

**US FOREIGN POLICY**  
**POLSCI 4UF3**  
**Summer 2022**

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**Lecture:** Tue & Thu 6:30 – 9:30 pm  
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## **Course Description**

This course examines US foreign policy through International Relations and Foreign Policy Analysis perspectives. While the course is grounded in traditional theories and approaches, it also offers students the necessary theoretical tools to examine US foreign policy critically. In addition, the course includes a simulation exercise of a National Security Council (NSC) meeting to advise and make recommendations to the President on a hypothetical foreign policy case.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Have a sound understanding of the major approaches to the study of US foreign policy.
- Have an understanding of major debates and issues in US foreign policy.
- Identify and critique the politics of US foreign policy.
- Have an understanding of the complexities involved in foreign policy decision-making.
- Have developed and refined their research writing skills.
- Have developed their ability to articulate coherent policy-relevant arguments through class discussions and the NSC simulation.

## **Required Materials and Texts**

The course does not require a textbook. All required readings will either be available via the [McMaster University Library](#) or on the course A2L website. Additionally, students should strive to familiarize themselves with the history and current developments in US foreign policy.

## **Class Format**

The course is delivered through a weekly seminar format and National Security Council simulation. All written assignments must be printed on hardcopy and handed in during class on or before the relevant due dates.

Students must check their A2L course announcements before coming to class.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Seminar Participation - Each class. (25%)
2. Discussion Leader - Due as assigned throughout the term (10%)
3. Research Paper Outline - Due in class on 12 July 2022 (10%)
4. Research Paper - Due in class on 28 July 2022 (30%)
5. NSC Position Memo - Due in class on 2 August 2022 (10%)
6. NSC Simulation Participation - In class on 4 August 2022 (15%)

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Seminar Participation (25%), each class**

Students should read all assigned readings and come prepared for discussions around the weekly topic. Students should come to the seminars having read and thought about the readings and how they may apply to different issues in US foreign policy. The seminar allows students to clarify and critique the readings and better understand the theories and concepts that frame US foreign policy. Students should be prepared to discuss their thoughts and engage respectfully with each other. Therefore, students must focus on engaging with the course material and the seminar discussions in class.

Seminar participation will be evaluated throughout the term.

Attendance at all classes is required. If students know they cannot attend ahead of time, please email the instructor.

### **Discussion Leader (10%), as assigned, during the term**

Each student will be responsible for leading a part of at least one seminar during the term. This assignment involves making a short verbal presentation of the week's readings and leading a part of the seminar. The presentation should not summarize the readings but should offer the student's thoughts, appreciation and critique of the readings. In addition, the discussion leader must prepare several open-ended questions for the seminar discussion.

The discussion leader should look to supplement their presentation and questions by familiarizing themselves with the week's topic by reading outside the course syllabus.

Discussion leaders should meet with the instructor, either in-person or via Zoom, preferably a week before their assigned seminar(s), to discuss their preparation plan.

### **Research Paper Outline (10%), due 12 July 2022 in class**

Please read this section together with the next section on the requirements for the research paper. Students must complete this assignment and receive feedback from the instructor before starting their research paper. Research papers (see details below) will not be accepted if a properly formatted and completed outline has not been handed in to the instructor with sufficient time to receive feedback.

In this assignment, students must provide an outline for their research paper that includes all the following:

- 1) A descriptive title
- 2) A well-defined research question
- 3) A provisional thesis statement that answers the research question
- 4) A 300-400 word summary setting out why your question is relevant and important to US foreign policy. The summary should also mention which of the

four theoretical approaches you will take in your research paper. Finally, the summary should include a proposed plan to research your question and arrive at the thesis.

5) A bibliography of at least ten sources. Out of the ten sources, at least five should be academic sources outside the syllabus.

### **Research Paper (30%), due 28 July 2022 in class**

The research paper should engage with a research question relevant to US foreign policy. In addition, the research paper must align with the submitted outline (see the previous section) and make explicit reference to one of the four theoretical approaches discussed in weeks 2 and 3. Research papers will not be accepted from students who have not submitted paper outlines in time to consider instructor feedback seriously.

