

**POLI 142M**  
**U.S. Foreign Policy**

<http://slantchev.ucsd.edu/courses/ps142m/>

Winter 2016  
MWF 10:00a–10:50a  
WLH 2111

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**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 with me will find that this course picks up where the other leaves off.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:** Clara Suong ([csuong@ucsd.edu](mailto:csuong@ucsd.edu), SSB 351).

**REQUIREMENTS:** The course requirements consist of a midterm exam (25%, February 8), a final exam (35%, March 18), and an essay (40%). The exams will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in class. The essay topic will be given in class on February 12 and the essays will be due on March 4, at end of class. 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 exams 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.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** No electronic devices will be permitted in class. This includes phones, tablets, laptops, and readers. The only exception is for students who require such a device due to disability. You will need to document this through OSD. Research consistently shows that electronic devices hurt comprehension and retention, and that taking notes long-hand helps students follow the material better.

**READINGS:** This course uses one text for the history of the events we will be analyzing:

- Steven W. Hook and John Spanier. 2015. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. 20th Ed.

This book is not available at the bookstore. Instead, I have worked out a deal with CQ Press to make only the portion of the book we need available to you in electronic form at half the price. To purchase your reading copy, go to <http://www.vitalsource.com/> and search for it using the ISBN **9781506342474**. If you wish to purchase the entire book, please note that you will only read Part II for this course. 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.

TOPIC 1: Theories and Explanations

TOPIC 2: The Puzzle of War

TOPIC 3: Deterrence and Compellence

TOPIC 4: The Cold War

TOPIC 5: America's Grand Strategy

TOPIC 6: U.S. Foreign Policy Process

TOPIC 7: The Defense Community

TOPIC 8: Democratic Enlargement

TOPIC 9: Failed States

TOPIC 10: Sacred Terror

TOPIC 11: Global War on Terrorism

TOPIC 12: Arab Spring

TOPIC 13: Syria and the Islamic State

TOPIC 14: Russia, China, and Power Politics