

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4401F/9754A

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY: SELECTED CASES

2013

Instructor: D. Abelson
Office: SSC Rm 4213
Phone: 519-661-4185
Email: dabelson@uwo.ca

Office Hours: W 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. or by appt.
Seminar: W 1:30 - 3:30 p.m, Rm. SSC 4112

Much has been written in recent years about the constitutional struggle between the Executive Branch and the U.S. Congress over the conduct and implementation of US foreign policy. The debate over who is ultimately in charge of navigating America's involvement in the international community has become particularly important in recent years as the United States became embroiled in protracted conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The purpose of Political Science 4401F/9754A is to examine and explore why the intentions of the founding fathers with regard to the administration of foreign policy have often been thwarted, and what the Executive and Legislative branches of the US government must do to restore a proper balance in the area of foreign policy. The course will also examine why the Executive and Congress have abdicated much of their decision-making authority and responsibilities to various interest groups, think tanks, lobbyists and corporations who are all too willing to influence American behaviour on the world stage.

The seminar begins by introducing students to the institutional parameters of American foreign policy. Among other things, we examine how and to what extent Congress has ostensibly attempted to reassert itself in the foreign policy arena. In addition to discussing the ramifications of allowing Congress to place additional constraints on the President's powers in conducting foreign affairs, we will debate why the Supreme Court has been reluctant historically to resolve foreign policy disputes between the President and Congress. We will then turn our attention to how various organizations both within and outside of government attempt to influence key foreign policy debates.

The major focus of the course will be on the various case studies students are assigned. Working in groups, you will be expected to identify the main actors involved in particular policy debates, examine the strategies they employ to advance their institutional interests, and explain, to the best of your knowledge, why certain policy outcomes were achieved. In addition to working on a case study, you will be expected to contribute to seminar discussions and will be required to submit a critique of an assigned journal article.

Prerequisites: Political 2231E and Political Science 2244E

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE PREREQUISITES/ANTIREQUISITES

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have **not** taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be **ineligible** for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will

receive no adjustment to your fees. **This decision cannot be appealed.** If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Requirements

For students enrolled in **Politics 4401F**, the formal course requirements are as follows:

- (1) Class participation (10%). Students will be expected to contribute actively to seminar discussions.
- (2) One 8-page critique of the major arguments explored in an assigned refereed journal article (15%). **Due October 16, 2013.**
- (3) Presentation of a case study (20%). Students will likely work in groups of 3-4 people to develop the main themes and arguments surrounding a particular policy debate.
- (4) Introduction and Thesis Statement for Term Paper- 2-3 pp. (15%) **Due on day of presentation of your case study**
- (4) Term Paper based on presentation approximately 15 double spaced typed pages. **Due one week after presentation of case study (40%).**

For students enrolled in **Politics 9754A**, the formal requirements of the course are as follows:

- (1) Class participation (10%).
- (2) One 10-page critique of the major arguments explored in an assigned refereed journal article (25%). **Due October 16, 2013**
- (3) Introduction and Thesis Statement (3-4pp) (15%). **Due November 13, 2013**
- (4) Term Paper approximately 20-25 double-spaced pages (50%). **Due November 27, 2013**

Late Penalty

Late papers will be assigned a late penalty of 2 percent per day. Papers that are more than two weeks overdue will not be accepted. **Students will be required to submit their papers to Turnitin.com. A copy of the originality report must be submitted to me along with your paper.**

Required Course Texts

Davidson, Lawrence. *Foreign Policy, Inc.: Privatizing America's National Interest*. University Press of Kentucky, 2009.

Hinckley, Barbara. *Less than Meets the Eye: Foreign Policy Making and the Myth of the Assertive Congress*. University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Shane, Peter. *Madison's Nightmare. How Executive Power Threatens American Democracy*. University of Chicago Press, 2009.

In addition to assigned readings, students are strongly encouraged to consult the following periodicals which focus extensively on U.S. foreign policy. Most of these are available on-line through JSTOR.

<i>Congressional Research Quarterly</i>	<i>Journal of Politics</i>
<i>Foreign Affairs</i>	<i>The National Interest</i>
<i>Foreign Policy</i>	<i>Orbis</i>
<i>International Journal</i>	<i>The Public Interest</i>
<i>International Security</i>	<i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i>
<i>International Studies Quarterly</i>	<i>Washington Quarterly</i>
<i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i>	<i>World Politics</i>

In preparing presentations and term papers, you should familiarize yourselves with American Government websites that hold *The Congressional Record* and other vitally important electronic databases. A useful place to start is whitehouse.gov and thomas.gov.

SEMINAR READINGS AND TOPICS

I: *The Institutional Parameters of American Foreign Policy*

1. September 11, 2013: **Introduction (no required readings)**
2. September 18, 2013: **An Invitation to Struggle? The Executive, the Congress and the fight for control over foreign policy**

Required: Goldwin, Robert A. and Robert A. Licht, *Foreign Policy and the Constitution*, Chapter 1.