The research paper should be at least 2,700 words and no more than 3,000 words in length. Students should follow academic writing conventions and citation styles. A detailed grading rubric will be provided on the course A2L website.

### **NSC Position Memo (10%), due on 2 August 2022 in class**

Each student must write a position memo in accordance with the role assigned to them in the NSC simulation exercise. NSC simulation roles will be assigned to students by 21 July 2022. The position memo should set out several policy options that the student would advocate for in their role within the NSC simulation. The position memo should be around 800 words in length.

### **NSC Simulation Participation (15%), During class on 4 August 2022**

Students will be assigned roles within the NSC to represent different US Government agencies/roles. The class of 2 August will be devoted to preparing for the NSC meeting and will include time for inter-agency meetings. The mock NSC meeting will take place on 4 August 2022 during class time.

Students will take on the institutional role assigned to them and advance policy solutions toward a US foreign policy issue/problem. Students must negotiate with each other and develop a set of alternative foreign policy actions for the President/NSA's consideration.

Students will be evaluated on their overall participation and contribution to the simulation exercise.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 (June 21 & 23, 2022) Introduction**

#### **21 June: Course overview, expectations, and assessments**

Readings:

- No readings

#### **23 June: Introduction to Foreign Policy Analysis and US Foreign Policy**

Readings:

- Hudson, Valerie. "The history and evolution of foreign policy analysis," in Steve Smith et al., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases*, (Oxford, 2016, 3rd ed). 13-34.
- Schmidt, Brian. "Theories of US Foreign Policy", in Cox, Michael, and Doug Stokes, eds. *US foreign policy*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

### **Week 2 (June 28 & 30, 2022) Realism and Liberalism in USFPA**

#### **28 June: Realism / Grand Strategy**

Readings:

- Walt SM. US grand strategy after the Cold War: Can realism explain it? Should realism guide it? *International Relations*. 2018;32(1):3-22. doi:10.1177/0047117817753272
- Patrick Porter; Why America's Grand Strategy Has Not Changed: Power, Habit, and the US Foreign Policy Establishment. *International Security* 2018; 42 (4): 9–46. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1162/isec\\_a\\_00311](https://doi.org/10.1162/isec_a_00311)

#### **30 June: Liberalism and USFPA**

Readings:

- Lynch, Timothy J. "Obama, liberalism, and US foreign policy." *Obama and the World: New Directions in US Foreign Policy* (2014): 41-52.
- Daniel Deudney & G. John Ikenberry (2017) Realism, Liberalism and the Iraq War, *Survival*, 59:4, 7-26, DOI: 10.1080/00396338.2017.1349757

## **Week 3 (July 5 & 7, 2022) Gender and Constructivism in USFPA**

### **5 July: Gender and USFP**

#### Readings:

- Enloe, Cynthia. "Chapter one. Gender Makes the World Go Round." In *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, pp. 1-36. University of California Press, 2014.
- Enloe, Cynthia. Masculinity as a Foreign Policy Issue. In "The curious feminist." In *The Curious Feminist*. University of California Press, 2004,(122-130).
- Niva, Steve. "Tough and tender: New world order masculinity and the Gulf War." In *The "man" question in international relations*, pp. 109-128. Routledge, 2019.

### **7 July: Constructivism**

#### Readings:

- Houghton, David Patrick. "Reinvigorating the study of foreign policy decision making: toward a constructivist approach." *Foreign policy analysis* 3, no. 1 (2007): 24-45.
- Jackson, Richard, and Matt McDonald. "Constructivism, US foreign policy and the 'war on terror'." In *New directions in US foreign policy*, pp. 32-45. Routledge, 2009.

## **Week 4 (July 12 & 14, 2022) The Role of Bureaucracies**

### **12 July: Bureaucracy**

#### Readings:

- Alden, Chris and Amnon Aran, Chapter 3 "Bureaucracies and foreign policy," in *Foreign Policy Analysis: New Approaches*, (Routledge, 2017).
- Allison, Graham T. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *The American Political Science Review* 63, no. 3 (1969): 689–718. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1954423>.

