

**PLS 362 – American Foreign Policy and National Security**  
**Online Section**  
**Summer 2018**

Instructor: Lora DiBlasi  
Email: DIBLASIL@MSU.EDU  
Office: 231 South Kedzie Hall  
Office Hours: Online appointments available via Skype

### **Overview**

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of US foreign policy and national security. We will explore the history, traditions, and theories of US foreign policy. Through readings, lectures, module news article write-ups, and a final policy paper, students will engage with current policy issues, analyze previous foreign policy and national security decisions, and explore various theoretical frameworks.

The first part of the course is dedicated to understanding what foreign policy is and does, and how theoretical frameworks help us understand the decision-making process. Next, we will explore the history of US foreign policy noting major turning points and policy changes. Third, we will look at the sources of foreign policy and discuss who actually makes foreign policy and how they do so. Fourth, we will briefly discuss current major issues in American foreign policy and national security. Lastly, we will discuss key issues on the US foreign policy agenda along with topics that may present concerns for the future of US foreign policy.

### **Course Materials**

Please purchase the following book for this class. Either digital or physical copy is fine. Also, please be sure to purchase the correct edition of the book.

- Cox, Michael and Doug Stokes, eds. 2012. *US Foreign Policy*. **Second Edition**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

All other course material will be placed on Desire2Learn (D2L) under the appropriate module and submodule heading. Please ensure you have access to D2L at the beginning of the semester. If you do not have access, please email me within the first two days of the course.

### **Course Requirements**

#### Module Quizzes (50 points)

There are five modules for this course. You will complete one online quiz for each module by the module due date. Each quiz is worth 10 points. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions covering the topics discussed in the lectures and readings for that module. Each quiz has a 15-minute time limit. All quizzes will be open book/open note, but you may not collaborate with anyone else to complete the quizzes.

After taking the quiz, you will have one opportunity to retake it to improve your score. Late quizzes will not be accepted. If you did not take advantage of your quiz re-take before the module deadline, your grade will remain your original grade. Each module on D2L will have a link to the module's quiz.

### Module News Article Write-ups (100 points)

There are five module news article write-ups. You will need to complete one write-up for each module of the course by the module due date. Each write-up will require you to summarize a recent news article and then connect the article with content from our course. Each write-up is worth 20 points. Specific guidelines and a grading rubric will be posted on D2L. Each module on D2L will have a link to the appropriate drop box to upload your assignment.

### Policy Paper (100 points)

You will need to write one policy paper analyzing a US foreign policy issue, event, or decision. The paper should apply a major theoretical framework (from Module 1) to the issue to explain US behavior. In addition, you should explain the potential options available to the US at that time. Lastly, you should propose and defend the best policy solution for the US. This can either be arguing the US should have chosen a different course of action given their available options or defending the choice of the US at that time. *You must email the instructor to approve your topic no later than 7/29.*

The paper should be 5-7 pages long. Paper guidelines and a grading rubric will be posted to D2L. Please upload your final paper in the module titled "Final Policy Paper" on D2L.

**Topic due date: Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm EDT (via email)**

**Due Date: Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm EDT (upload to drop box on D2L)**

### **Grading Scale**

I will use the following scale to assign course grades. The course is out of 250 total points.

4.0: 230 or more (92% and above)

3.5: 215-229 (91% to 86%)

3.0: 208-200 (85% to 80%)

2.5: 199-188 (79% to 75%)

2.0: 187-175 (74% to 70%)

1.5: 174-160 (69% to 64%)

1.0: 159-145 (63% to 58%)

0.0: 144 or less (< 58%)

Any challenges to quiz/paper grades must be submitted in writing no sooner than one week after I have graded the assignment.

### **Course Format and Pacing**

There are five modules for this course. Each module will consist of a set of submodule lectures on various topics, readings, one online quiz, and one news article write-up. The assigned readings, quizzes, and news article write-ups all correspond to their respective modules and should be considered a set of tasks for the entirety of the module. All items pertaining to each module, including the module quiz and news article write-up drop box, will be listed under the module's title on D2L.

I suggest you first read the assigned materials, then listen to the assigned submodule lectures, and lastly complete the quiz. You may complete the module news article write-up at any point in time for the module, but it may be most helpful to complete the readings and lectures first.

