



**PSC 3730: American Foreign Policy**  
**Fall 2017**  
**Monday and Wednesday, 11:10 - 12:30**  
**SM 3064**

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*“War is God’s way of teaching Americans geography.”* — Attributed to Ambrose Bierce

**Professor:**

Prof. M. Joel Voss, PhD

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**Office Hours:**

Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 - 11:05 and 12:35 - 14:25, or by appointment.

**Course Description:**

(3 hours) An examination of the American foreign policy-making process as well as an analysis of the major problems facing the United States in its interaction with the international environment.

**Course Overview:**

This course is designed to help students understand how US foreign policy is formed, both from an institutional perspective and a theoretical and empirical perspective. The course will cover a large range of topics including theories behind foreign policy decision making, historical case studies including cases within the Cold War like the Cuban Missile Crisis and the wars in Vietnam and Korea. In addition, the course will cover modern, hotly debated topics like US foreign policy regarding China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Finally, the course will cover topics that are covered less in the media but are of fundamental importance to US interests, including human rights and the environment. This course will also help students understand best and worst practices in foreign policy.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Students will gain an understanding of the theories behind US foreign policy making.
- Students will analyze best and worst practices in US foreign policy using case studies.
- Students will gain an understanding of US foreign policy institutions.
- Students will increase competence and confidence in both oral and written communication through practice.

**Prerequisites:**

PSC 1200 or 1400 and PSC 2700

**Textbooks:**

Both books are required. Additional readings are available on Blackboard. Read the news daily.

1. Laura Neack, *The New Foreign Policy: Complex Interactions, Competing Interests*, 3rd Edition. \$37.00 (new), \$30.55 (new rental), \$27.75 (used), \$17.60 (used rental)
2. Ralph Carter, *Contemporary Cases in US Foreign Policy: From Terrorism to Trade*, 5th Edition. \$56.00 (new), \$42.00 (used), \$38.10 (new rental), \$26.30 (used rental), \$45.00 (Ebook), \$28.00 (Ebook rent)

**University Policies**

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read *The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of the Americans with Disability Act Compliance*.

**Academic Accommodations** The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the *Student Disability Services Office*.

**Grade Policy:**

Unexcused, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 a letter grade per 24 hours late.

**Grading Scale:**

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Performance
93 - 100	A	Achievement of Exceptional or Outstanding quality.
90 - 92	A-	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
87 - 89	B+	Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
83 - 86	B	Achievement of high quality.
80 - 82	B-	Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
77 - 79	C+	Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
73 - 76	C	Work of acceptable quality.
70 - 72	C-	Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
67 - 69	D+	Work slightly below the quality expected.
63 - 66	D	Below the quality expected.
60 - 62	D-	Barely above failing.
59 or less	F	Failure

## Grading:

Midterm Exam .....	30%
- This in-class exam will consist of short answer and essay questions.	
Final Exam .....	30%
- This in-class exam will consist of short answer and essay questions.	
Policy Memos .....	30%
- Students are required to write three, two-page policy memos on a topic of their choosing. One policy memo must be completed for the readings between 30 August and 11 October, 18 October and 13 November, and 15 November and 6 December.	
Attendance .....	10%
- Students are expected to attend class. Each student will receive two unexcused absences. After two unexcused absences, student's will be penalized with 1/3 letter grade deduction for attendance.	

## Academic Honesty:

"The free exchange of ideas depends on the participants' trust that others' work is their own and that it was done and is being reported honestly. Intellectual progress in all the disciplines demands the truthfulness of all participants. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities."

If you cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

## Extra Help and Office Hours:

Please feel free to come by my office hours if you need help understanding assignments or readings. It is best to come see me as soon as possible if you need any additional help.

## Important Dates:

Midterm Exam .....	9 October 2017
Final Exam .....	10:15 - 12:15, 13 December 2017

**Course Schedule:** *All non-textbook readings are available on Blackboard*

**28 August:** Introduction to the syllabus and expectations

**30 August:** Film - Dr. Voss will be at APSA. Read the material for 30 August and 6 Sept by 6 Sept.

1. The Fog of War: 11 Lessons from the Life of Robert S McNamara
2. Neack, chapter 1
3. Jack Snyder, One World, Rival Theories, Foreign Policy
4. Valerie Hudson, Foreign Policy Analysis: Actor-Specific Theory and the Ground of International Relations

**4 September:** Labor Day - No Classes

**6 September:** Theoretical approaches to foreign policy and US foreign policy institutions

1. Jonathan Masters, U.S. Foreign Policy Powers: Congress and the President, Council on Foreign Relations
2. Alan Gitelson, Robert Dudley, and Melvin Dubnick, Foreign and Defense Policy in American Government: Myths and Realities

