

POLI 142M
U.S. Foreign Policy

<http://slantchev.ucsd.edu/courses/usfp/>

Summer I 2014
TTh 5:00p–7:50p
HSS 2305B

Professor Branislav L. Slantchev

Office: SSB 387

Office Hours: T 11:00a–12:00p

E-mail: slantchev@ucsd.edu

DESCRIPTION: This course examines U.S. foreign policy since the end of the Cold War. We shall examine the institutions and processes that are crucial in formulating foreign policy, and the contexts in which decisions have to be made. We shall learn about and critique conceptual frameworks that decision-makers bring to bear on complex problems that involve both domestic conflicts over appropriate goals and means of achieving them and international conflicts over the role of the United States in the global arena. We shall begin with a broad overview of critical problems decision-makers face when they formulate strategies designed to cope with various challenges. We shall then survey the history of U.S. foreign policy since 1990 and discuss several prominent cases in depth. By the end of the quarter, you will be expected to:

1. Acquire a working knowledge of the various actors and their roles in U.S. foreign policy-making;
2. Be able to apply, analyze, and critique the conceptual frameworks and the policies they generate;
3. Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the challenges U.S. policies must address;
4. Evaluate foreign policy recommendations about current events as sophisticated citizens.

PREREQUISITES: This is an advanced undergraduate course, and as such it has a substantial reading load and strong expectations of student class participation. Although no previous advanced work in international relations is required, students who have taken 142J National Security Strategy will find that this course picks up where the other leaves off.

REQUIREMENTS: The course requirements consist of participation (20%), midterm exam (35%), and an essay (45%). Most class meetings will devote fully half of the time to in-depth discussions of particular cases that students will have to be prepared for in advance. You will be asked to assume the role of one of the participating actors for the analysis of key events. The exam will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in class. The essay topic will be given in class on July 17 and the essays will be due on August 2, by noon. Late essays will incur a 20% grade penalty for each day after the deadline. You must complete all three requirements to receive a passing grade for the course. No exceptions to this policy will be permitted.

MISSED EXAMS. Essay extensions and make-up exams will only be given under valid, documented, and extreme circumstances. If you know you will miss an exam for a legitimate reason, notify me in advance. E-mail is perfectly acceptable. If you are not able to contact me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible. I am a reasonable person and will work with you to resolve reasonable problems. It is your responsibility to arrange with me to take a makeup exam.

ATTENDANCE. Class attendance is not mandatory but much of your final grade will depend on your

class participation. Attendance is also crucial for your performance on the exam and for your ability to write a decent essay.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. You are expected to do your own work. Students caught cheating on the exam or plagiarizing their essays will receive a failing grade for the course and will be turned over to the dean of their college for administrative sanctions.

GRADE APPEALS. You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument that the grade fits the appeal criteria listed above.

READINGS: This course uses one primary textbook, which is available at the bookstore:

- Cox, Michael, Doug Stokes. 2012. *US Foreign Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2nd Ed.

In addition, we shall read a number of articles and primary documents. These are all listed on the course website.

SCHEDULE: This is only the topic outline. The complete and frequently updated schedule of readings is on the course website.

PART I: Preliminaries and Context

July 1 Theories & Explanations

July 3 Institutions & Processes in U.S. Foreign Policy

July 8 U.S. Policies during the Cold War

PART II: History

July 10 Bush I (Gulf War)

July 15 Clinton (Kosovo)

July 17 Bush II (War on Terror) & **Midterm Exam**

July 22 Obama (Arab Spring)

PART III: Topics

July 24 Russia and the Ukraine Crisis

July 29 Nuclear Deterrence in North Korea and Iran

July 31 China and the Global Economy

ESSAY DUE: August 2, by noon