The course is designed to cover about one module per week of the course (with the exception of Module 2, as it is a bit longer than others). However, should you desire, you may complete the modules before their scheduled due dates and move through the course more quickly than the schedule outlines below. All modules will be posted at least one week before their start date. Please note, all due dates and times are in Eastern Daylight Time.

## **Course Policies**

### Computer/Internet Problems

This is a seven-week online course. The accelerated schedule requires diligence and organization on your part. It also requires a commitment by you to getting the work done on time. Because this is an online class, you are expected to have access to a working computer. “Computer problems” (from your mouse not working to your hard drive crashing) are not an excuse for not completing work. Please ensure you have alternative means to complete the work if needed and that you regularly back up your work. If you have *any* problems with anything technical in the class, I expect you to let me know as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements.

### Communication

Email is the best way to contact me. My email address is **DIBLASIL@MSU.EDU**. Please do not email me through D2L. If you email me, include “PLS 362” in the subject line to make sure the email does not get missed. Please allow 24 hours for a response during the week (Monday-Thursday) and 36 hours during the weekend (Friday-Sunday).

I will not be holding formal office hours. Instead, please email me to arrange an appointment via Skype (or another similar platform) if you would like to discuss any issues or course material.

### Accommodations for Students

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation (“VISA”) form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

### Academic Honesty

Article 2.III.B.2 of the SRR states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the Department of Political Science adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU regulations on Protection of Scholarship and Grades will receive a failing grade in the course or on the assignment.

Faculty are required to report all instances in which a penalty grade is given for academic dishonesty. Students reported for academic dishonesty are required to take an online course about the integrity of scholarship and grades. A hold will be placed on the student's account until such time as the student completes the course. This course is overseen by the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education.

Please Note: I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any point in the course to suit the needs of the class. All changes will be noted in D2L and sent to students via email at the start of the module.

**\*\*\*Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.\*\*\***

### Course Outline and Due Dates

Module Number	Module and Submodule Topics	Readings and Assignments	Due Date
1	<u>Introduction and Theories of Foreign Policy</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction and course overview</li> <li>2. Realism</li> <li>3. Liberalism</li> <li>4. Constructivism</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-20)</li> <li>○ Kaufman, Chapter 1 (posted on D2L)</li> <li>○ Foreign Policy Article - "Grand Strategy isn't grand enough" (posted on D2L)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz #1</li> <li>○ News Article Write-up #1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	July 8 <sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm EDT
2	<u>History of US Foreign Policy</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. American Exceptionalism</li> <li>2. Pre-WWII</li> <li>3. Cold War</li> <li>4. America in 1990s-mid 2000s</li> <li>5. Current Issues</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chapter 2 (pgs. 21-39)</li> <li>○ Chapter 3 (pgs. 43-58)</li> <li>○ Chapter 4 (pgs. 59-81)</li> <li>○ Chapter 5 (pgs. 82 -96)</li> <li>○ Chapter 6 (pgs. 97-107)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz #2</li> <li>○ News Article Write-up #2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> 11:59 pm EDT
3	<u>Sources of Foreign Policy</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Congress</li> <li>2. President</li> <li>3. Military</li> <li>4. Intelligence Community</li> <li>5. Media</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chapter 7 (pgs. 111-129)</li> <li>○ Chapter 8 (pgs. 130-143)</li> <li>○ Chapter 10 (pgs. 160-177)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz #3</li> <li>○ News Article Write-up #3</li> <li>○ <b>*Policy paper topic due*</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	July 29 <sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm EDT

4	<u>US and the World</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. US and the Middle East</li> <li>2. US and Russia</li> <li>3. US and China</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chapter 12 (pgs. 197-218)</li> <li>○ Chapter 14 (pgs. 239-258)</li> <li>○ Chapter 15 (pgs. 259-276)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz #4</li> <li>○ News Article Write-up #4</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	August 5 <sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm EDT
5	<u>Key Issues and Future Scenarios</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Global Economy</li> <li>2. Terrorism</li> <li>3. Environment</li> <li>4. Issues on the Horizon</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chapter 18 (pgs. 317-334)</li> <li>○ Chapter 19 (pgs. 335-350)</li> <li>○ Chapter 20 (pgs. 351-374)</li> <li>○ Chapter 22 (pgs. 392-408)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz #5</li> <li>○ News Article Write-up #5</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	August 12 <sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm EDT

**\*\*Note – Final Paper due Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> 5 pm EDT**