social Construction of Policy Reform: Economists and Trade Liberalization Around the World. *International Interactions* 38(5): 670-702.

**Week 12 (Apr. 7): Military and Intelligence**

McCormick, Ch 10

Forsythe, David P. 1992. Democracy, War, and Covert Action. *Journal of Peace Research* 29(4): 385-395.

**Week 13 (Apr. 14): Political Parties and Interest Groups**

McCormick, Ch 11

Chase, Kerry A. 2008. Moving Hollywood Abroad: Divided Labor Markets and the New Politics of Trade in Services. *International Organization* 62: 653-687.

**Week 14 (Apr. 21): The Media and Public Opinion**

McCormick, Ch 12

Busch, Marc L. and Eric Reinhardt. 2000. Geography, International Trade, and Political Mobilization in U.S. Industries. *American Journal of Political Science* 44(4): 703-719.

**Week 15 (Apr. 28): Poster Presentations**

**Week 16 (May 5): Conclusion and Review**

McCormick, Ch 13.

**Week 17 (May 12) - Finals Week**

Midterm 2 on Wednesday, May 14, at 7:30am-9:30am.