AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
POL 5290 U/G    FALL 2008

Dr. Daugherty, UH 218
Office hours: M-W 12-1:15; T-R 12-12:45; M-R after class.
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ACCEPTANCE: Students are responsible for the contents of this syllabus; continued enrollment in this course constitutes awareness and acceptance of all requirements and policies discussed herein.

OVERVIEW: This course examines the development and execution of America Foreign Policy through the roles of the two political branches of government and extra-governmental influences, including foreign actors. Case studies will be relied upon to illustrate the various points emphasized in the class; as such the course is heavily pragmatic and historical, vice theoretical, in presentation.

TEXTS: US Foreign Policy: The Paradox of Power (Hook); Crucible of Power: American Foreign Policy Since 1897 (Jones).

CELL PHONES: Cell phones are to be turned off and kept out of sight. Anyone seen texting during class will have their grade lowered one letter on the first offence. The second offence will result in being immediately dropped from the class with a WF.

HONOR CODE: All sections of the AASU Student Honor Code and Code of Conduct will apply to this class. Under the Honor Code, plagiarism, cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and fabrication in any form or manner are forbidden. Additional restrictions or instructions given in class on any individual assignment, whether verbal or written, will also fall under the Honor Code. Absence from the class when any additional instructions are given is not a valid excuse if a violation of the instructions results in an Honor or Conduct Code violation. Students will also be required to sign each examination, which acknowledges that the student has followed the Honor Code and any additional restrictions/instructions given in class.

HONOR VIOLATION POLICY: I will accuse no student of violating the Honor Code unless I can prove beyond a doubt that the student is guilty. At that time, the student will be dropped from the class and his or her name will transmitted to the Dean of Student Affairs along with the proof, for a formal hearing before the Honor Court. Although the Honor Code permits a professor an option to handle the transgression in an “informal” manner vice submitting the case to the Honor Court, I will not do so. Before the Honor Court, I will urge that the student receive the maximum penalty possible, to wit: an F for the semester, suspension from school for one year, and the findings of the Court to be made a permanent part of the student’s record. This penalty will definitely affect your life; you need to weigh whether the consequences are worth the risk.

REQUIREMENTS: UNDERGRADUATES: Successful completion in this course for undergraduates requires two papers, plus acceptable class participation. Directions for the two papers will be handed out separately. GRADUATE STUDENTS: One paper and two book reports, guidance to be handed out separately. All graduate students are required to participate in
discussion or they will not pass, regardless of their performance on papers; lack of participation will result in a loss of points for the final grade. ALL: Because you know the subject matter of the papers and their due date on the first day of class, late papers will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0 – late being defined as one minute past the date/time the paper is due. THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS AND NO EXEMPTIONS, except in cases of genuine emergencies, of which I will be the judge.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: The minimal accepted level of class participation includes attending class every session, arriving on time (habitual tardiness is disrespectful to classmates and professor alike), being prepared for class, staying awake, taking notes, and looking interested! Failure to do this minimum level will result in a reduction of at least one letter grade, or possibly, being dropped from the class. It will be a serious mistake to leave the impression that you don’t care about this class, if for no other reason than that’s probably the same extent to which I’ll care about your grade. Conversely, students who participate frequently and positively by asking questions and engaging in debates and discussions will receive, at my discretion and based solely on my judgment, additional credit that could elevate the final grade one full letter.

GRADING: Your course grade will be determined by the aggregate scores on the two papers, with the first paper worth 100 points, the second worth 200 points, for a total of 300 possible points. A = 270-300 pts; B = 240-269; C = 210-239; D = 180-209. Class participation points, if any, will be added in five point increments.

EXTRA CREDIT: No extra credit will be given to an individual. Extra credit will granted only in situations in which the entire class is able to participate (e.g., attending an off-campus lecture). The success to passing this course is to do well in class and on the papers, the doing of which eliminates any need for extra credit.

ABSENCE POLICY: You are permitted four absences, period, regardless of reason. (There is no longer any distinction between excused and unexcused.) Absences beyond four will be penalized at a minimum by 25 points each. I retain the right either give you an F or to drop you from the class with a WF if your absences exceed six.

CLASS NOTES: If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain from one of your classmates the notes for the class and any additional instructions or information that was given out in class.

SYLLABUS:

Note: The Jones book has no particular assignments to it. You should plan on reading a minimum of two chapters each week, focusing on events, personalities, and how and why policy decisions were reached and implemented. By mid-term at the latest, you should be able to develop parallels between class discussion and the material you have read. Any student who is not sufficiently interested in the course to read this volume on this basis alone, or who does not possess the necessary self-discipline to do so, should not take this class as you obviously do not possess the necessary desire to learn.

Students should read the appropriate chapter(s) before each class. DO NOT COME TO CLASS UNPREPARED.

1. The Nature of American Foreign Policy. (Chapter 1)
   Constitutional and historical underpinnings: Constitution of the United States
   The American approach to foreign policy
The use of power in the exercise of foreign policy

2. **Who Makes American Foreign Policy?** (Chapters 4, 5, and 6)
   - The President and Congress
   - Defense Department, the Intelligence Community, State Department
   - Interagency Coordination
   - The Federal Courts

*Domestic Influences on Foreign Policy* (Chapter 7)
   - Outside Influences

*Decision Making* (Chapter 3 and lectures)
   - Rational Actor
   - Incremental
   - Organizational Theory
   - Bureaucratic Politics

*Stumbling Blocks to Good Policy Making* (Lectures)
   - Folly
   - Poor Judgment
   - Group Think
   - Defective Decision Making

*Crisis Management* (Lectures)
   - Organizing for Crisis