

Washington Internship Institute Syllabus

INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES Spring 2014

Course Description

This concentrated study cycle will address the theory and practice of foreign policy, with an emphasis on Washington-based institutions. Using maps, assigned readings, acronyms and factual flow charts, the student will learn the building blocks for in-depth discussion of negotiating, reporting, policy analysis, and the rudiments of conflict resolution.

Outside speakers and field site visits will present experiential information from policy makers at all levels, including U.S. Government entities from the Executive and Legislative stakeholders in foreign policy. Visits will also include embassies of other countries, international organizations based in Washington, and non-governmental organizations. Speakers will tackle the complexities and balance of policy formulation.

Simulations will put the student in the position of analyzing and resolving crisis situations using actual methodologies practiced in interagency crisis groups of the U.S. Government. Active class participation is essential.

Course Objectives

The course will develop the student's skills in the following areas:

- Understanding of the nature and recent history of international politics;
- Facility with both the theory and practice of the process of U.S. foreign policy formulation and implementation;
- Mastering analytical skills needed to assess major global and regional foreign policy challenges facing the United States and other nations;

- Preparing the student for the professional field of international relations and diplomacy, in governmental and non-governmental sectors;
- Practicing close simulations drawn from recent crisis management approaches by U.S. policy makers.

Work Load Requirements

The course will include in-class exercises, a four-page book critique, and a midterm evaluation. The final evaluation will ask the student to draw on the information provided in the course, to address and solve a simulated crisis situation. Ample group class exercises will prepare the student for this final exercise. *All written submissions should be double-spaced. Electronic submissions are adequate.*

Students' performance will be measured in factual mastery as demonstrated in class exercises; analytical quality and writing skills in memo writing exercises and book critique; and demonstration of foreign policy skills in a simulated foreign policy environment. Class participation is crucial, and will be graded.

Course Modules

(Note: the schedule outlined below indicates the topics covered. Speaker programs and site visits will approximate this schedule but not exactly duplicate it. As think tanks and speaker schedules develop on short notice, flexibility will be required and appreciated. More precise weekly schedules will be announced as they come up, usually four-five days in advance.)

Unit One: Foreign Policy Schools of Thought

Using classical readings (Hans Morgenthau et al.) the class will familiarize itself with "schools" such as interventionism, internationalism, isolationism, realism, idealism, and the hybrid forms which make up a large part of the realities we deal in with foreign policy.

Unit Two: Branches of U.S. Government

Speakers and site visits will address the many layers of input into the formulation of U.S. foreign policy: Executive and Legislative branches of government (Department of State, Department of

Defense, U.S. Agency for International Development, Intelligence Community, public broadcasting.) We will speak with practitioners and advocates of policy, with emphasis on the practical side of policy implementation. Students are required to attend at least one committee hearing in the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives relevant to the Foreign Policy process.

Unit Three: International Organizations

Washington is a major hub of international organizations: the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, InterAmerican Development Bank, Organization of American States, Offices of the European Union. We will visit two.

Unit Four: Embassies, Think Tanks, Non-Governmental Organizations

The class will visit two to three of the following embassies: France, Russia, China, Haiti, Government of Southern Sudan, Latvia, Bosnia. In addition we will attend a session at one or more of the following think tanks: American Enterprise Institute, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, Nixon Center, New American Foundation. NB, sessions are announced on short notice, and we will take advantage as opportunities arise. We will also visit an NGO closely involved in humanitarian aid, such as CARE, Plan USA, or the Red Cross.

Unit Five: Exercises in Reconstruction and Stabilization (“R and S”)

Increasingly and dramatically swiftly, a major emphasis of Western governments through their diplomatic spheres addresses the consequences and possible “cures” for failed states and regions of insecurity. We will conduct simulations closely patterned after actual U.S. Government procedures currently being created to introduce a “whole of government” approach to regional conflict and humanitarian crises. Planning sessions will closely simulate current procedures engaging eight U.S. departments in cooperation with NGOs and international donors.

Unit Six: Review and Preparation for the Final Evaluation

We will seek to synthesize the items above through discussion and additional class exercises during the two weeks preceding the final exam. Note that adequately “covering” the material above requires an entire career. We will sample as broad a spectrum of foreign policy players as

possible, but will seize on opportunities as they come up. The calendars of foreign policy practitioners are quickly changing and not easily predictable, hence the possible shifts in the outline sketched above.

Course Content

Content will include the following:

- Assigned readings;
- Class presentations and simulation exercises;
- Speakers with full class participation;
- Representative samplings of regional policy issues for North America, Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Europe, South Central Asia, East and Southeast Asia;
- On-site analysis of institutions as outlined above;
- Simulated exercises in conflict management.

Required textbook

Steven H. Hook, *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*. Washington: CQ Press, July, 2010 (Third Edition). (ISBN 9781604266092) **This book is on sale in the WII office (at the Amazon price.)**

Exams

Students will be tested on the material presented in all the seminar sessions and required readings. Quizzes and exams will include essay questions and objective questions (and, when applicable, political geography maps). The objective questions will evaluate the students' knowledge of some of the fundamental facts, dates, events, historical figures, concepts, organizations, and points in the material. Essay questions will evaluate the students' analytical ability. The essay questions may be cumulative, and will ask the students to apply the theories and models learned in the seminars to provide substantial analyses of some of the major issues and themes studied during the semester. The objective questions, however, will be drawn from the seminar sessions and the reading assignments from the part of the course just completed.

