Gov 360: America as a Global Power
Fall 2010

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Course description

This class examines the evolution of American statecraft since World War II, with special emphasis on the president's role in defining the nation's interests. Drawing on historical and contemporary cases, we will consider how international power and domestic politics shape the president's geopolitical priorities and how those priorities have changed over time. The course is designed to increase your knowledge of how US foreign policy is made and why America's leaders pursue the grand strategies they do.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6529.

Course requirements

You are required to do all readings listed on the syllabus, attend all course meetings, take 2 in-class exams, and write 2 take-home essays.

Exams: In-class exams will be held on October 18 and December 1.

- If you miss one of the exams due to illness, you must arrange with the instructor to take a make-up exam and provide a note from your doctor certifying that you were too ill to sit for the exam.
- If you have a special event (e.g., job interview) planned for one of the exam dates, you may arrange to take a make-up, but you need to do so during the first 5 working days of the semester. If you need to arrange a make-up, speak to the TA.
- If you miss an exam in order to observe a religious holy day, UT policy requires that you notify the instructor of your pending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of the exam to arrange for a make up exam.

Essays Take home essays are due on September 27 and November 29. Two weeks before the due date the essay question will be posted on Blackboard. Essays must be typed and double-spaced and run no longer than 3 pages in length. You must submit essays in class on the assigned due date. (You may only submit essays electronically with prior permission of the teaching assistant.)

Course readings

The following books are required: John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, revised edition (Oxford 2005); Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Second Chance* (Basic 2007); and Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World* (Norton 2009). Books may be purchased at the University Coop. Additional readings are available on-line at www.courses.utexas.edu.

Grading policy

Grades will be based on the 2 in-class examinations (25% each) and 2 take-home essays (25% each). University policies regarding scholastic dishonesty are strictly enforced. Cheating on an

exam or plagiarizing a paper will result automatically in a grade of "0" for the exam or essay. On what constitutes plagiarism see http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html.

Topics and readings

Presidents and statecraft

- Robert Kagan, "Power and Weakness," *Policy Review* (June 2002), 3-28
- Jeffery Frieden, "Sectoral Conflicts and US Foreign Economic Policy," *International Organization* (Winter 1988), 59-90
- Aaron Wildavsky, "The Two Presidencies," in Wildavsky, *Perspectives on the Presidency* (Little Brown 1975), 448-61

Truman and the Soviet threat

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 3-86
- Fred Block "Economic Instability and Military Strength: The Paradoxes of the 1950 Rearmament Decision," *Politics and Society* (1980): 35-58
- Robert Jervis, "The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (December 1980), 563-92

Eisenhower and the nuclear challenge

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 87-196
- H.W. Brands, "The Age of Vulnerability: Eisenhower and the National Insecurity State," *American Historical Review* (October 1989), 963-89
- Eisenhower's "Farewell Address," January 17, 1960

Kennedy, Johnson and Vietnam

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 197-271
- Leslie Gelb, "Vietnam: The System Worked," *Foreign Policy*, (Summer 1971), 140-67
- Yuen Foong Khong, "Seduction by Analogy in Vietnam: The Malaya and Korea Analogies," in Thompson, *Institutions and Leadership* (University Press 1987), 65-77

Nixon, Ford, and the crisis of legitimacy

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 272-341
- Phil Williams, "Détente and US Domestic Politics," *International Affairs*, (Summer 1985), 431-47
- James Mann, *About Face* (Vintage 2000), 53-63

Carter and the politics of reform

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 342-49
- Stanley Hoffmann, "The Hell of Good Intentions," *Foreign Policy* (Winter 1978), 3-26
- Carter's Notre Dame Commencement Address, May 22, 1977

Reagan and the Soviet empire

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 349-79
- Dean Baker, *The United States Since 1980* (Cambridge 2007), 44-99
- Reagan's address to the British Parliament, June 8, 1982

Bush I and the Soviet collapse

- Brzezinski, *Second Chance*, 45-82
- Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, "Who Won the Cold War?" *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1992), 123-38
- John Zaller, "Strategic Politicians, Public Opinion, and the Gulf Crisis," in Bennett and Paletz, *Taken by Storm* (Chicago 1994), 250-74

Clinton and globalization

- Brzezinski, *Second Chance*, 83-133
- Andrew Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy* (Harvard 2002), 79-116
- Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, 1-48

Bush II and the pursuit of primacy

- Brzezinski, *Second Chance*, 135-177
- David Skidmore, "Understanding the Unilateralist Turn in U.S. Foreign Policy," *Foreign Policy Analysis* (2005): 207-28
- Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, 49-166

Obama and the future

- Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, 167-259
- Charles Kupchan and Peter Trubowitz, "Grand Strategy for a Divided America," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2007), 71-83
- Thomas Wright, "Strategic Engagement's Track Record," *Washington Quarterly* (July 2010), 36-60

Lecture schedule and dates

August

W	25	Lecture: Presidents/statecraft
M	30	Lecture: Presidents/statecraft

September

W	01	Film: Fog of War
M	06	No class – Labor Day
W	08	Lecture: Presidents/statecraft
M	13	Lecture: Truman
W	15	Lecture: Truman
M	20	Lecture: Eisenhower
W	22	Lecture: Eisenhower
M	27	Film: Point of Order 1st essay due
W	29	Lecture: JFK/LBJ

October

M	04	Lecture: JFK/LBJ
W	06	Lecture: JFK/LBJ
M	11	Lecture: Nixon
W	13	Lecture: Nixon/Ford
M	18	Exam 1
W	20	Lecture: Carter
M	25	Lecture: Reagan
W	27	Lecture: Reagan

November

M	01	Lecture: Bush I
W	03	Lecture: Clinton
M	08	Lecture: Clinton
W	10	Lecture: Bush II
M	15	Lecture: Bush II
W	17	Lecture: Obama
M	22	Film: Obama's War
W	24	No class – Thanksgiving break
M	29	Lecture: Obama 2nd essay due

December

W	01	Exam 2