Course Description
This course examines U.S. foreign policy through several competing theoretical lenses. Following the historical narrative, it also introduces a wide variety of concepts and theories used in comparative foreign policy, demonstrating how specific problems and situations have fuelled the development of scholarly work in the field.

Course Requirements
The grade for this course consists of a midterm exam (worth 20% of the total grade) which is scheduled for October 16, a short paper due November 18 (6 page limit – worth 20%), a formal final exam (40%), participation in discussion conferences led by a TA (10%), and short answer assignments from the e-textbook (10%). The midterm consists of short answers and one essay; the final consists of short answers and two essays. Exams cover material from lectures and readings.

Course Materials
Readings consist of assigned articles available on MyCourses and an e-textbook. The textbook has been ordered via the bookstore. Additional material may be posted on MyCourses during the term.

Mark R. Brawley, American Foreign Policy, Top Hat, 2019

Policy on Academic Honesty
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Note: In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
Course Schedule

Lecture 1 (Sept. 4): Introduction and Goals -- Brawley, Ch. 1

Lecture 2 (Sept. 9): Theories of Foreign Policy / Early U.S. Foreign Policy — Brawley, Chapter 2; George Washington, “Farewell Address”; James Monroe, “The Monroe Doctrine”


Lecture 4 (Sept. 16): World War I and Wilsonian Ideals – Brawley, Chapter 3; Woodrow Wilson “The Fourteen Points”


Lecture 7 (Sept. 25): World War II – Brawley, Chapter 5; Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, “The Atlantic Charter”; Time, “Geography is Fate?”

CONFERENCES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30

Lecture 8 (Sept. 30): The U.S. as a Superpower; Postwar Global Governance – Forrest C. Pogue, “George C. Marshall: Global Commander”; Hook & Spanier, Ch. 2


Lecture 11 (Oct. 9): Facing the Soviets – Time, “Uproar over a Brink”; Dwight D. Eisenhower, “Farewell Address to the Nation”
MIDTERM - Oct. 16

Lecture 12 (Oct. 23): The Cuban Missile Crisis – Brawley, Chapter 7; John F. Kennedy, “Inaugural Address”


Lecture 15 (Nov. 4): Vietnam – Brawley, Chapter 9; Richard Nixon “The Challenge of Peace”

Lecture 16 (Nov. 6): Turning to China — Richard Nixon, “Announcing Acceptance of Invitation to Visit PRC”; “Henry Kissinger”

Lecture 17 (Nov. 11): The 1970s: Challenges to American Economic Leadership –

Lecture 18 (Nov. 13): Reagan and the Revival of the Cold War – Brawley, Chapter 10; Council on Foreign Relations, “Macfarlane on Reagan’s Foreign Policy”