Grading Scale

Class Participation.....	20%
Quizzes.....	10%
Written Assignments.....	20%
Midterm Evaluation.....	10%
Book Critique	20%
Final Evaluation.....	20%

(The turn-around time for grading exams and papers is generally two weeks.)

NOTE: The class participation segment may also include short written assignments in preparation for a class discussion or simulation. Written assignments should be submitted punctually, electronically, double spaced. The electronic version must be sent (as a Microsoft Word e-mail attachment) to the instructor at dwhitman89@gmail.com. Written assignments will serve as a record of participation, and as samples of your writing.

Book Critique: of those titles noted below, each student should choose one and acquire it either on line, or at a local book store, or on loan from a library. You will submit a four-to-six-page (double spaced) book critique of one book you select for the book critique, prior to final exam. Your report should include an expository section on the contents of your chosen reading; an analysis setting the reading in context with other related material; a “question” on the conclusion your book draws; and an “argument” to support or challenge its conclusions.

1. George B. N Ayittey, *Defeating Dictators: Fighting Tyranny in Africa and Around the World*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011. (ISBN 9780199550227)
2. Peter Beinart, *The Icarus Syndrome*. New York: Harper Collins, 2010. (ISBN 9780061456466)
3. Peter Bergen, *The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict between America and Al-Qaeda*. NY: Free Press, 2011. (ISBN 9780743278935)
4. Michael Beschloss and Strobe Talbott, *At the Highest Levels: The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1993. (ISBN 0316092819)
5. Derek Chollete and Samantha Power, *The Unquiet American* (Richard Holbrooke). New York: Public Affairs, 2011. (ISBN 9781610390781)
6. Steve Coll, *Ghost Wars: The Hidden History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001*. New York: Penguin, 2004. (ISBN 9780143034667)

7. Mark Danner, *Stripping Bare the Body: Politics, Violence, War*. New York: Nation Books, 2009. (ISBN 9781568584133)
8. Stuart E. Eizenstat, *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor, and the Unfinished Business of World War II*. NY: Public Affairs, 2004. (ISBN 139781586482404)
9. John Lewis Gaddis, *George F. Kennan: An American Life*. New York: Penguin, 2011. (ISBN 9781594203121)
10. Ted Gup, *The Book of Honor: Covert Lives and Classified Deaths at the CIA*. New York: Doubleday, 2000. (ISBN 0385492936)
11. Walter Isaacson, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2003. (ISBN 0684807610)
12. David Kilcullen, *Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. (ISBN 978019737505)
13. John Limbert, *Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History*. Washington, U.S. Institute of Peace, 2009. (ISBN 9781681270436)
14. Walter Lippmann, *Public Opinion*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997 (copyright 1922). (ISBN 0684833271)
15. Jack F. Matlock, Jr., *Reagan and Gorbachev: How the Cold War Ended*. New York: Random House, 2004. (ISBN 0679463232)
16. Jack F. Matlock, Jr. *Superpower Illusion: How Myths and False Ideologies Leds America Astray – and How to Return to Reality*. London, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010. (ISBN 9780300137613)
17. General Stanley McChrystal, *My Share of the Task*. London: Penguin, 2013. (ISBN 9781101601426)
18. Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *The Paradox of American Power*. New York: Oxford, 2002. (ISBN 139780195161106)
19. Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Soft Power*. New York: Public Affairs, Perseus, 2004. (ISBN 139781586483067)
20. Samantha Power, “A Problem from Hell”: *America and the Age of Genocide*. New York: Harper, 2002. (ISBN 9780060541644)
21. David E. Sanger, *Confront and Conceal: Obama’s Secret Wars and Surprising Use of American Power*. NY: Crown, 2012. (ISBN 9780307718020)
22. Nicholas Shaxson, *Treasure Islands: Uncovering the Damage of Offshore Banking and Tax Havens*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. (ISBN 9780230105010)
23. James Tooley, *The Beautiful Tree: A Personal Journey into How the World’s Poorest People are Educating Themselves*. Washington: Cato, 2009 (ISBN 978193995939)
24. Brian Urquhart, *Ralph Bunche: An American Life*. New York: Norton, 1993. (ISBN 0393035271)
25. Tim Weiner, *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*. New York: Doubleday, 2007. (ISBN 9780385514453)
26. Daniel Whitman, *A Haiti Chronicle: The Undoing of a Latent Democracy*. Victoria, BC, Canada: Trafford, 2005. (ISBN 1412033993)

Dress “Code”

For seminar sessions with guest speakers on or off campus, the dress code is business casual: slacks or khakis (cargo pants, jeans, shorts; flip-flops, T-shirts sweatshirts *not* welcome.)

For certain designated off-campus sessions, such as those on Capitol Hill, at government agencies, and foreign embassies, the dress code is professional attire. Men should wear preferably a suit; otherwise proper slacks, tie, jacket, socks and dress shoes; women, likewise, should dress as if for a job interview.

See WII policies on **absences**. “Excused” absences (illness, family obligation...) require email notes *in advance* to the professor. WII policy: “If students incur more than two unexcused absences, their grade will drop by one letter grade for each absence.”

WII Grading Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 or below

I welcome you to a semester of learning, reflection, skill development, and an open spirit of sharing data and viewpoints.

“Listen to all, take nothing as a givens, decide for yourself.”