GOV 312L: U.S. Foreign Policy
Texas Common Number: GOVT 2302

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Authors: Patrick MacDonald, Ph.D. and Robert Moser, Ph.D.

Course Facilitator: Megan Farrell, M.A., Kody Cooper, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

How This Course Works
This course is online and is self-paced. Exams must be taken in-person at an approved testing center. More information about taking exams is available on the University Extension website.

Students have five months from their date of enrollment in which to complete all coursework. While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading will be ignored, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

If all other coursework is complete and you have requested the final exam through the course exam manager by your designated completion date, an additional 30 days will be provided for you to study for and take that exam. If the final exam has not been requested by your completion date, you will be dropped from the course.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.
Course Overview
Since its founding, the United States has played a central role in shaping the larger international political order. American victories in World War I, World War II, and the Cold War coupled with its support for democracy and open global markets stand at the heart of this legacy. At the same time, external pressures in the form of war, globalization, and the spread of transnational ideological movements have stressed American institutions and shaped an evolving American national identity. This course explores this mutually interactive relationship by examining the making of American foreign policy over the past two centuries more broadly. It explores such topics as American entry into World Wars I and II, the role of Congress in foreign policy making, the construction of the national security state in the twentieth century, competing partisan conceptions of America’s national interest, the Cold War, nuclear deterrence and proliferation, territorial expansion, trade liberalization, nation building, humanitarian intervention, and more recent challenges like terrorism. As part of this broad overview, the course will also explore the moral and ethical dilemmas of many foreign policy challenges faced by the United States. Should the United States ever use torture when combatting its enemies? Does the U.S. have an interest or even an obligation to promote democracy abroad? When is military intervention justified?

Required Materials
There is no textbook for this class. The readings come from a variety of sources, including academic journals, magazines, and news outlets. You will be able to find all of them through online reserves or, occasionally, through links within the course.

Technical Requirements
All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Computers should meet the following requirements:

- RAM: at least 2GB
- Operating System: Modern (last 2-3 years) and updated operating system (MacOS or Windows)
- Browsers: Chrome is highly recommended (if using Safari or Firefox, be prepared to use Chrome as a backup)

Course Organization
The course is organized into 24 modules. Each module contains an overview video, reading assignments, lecture slides, lecture videos, and one or two quiz activities. Some modules contain a short essay assignment. The following groups of assignments will constitute the graded work of the course. You must receive a grade on all assignments in a module before the next module will open.

Exams
Students will take two in-person exams. The exams are proctored, paper-based exams that you will take at an approved testing center. The exams are NOT cumulative. The midterm exam will cover the reading and lecture material from Modules 1–10, and the final exam will cover the material from Modules 11–24. The exams will consist of two question types: (1) term identifications, where you’ll define and give the significance to a set of terms; and (2) short answer questions.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.
Instructor-Graded Short Essays
Students will write seven short essays that address a given prompt on a specific topic in U.S. foreign policy covered in class and in the readings. Strong essays will make a clear argument and defend that argument succinctly—with specific illustrations, concepts, claims, or examples from lectures AND readings. You will be graded on organization, spelling, and proper grammar. Unsubstantiated claims will lower your grade. Your grade will also depend on the accuracy, thoughtfulness, and the details you include to support your answer and demonstrate (i.e., provide evidence) that you have read, understood, and can apply the information from the course material presented in the modules.

Computer-Graded Quiz Activities
You will complete regular computer-graded quiz activities in each module associated with the lecture segments and the readings. These quizzes contain about five multiple-choice questions that cover lecture and reading content and are designed to reinforce your understanding of the course material. Although you will be free to access lecture material, lecture slides, and your readings as you complete these activities, you are expected to work alone.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | The US Foreign Policy Apparatus and the National Interest | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 1  
                        ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 2          |
| 2      | Grand Strategy I and Isolationism                          | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 3               |
| 3      | Grand Strategy II: Selective Engagement, Liberal Internationalism and Primacy | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 4  
                        ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 5  
                        ▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 6      |
| 4      | The President in Foreign Policy                            | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 7               |
| 5      | Congress in Foreign Policy                                 | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 8  
                        ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 9          |
| 6      | The American Public and US Foreign Policy                  | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 10  
                        ▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 11      |
| 7      | Historical Overview of US Foreign Policy: Independence to Monroe Doctrine | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 12  
                        ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 13      |
| 8      | Historical Overview of US Foreign Policy: Manifest Destiny to World War I | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 14  
                        ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 15      |
| 9      | Historical Overview of US Foreign Policy: Versailles Treaty to Origins of the Cold War | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 16  
                        ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 17      |
| 10     | Historical Overview of US Foreign Policy: The Cold War     | ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 18  
                        ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 19  
                        ▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 20    |

MIDTERM EXAM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Violence and the International Political Order</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Great Powers Politics I: US-Russian Relations</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Civil War and the Challenges of Intervention</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Instructor-Graded Assignment 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nuclear Weapons and US Foreign Policy</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Terrorism and Counterterrorism</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Great Power Politics II: Hegemony, Power Transition Theory, and US-China Relations</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Instructor-Graded Assignment 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>The United States and International Institutions</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Democracy Promotion in US Foreign Policy</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Instructor-Graded Assignment 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>US Trade Policy</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Finance and US Foreign Policy</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Finance II, Global Capital Markets, the Dollar, and American Financial Power</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Instructor-Graded Assignment 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The International Politics of Oil</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>The Environment and US Foreign Policy</td>
<td>• Computer-Graded Assignment 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Immigration Policy and Political Refugees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grade Calculation
Final grades will be calculated using the assignment group weights below:

- Computer-graded assignments: 15%
- Instructor-graded assignments: 35%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 25%

You must pass the final exam to pass this course. You must also earn enough points from graded assignments and the exams to achieve a passing grade:

- A: 100-93%
- B+: 89-87%
- C+: 79-77%
- D+: 69-67%
- F: 59-0%

- A-: 92-90%
- B: 86-83%
- C: 76-73%
- D: 66-63%
- B-: 82-80%
- C-: 72-70%
- D-: 62-60%

Getting Help
- Technical Support: gatewaytechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- Webtext Support: support@soomolearning.com
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, exam proctoring, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies
Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty
Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

University Extension Contact Information
uex@austin.utexas.edu
512-471-2900