*Research Paper Outline due in class*

### **14 July: The Cuban Missile Crisis**

#### Readings:

- McKeown, Timothy J. "The Cuban missile crisis and politics as usual." *The journal of politics* 62, no. 1 (2000): 70-87.

- Mark Laffey, Jutta Weldes, Decolonizing the Cuban Missile Crisis, *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 52, Issue 3, September 2008, Pages 555–577, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2008.00515.x>

## **Week 5 (July 19 & 21, 2022) Softpower and Trump**

### **19 July: Softpower/Public Diplomacy**

#### Readings:

- Nye Jr, Joseph S. “Soft power and American foreign policy.” *Political science quarterly* 119, no. 2 (2004): 255-270.
- Collins, Stephen D., Jeff R. DeWitt, and Rebecca K. LeFebvre. “Hashtag diplomacy: Twitter as a tool for engaging in public diplomacy and promoting US foreign policy.” *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy* 15, no. 2 (2019): 78-96.

### **21 July: Evaluating the Impact of Trump on USFP**

#### Readings:

- Hilde Eliassen Restad (2020) What makes America great? Donald Trump, national identity, and US foreign policy, *Global Affairs*, 6:1, 21-36, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2020.1734955
- Harris, Peter. “Why Trump won’t retrench: The militarist redoubt in American foreign policy.” *Political Science Quarterly* 133, no. 4 (2018): 611-640.

## **Week 6 (July 26 & 28, 2022) The Future of USFP and Simulation Prep**

### **26 July: The future of USFP**

#### Readings:

- Daniel Deudney & G. John Ikenberry (2021) Misplaced Restraint: The Quincy Coalition Versus Liberal Internationalism, *Survival*, 63:4, 7-32, DOI: 10.1080/00396338.2021.1956187
- Mandelbaum, Michael. “The new containment: handling Russia, China, and Iran.” *Foreign Aff.* 98 (2019): 123.

### **28 July: NSC Simulation Prep - I**

#### Readings:

- Rosati, Jerel A. and James M. Scott. Chapter 4: “Bureaucracy, Presidential Management and the National Security Council,” in *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy* (Wadsworth-Thomson Learning, 2014, 6th ed.).



- Browse the websites of
  - [The US State Department](#)
  - [The National Security Council](#)
- Watch videos on the NSC – will be uploaded on A2L

*Research Paper due in class*

## **Week 7 (August 2 & 4, 2022) NSC Simulation**

### **2 August: NSC Simulation Prep - II**

No Readings – *Position Memo due in class*

- View mock NSC video in-class
- View other relevant videos in-class
- Q&A on the simulation exercise
- Inter-agency group meetings ahead of the NSC meeting on 4 August

### **4 August: National Security Council Meeting**

No Readings – focus on preparing for the NSC meeting

- *In-class NSC Simulation*

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

All written assignments must be printed and handed in to the instructor in class on or before the due date.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

## **Late Assignments**

Extensions for course assignments will only be granted under conditions of medical, family, or other extraordinary circumstances. All other late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day (including weekends and holidays). Late assignments, even excused late submissions, will be graded, but no comments will be provided. Late assignments will not be accepted after 7 days beyond the original deadline without appropriate documentation from the Office of the Associate Dean of Social Sciences.

## **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## **Courses with An On-Line Element**

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. email, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster email accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **Online Proctoring**

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

## **Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection**

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

**All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details

about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **Copyright and Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.

- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective 1 September, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

If the instructor or a teaching assistant is not able to pass the daily COVID screening, they cannot provide an in-class meeting. In the case that the instructor cannot attend

the lecture, this will be announced on Avenue to Learn by 3pm on the day of the lecture. The lecture will be replaced by either an on-line lecture (which will be audio-recorded and posted to Avenue) or asynchronous lecture(s) posted to Avenue.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.