**11 September:** Rationality and foreign policy

1. Neack, chapter 2

**13 September:** Cognition, personality and foreign policy

1. Neack, chapter 3

**18 September:** Decision Units in foreign policy

1. Neack, chapter 4

**20 September:** National self-image and foreign policy

1. Neack, chapter 5

**25 September:** Domestic politics and foreign policy

1. Neack, chapter 6

**27 September:** Public opinion, the media, and foreign policy

1. Neack, chapter 7

**2 October:** Great powers

1. Neack, chapter 8

**4 October:** Competing powers

1. Neack, chapter 9

**9 October:** Midterm Exam

**11 October:** Film

1. No End in Sight

**16 October:** No Class - Fall Break

**18 October:** Cold War I - The Cuban Missile Crisis

1. Ernest May and Philip Zelikow, The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis

**23 October:** Cold War II - Viet nam and Korea

1. James Matray, Dean Acheson's Press Club Speech Reexamined

2. Jerome Slater, The Domino Theory and International Politics: The Case of Vietnam
3. Richard Falk, What We Should Have Learned from Vietnam, Foreign Policy

**25 October:** Iraq and Afghanistan

1. Carter, chapter 3
2. Richard Haass, On Balance, Iraq War's Impact on US Foreign Policy 'Clearly Negative,' Council on Foreign Relations
3. Daniel Davis, The Wholesale Failure of American Foreign Policy, The American Conservative

**30 October:** Israel and Palestine

1. Carter, chapter 4
2. Aaron Miller, Lessons for the Trump and Kushner from My 20 Years of Failing at Middle East Peace, Foreign Policy

**1 November:** The Islamic State and extremist organizations

1. Campbell MacDiarmid, From the rise of the Caliphate to the Fall of Mosul... Foreign Policy
2. Foreign Policy, What Comes After ISIS?
3. Christopher Blanchard and Carla Humud, The Islamic State and US Policy, Congressional Research Service
4. Timeline: US Policy on ISIS, The Wilson Center

**6 November:** Iran

1. Carter, chapter 4
2. Suzanne Maloney, Under Trump, US Policy on Iran is moving from accommodation to confrontation, Brookings
3. BBC News, US-Iran Relations: A Brief Guide
4. Dan De Luce and Paul McCleary, Are the US and Iran on a Collision Course in Syria? Foreign Policy

**8 November:** China and Russia

1. Carter, chapter 7
2. Kimberly Marten, Reducing Tensions between Russia and NATO, Council on Foreign Relations
3. Ely Ratner, The False Choice of War or Accommodation in the South China Sea, Council on Foreign Relations

**13 November:** North Korea

1. Carter, chapter 5

2. Morton Abramowitz, Michael Green, and James Laney, US Policy Toward North Korea: Next Steps, The Council on Foreign Relations
3. Kelsey Davenport, Chronology of US-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy, Arms Control Association

**15 November:** Latin America and Africa

1. U.S. Department of State, Regional Topics for Latin America
2. U.S. Department of State, Regional Topics for Africa
3. Claire Felter and Danielle Renwick, Venezuela in Crisis, Council on Foreign Relations
4. Joshua Meservey, Four US Policy Priorities for Africa in 2016, The Heritage Foundation
5. Five Things Everyone Should Know About US Policy Towards Africa, Freedom House

**20 November:** Europe

1. U.S. Department of State, Regional Topics for Europe
2. Torrey Taussig, NATO at a Crossroads: Experts offer bold ideas for Enhancing European Security, Brookings
3. Mark Galeotti, Trump Was Right: NATO is Obsolete, Foreign Policy
4. James Goldgeier, The Future of NATO, Council on Foreign Relations

**22 November:** No Class - Thanksgiving

**27 November:** Trade Policy

1. Carter, chapter 10
2. Carter, chapter 11
3. James McBride, The Trans-Pacific Partnership and US Trade Policy, Council on Foreign Relations
4. James McBride and Mohammed Sergie, NAFTA's Economic Impact, Council on Foreign Relations

**29 November:** Terrorism

1. Carter, chapter 1
2. Carter, chapter 2
3. A. Trevor Thrall and Erik Goepner, Step Back: Lessons for US Foreign Policy From the Failed War on Terror, Cato Institute

**4 December:** Human Rights and the Environment

1. Carter, chapter 12
2. Carter, chapter 15
3. National Geographic, A Running List of How Trump is Changing the Environment

4. Roberta Cohen, Integrating Human Rights in US Foreign Policy: The History, The Challenges, and the Criteria for an Effective Policy, Brookings
5. Peter Baker and Michael Shear, To Trump, Human Rights Concerns Are Often a Barrier to Trade, The New York Times

**6 December:** The future of US foreign policy

1. Neack, chapter 10
2. Carter, pp. 463-470
3. Joseph Biden, The Future of US Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations
4. Joseph Nye, The Future of American Power, Foreign Affairs