This course will examine the leading conceptual approaches to the analysis of American foreign policy and some of the key foreign policy issues that confront the United States at the outset of the Barack Obama. The relationship between International Relations Theory and the study of foreign policy will be a central concern of the class. A brief review of the principal approaches to the study of foreign policy and a brief historical overview of U.S. foreign policy during the 19th and early 20th centuries will be presented in the first five weeks of the course. During the rest of the semester major emphasis will be placed on the evolution of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War (1945-1991), on the post-Cold War period (1991-2001), on the post-September 11, 2001, period of the George W. Bush presidency, and on the foreign policy implications of the transition from Bush to Obama (2009) and the Obama administration’s foreign policy initiatives - 2009-12).

The course will be conducted as a seminar. Students will be expected to complete the readings assigned for each session (approximately 150-200 pages) prior to each class meeting and to participate actively in class discussions. One (or more) students (depending on the size of the class) will be assigned responsibility for reviewing the required readings orally during each session prior to the general discussion. A short review essay or rapporteur’s report (five-eight typed, double-spaced pages in length) covering all the required readings for one class session will be due twenty four (24) hours prior to the presentation of the oral rapporteur’s report and should be sent to the entire class by email.

All class members will be required to write research papers (15-20 double spaced pages in length plus endnotes for undergraduates and 20-25 pages in length for graduate students) on a topic/country/issue of their choice. You need not restrict yourself to the countries/policies/issues examined in class. Each student must submit a one-page description of the project plus an initial bibliography to me by the sixth meeting of the course (February 27).

Rapporteurs for each session should discuss their presentations with me after class the week prior to their session. Presentations should be critical and comparative. A bare-bones outline of the argument developed by the author(s) should be presented briefly (10-15 minutes) and then critiqued (10-15 minutes). Each presentation should identify the theoretical focus, methodological approach and the major substantive conclusions of the work(s) discussed. Each rapporter must prepare a 5-8 page written summary of his/her presentation for distribution by email prior to the scheduled class. Following the oral presentation and class discussion, each rapporteur will have one week to re-write and submit a final version of their rapporteur report for grading.

Final grades in the course will be based on the following weighting system:

1. Oral presentation – 20%;
2. Final Rapporteurs essay – 30%;
3. Final paper – 50%.

The following ten books will be required in the course:


NOTE: These books are available for purchase in the University of Miami Book Store on the Coral Gables Campus. They may also be purchased, often at discount prices, online at Amazon.com. They will also be place on reserve in the Richter library.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. REALISM AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (January 23)
   
   Required Reading
   
   
   Supplementary Reading
   
2. NEO-REALISM, IR THEORY AND FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS (January 30)

**Required Reading**


Alden Aran, *Op cit.* pp. 30-120.


**Supplementary Reading**


3. LIBERALISM AND CONSTRUCTIVISM IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS (February 6)

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


4. MARXIST APPROACHES AND DEPENDENCY IN IR THEORY (Feb. 13)

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading


5. THE POST-COLD WAR ERA, INTERDEPENDENCE AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (Feb. 20)

Required Reading


5. THE POST-COLD WAR ERA, INTERDEPENDENCE AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (Feb. 20)

Required Reading


6. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE DECLINE/RENEWAL OF U.S. HEGEMONY (February 27)

(Note: Final essay outlines and bibliographies are due in class on February 27)

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


Christopher Layne, “Realism Redux: Strategic Interdependence in a Multipolar World,” SAIS Review, (Summer-Fall 1989).

7. STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS OF THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY MAKING PROCESS (March 5)

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading


SPRING BREAK: MARCH 10-18, 2012. NO CLASS IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 12.

8. THE PRESIDENCY AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH POLICY MAKING (March 19)

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


Required Reading


Supplementary Reading

Jeffrey D. Sachs, “Consolidation Capitalism,” Foreign Policy, No. 98 (spring 1995) Pp. 50-64.


Required Reading


Supplementary Reading


11. AMERICAN HEGEMONY AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AFTER IRAQ (April 9)

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


12. U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION; A BALANCE SHEET (April 16)

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


13. INTERDEPENDENCE, GLOBALIZATION AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FROM BUSH TO OBAMA (April 23)

**Required Reading**


Supplementary Reading


SPRING 2012 CALENDAR

February 27  Final essay outlines and bibliographies are due in class or by email
March 10-19  Spring Break
April 27  Classes end
May 9  Final essays due by 5 PM
May 14  Final Grades Released by 5 PM
May 16  Final Grades available to students in myUM by noon