

Professor Andrew A. Michta
Rhodes College
Fall 2009
Tuesday-Thursday 2:00pm-3:15pm/Rm 103 Buckman
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Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am-12:00pm and by appointment

International Studies 371

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

This course offers a review of key paradigms in US foreign policy, while raising the question of America's role in the international system today. We will survey the founding principles of American foreign policy and different ideological and analytical approaches affecting our policy choices. Next, we will discuss the key players in foreign policy-making and their relative importance in the process. The second half of the semester will focus U.S. strategy after the Cold War and the seminal impact of 9/11 on U.S. foreign policy. We will address the question of the shifting U.S. position in the international system and its implications for the future of American foreign policy.

The larger question that will guide this seminar is the extent to which the Democratic Peace Theory has come to define U.S. foreign policy discourse in the U.S. domestic context, and whether we are capable today of thinking of the international system in Realist terms.

I. Grades:

1. Midterm--30%
2. Final-30%
4. Paper--20%
5. Class contribution--20%

II. Course Requirements

The texts assigned for the course are available at the bookstore. I will also place additional readings for the second part of the course on library reserve. I encourage you to follow current international events as they relate to U.S. foreign policy choices; we will begin each session with a brief discussion of key news, so please make it part of your daily routine.

Note: I reserve the right to modify the syllabus (add or drop reading assignments or remove entire sections) as new material becomes available. You will be notified of any changes at least two weeks in advance.

Your paper should be 15-20 typewritten pages in length on a topic suggested by you and approved by me.

III. Texts:

1. Eugene R. Wittkopf and James M. McCormick, *The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy* (fifth edition)
2. Walter Russell Mead, *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World*
3. Steven W. Hook, *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power* (second edition)
4. John C. Hulsman and A. Wess Mitchell, *The Godfather Doctrine: A Foreign Policy Parable*

IV. Policies

In order to pass the course you are expected to read the assigned material, come to class on time, hand in your work on schedule, and contribute to the discussion. No extensions will be given for term papers or make up exams, save for real emergencies (I will determine what qualifies as such). On the other hand, if you run into difficulties with the course, please come see me; we will try to resolve the problem together.

Note: Plagiarism, i.e., using someone else's words or ideas without acknowledging the source will automatically earn you a failing grade.

V. Required by week:

August 27

Introduction and Course Overview

CORE PARADIGMS AND THE RISE OF THE U.S. IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Week I: The Foundation of US Foreign Policy

September 1

Mead, Chp. 1

September 3

Mead, Chps 2 and 3

Week II: Hamiltonian and Wilsonian Traditions

September 8

Mead, Chp. 4

September 10

Mead, Chp. 5

Week III: Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Traditions

September 15

Mead, Chp. 6

September 17

Mead, Chp 7

Week IV: The Rise of the United States in the International System

September 22

Hook, Chp 1

September 24

Hook, Chp. 2

THE POLICY MECHANISM AND PROCESS

Week V: Presidential Prerogative

September 29

Hook Chp 3

October 1

Hook Chp. 4

Week VI: Congress and the Bureaucracy

October 6

Hook Chp 5

October 8

Hook Chp. 6

Week VII: Public Opinion

October 13

--MIDTERM EXAMINATION--

October 15

Hook Chp. 7

OCTOBER 17 THROUGH OCTOBER 20 FALL BREAK

Week VIII: Media, NGOs and Social Movements

October 20

Hook Chp 8

October 22

Hook Chp. 9

AT A CROSSROADS: NEOCONSERVATISM, DEMOCRATIC PEACE THEORY AND DOMESTIC CONSTRAINTS

Week IX: Anti-Americanism and the Decline of U.S. Soft Power

October 27

Wittkopf/McCormick, Intro and Chp. 1

Paper Topic Selection

October 29

Wittkopf/McCormick, Chp. 2

Week X: The "Neoconservative Moment"

November 3

Robert Kagan, *Of Paradise and Power* (library reserve)

November 5

Wittkopf/McCormick, Chp. 3 (Madelbaum)
Charles Krauthammer, "Unipolar Moment" (library reserve)

Week XI: Legacies of the George W. Bush Administration

November 10

Wittkopf/McCormick, Chp 7 (Mueller/The Iraq Syndrome)
Wittkopf/McCormick, Chp, 15 (Pillar/Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq)

November 12 (GWOT)

Philip H. Gordon, "Can the War on Terror Be Won?" *Foreign Affairs*,
November/December 2007
Wittkopf/McCormick Chp. 24 (Renshon/Assessing the Personality of George
Bush)

Week XII: President Obama's Choices

November 17 (Afghanistan)

Fotini Christia and Michael Semple, "Flipping the Taliban," *Foreign Affairs*,
July/August 2009
Steven Simon, "Can the Right War Be Won," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2009

November 19 (Russia and China)

Charles King, "Checking Russia: The Five Day War," *Foreign Affairs*,
November/December 2008
Stephen Sestanovich, "What Has Moscow Done?" *Foreign Affairs*,
November/December 2008
G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," *Foreign
Affairs*, January/February 2008

Week XIII: The Center of Gravity: The Middle East

November 24

Mohsen M. Milani, "Tehran's Take: Understanding Iran's U.S. Policy," *Foreign
Affairs*, July/August 2009

NOVEMBER 25-29 THANKSGIVING RECESS

December 1

Bernard Lewis, "Free at Last? The Arab World in the Twenty-first Century,"
Foreign Affairs, March/April 2009
Wittkopf/McCormick Chp. 5 (Mearsheimer/Walt)

Week: XIV: U.S. Policy: Does Realism Have a Chance?

December 3

Hulsman/Mitchell "The Godfather Doctrine" (pp. 1-45)

December 8

Hulsman/Mitchell, "The Godfather Doctrine" (pp. 45-85)

PAPERS DUE ON DECEMBER 9 (LAST DAY OF CLASS) BY 5PM IN MY OFFICE