Madison, James, *Federalist Paper, Number 10* (available on-line)

Mann, Thomas (ed). *A Question of Balance: The President, The Congress and Foreign Policy*. pp. 1-34.

Shane, Peter. *Madison's Nightmare: How Executive Power Threatens American Democracy*. Chapter 1-3.

Yoo, John. *The Powers of War and Peace*. Chapters 1-2.

3. September 25, 2013: **Less than Meets the Eye? The Myth of the Imperial Congress**

Required: Hinckley, Chapters 1-3 and 5.

Goldwin and Licht, Chapter 7.

4. October 2, 2013: **The Debate Over War Powers and the Reluctant Judiciary**

Required: Goldwin and Licht, Chapter 3.

Hinckley, Chapter 4.

Lehman, John. *Making War*. Chapters 2 and 4.

Mann, pp. 35-69.

II: Studying American Foreign Policy

5. October 9, 2013: **The Domestic Sources of U.S. Foreign Policy: Interest Groups, Think Tanks, Lobbyists, Security Firms, Corporations and the Media: Part 1**

Required: Abelson, Donald E. *A Capitol Idea: Think Tanks and US Foreign Policy*. Chapters 2, 4-6.

Davidson, 2-6

Troy, Tevi. "Devaluing the Think Tank." *National Affairs* (10) Winter 2012.

6. October 16, 2013: **The Domestic Sources of U.S. Foreign Policy: Part II**

Abelson, Donald E. "Theoretical Models and Approaches to Understanding the Role of Lobbies and Think Tanks in US Foreign Policy," in Stephen Brooks, Dorota Stasiak and Tomasz Zyro (eds), *Policy Expertise in Contemporary Democracies*. London: Ashgate, 2012: 9-30.

Cigler and Loomis. *Interest Group Politics*. 7th Edition. Chapters 13 and 14.

Stanger, Allison, *One Nation Under Contract; The Outsourcing of American Power and the Future of Foreign Policy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009. Chapter 1.

Walker, Jr., Jack L. *Mobilizing Interest Groups in America*. Ann Arbor; University of Michigan Press, 1991. Chapter 2.

7. October 23, 2013: **Theories and Models of Foreign Policy Decision-Making**

Required: Allison, Graham T. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," in G. John Ikenberry, *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Approaches, Fifth Edition*, pp. 402-446.

Krasner, Stephen D. "Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland)," in Ikenberry, pp. 447-459.

Holsti, Ole R. "Models of International Relations and Foreign Policy," in Ikenberry, pp. 14-40.

8. October 30, 2013: **Assessing Policy Influence: Theoretical Models and Approaches**

Required: Abelson, *Do Think Tanks Matter? Assessing the Impact of Public Policy Institutes*, Chapters 5 and 8.

Abelson, Donald E. *A Capitol Idea: Think Tanks & US Foreign Policy*. Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006. Chapter 7.

Baumgartner, Frank and Beth Leech. *Basic Interests. The Importance of groups in politics and in political science*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998, Chapter 7.

Dur, Andreas and Dirk De Bievre, "The Question of Interest Group Influence," *Journal of Public Policy* 27 (1), 2007: 1-12.

Selee, Andrew. *Planning for Impact in Policy Research*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013.

III: *Selected Cases in American Foreign Policy*

9. November 6, 2013: **The Debate Over National Missile Defense**

Required: Abelson, *A Capitol Idea*, chapter 8.

Lindsay, James and Michael O'Hanlon. *Defending America*. Chapters 1-3..

10. November 13, 2013: **The War on Terror: The Fight Abroad**

Required: Pillar, Paul R. *Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Washington: Brookings Institution, 2001. Chapters 1-4.

Snow, Donald M. *September 11, 2001: The New Face of War?* New York: Longman, 2002. Read Selectively.

Recommended:

Clarke, Richard A. *Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror*. New York: The Free Press, 2004.

Daalder, Ivo and James Lindsay, *America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy*. Washington: The Brookings Institution, 2003.

Frum, David and Richard Perle. *An End to Evil: How to win the war on terror*. New York: Random House, 2004.

Odom, William E. and Robert Dujarric. *America's Inadvertent Empire*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004.

Prados, John. *Hoodwinked*. New York: The New Press, 2004.

11. November 20, 2013: **The War on Terror: The Fight at Home**

Required: Yoo, John. *War by Other Means*. Chapters 4-8.

Suggested: Fox Piven, Frances. *The War at Home*.

Roach, Kent. *The 9/11 Effect*.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. And Linda J. Bilmes. *The Three Trillion Dollar War*.

12. November 27, 2013: **U.S. Intervention in Afghanistan**

Required: Chayes, Sarah. *The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban*. Read Selectively.

Scahill, Jeremy. *Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield*. Read Selectively.

13. December 4, 2013: **US Intervention in Iraq**

Required: Brigham, Robert. *Is Iraq another Vietnam?*

Indyk, Martin, Liberthal, Kenneth and Michael O'Hanlon. *Bending History: Barack Obama's Foreign Policy*. Chapters 1-3.

(Graduate) Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf