INR 6305: American Foreign Policy

This course is designed to familiarize students with the major schools of thought in American foreign policy as well as the different theoretical approaches to its study. Although the majority of the course will focus on the Post-WWII period, we will also examine the 18th and 19th century traditions in American foreign policy because those traditions set the parameters of debate that ensued in later years. We will spend the last few sessions considering current issues in American foreign policy such as responses to terrorism and dealing with rising powers.

Readings
Most of the readings are available through the UF library website and a simple search on the title will bring the article up in PDF format. Some readings are from books that will be on reserve at the library. You should, however, purchase the following books as we will be using significant portions of them. All of them are available on Amazon in paperback.


Evaluation
This seminar is heavily dependent on class discussion. Therefore, a considerable weight of a student’s overall performance grade is placed on participation. Each class meeting will include a presentation by one on the week’s reading and your preparedness and participation in the ensuing discussion is critical. Participation involves active discussion throughout the semester, not just the week you are presenting.

Each student will be responsible for leading the class discussion on two occasions. This will involve a short presentation on the main points of the week’s reading as well as some analysis or critique. It is also part of the assignment to prepare several questions to start a class discussion on the readings. This can be in the form of questions regarding specific readings or overarching questions that cover the week’s theme.
summary and analysis will also be condensed into written form, which will be evaluated as part of the assignment (approximately 1500 words).

In addition, each student is responsible for a research paper (approximately 5000 words). This can revolve around any topic as long as it relates to the themes of the course. Ideally it would become the core of a publishable article or part of your dissertation.

The breakdown of your final grade will be as follows:

- Participation: 25%
- First Disc. Lead: 20%
- Second Disc. Lead: 20%
- Research paper: 35%

I reserve the right to alter this syllabus, although I will give at least one week of notice before doing so.

**Course Schedule**

**January 12: Introduction (no reading)**

**January 26: Context of American Foreign Policy: Realist and Liberal Traditions**

- Morganthau, *In Defense of the National Interest*, chp. 1 (Reserve)

- Tony Smith, *America’s Mission: The United States and the Worldwide Struggle for Democracy*, chp.1 (Reserve)


- Walter Russell Mead, *Special Providence*, Chp. 1
February 2: Schools of American Foreign Policy and Grand Strategy
- Andrew Bacevitch, *American Empire*, Chp. 1 (Reserve)

February 9: Foreign Policy in the Early Years of the Republic
- Tony Smith, *America’s Mission: The United States and the Worldwide Struggle for Democracy*, chp.3 (Reserve)
- Walter Russell Mead, *Special Providence*, Chp. 2. (Reserve)

February 16: Creating the Cold War System
- John Lewis Gaddis, *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997) Chapters 2, 8, 10
February 23: The Individual and Domestic Levels in American Foreign Policy


March 9: Post-Cold War Foreign Policy: We Won Now What?


March 16: Does American Foreign Policy Create Challenges to its Hegemony?


March 23: Alliance relations


March 30: Economics and Foreign Policy
• Carla Norrlof, *America’s Global Advantage* (Cambridge: 2010) Chapters 1, 2, 6 (Reserve)


**April 6: Post-Cold War Conflict**


• “Reform of the United States Intelligence Community” US Senate Intelligence Committee Report, 2004. Section 14


**April 13: Public Opinion and Foreign Policy**


**April 20: Rising Powers and American Foreign Policy**


• Charles Glaser, "Will China’s Rise lead to War?" *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2011.

