Poli 346

U.S. Foreign Policy



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McGill University Dept. of Political Science

In Person Office Hour: Wed. 2:30-3:30

Zoom Office Hour: Fri. 2-3

Fall 2022

## **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**

This course will be delivered in person. (Lectures will be recorded.) All readings are available online, and all assignments will be submitted via MyCourses. The grade consists of two short papers, one longer paper, conference participation, and discussion questions. Each short paper has a 1500 word limit, and is worth 25% (together accounting for 50%). The first is due October 7, the second November 4. The longer paper (2250 word limit, worth 40%) is due December 5. Topics for papers will be posted in advance. Participation in an online conference led by a TA accounts for 10%. The conferences are in person and fixed (i.e. meeting at a specific time).

Assignment	Weight	<u>Due Date</u>
Short Paper 1	25%	Oct. 7th
Short Paper 2	25%	Nov. 4th
Long Paper	40%	Dec. 5th
Conference Participation	10%	throughout term

#### **Course Materials**

Assigned readings consist of articles available on MyCourses and a textbook. For the text, you have **two options**. The first is an e-textbook I designed for this course. (See the Conflict of Interest notification posted on MyCourses.)

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

Alternatively you may use the following (in print or as an e-book via the library).

Gordon Martel (ed.), American foreign relations reconsidered, 1890-1993, Taylor & Francis, 1994

## **Extraordinary Circumstances**

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

## **Copyright of Lectures**

All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for purposes of your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation). You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

### **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 <a href="http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity">http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity</a> 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 (Aug. 31): Introduction and Goals -- Brawley, Ch. 1 OR Martel, Ch. 2

Lecture 2 (Sept. 7): Theories of Foreign Policy / Early U.S. Foreign Policy — Martel Ch. 1 OR Brawley, Chapter 2; George Washington, "Farewell Address"; James Monroe, "The Monroe Doctrine"

**Lecture 3 (Sept. 12): Entering the Global Arena** – Martel Ch. 3, 4; Theodore Roosevelt, "Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine"; John Hay, "First Open Door Note"

Lecture 4 (Sept. 14): World War I and Wilsonian Ideals – Brawley, Chapter 3 OR Martel Ch. 5; Woodrow Wilson "The Fourteen Points"

**Lecture 5 (Sept. 19): Isolationism** – Martel Ch. 6; Henry Cabot Lodge and William Borah, "Speeches against the League"; *Time*, "Treaty Maltreated"; Thomas A. Bailey, "Woodrow Wilson Wouldn't Yield"

**Lecture 6 (Sept. 21): America Re-Engages the World?** -- Brawley, Chapter 4; Bear Braumoeller, "The Myth of American Isolationism"; Henry Morgenthau Jr., "The Tripartite Agreement"

### **CONFERENCES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26**

### FIRST PAPER TOPICS AVAILABLE

**Lecture 7 (Sept. 26): World War II** – Brawley, Chapter 5; Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, "The Atlantic Charter"; *Time*, "Geography is Fate?"

Lecture 8 (Sept. 28): The U.S. as a Superpower; Postwar Global Governance – Forrest C. Pogue, "George C. Marshall: Global Commander"

Lecture 9 (Oct. 3): The U.S. and Global Governance –

**Lecture 10 (Oct. 5): The Cold War Begins** – Brawley, Chapter 6 OR Martel Ch. 7; Harry S. Truman, "The Truman Doctrine"; National Security Council Memo #68; George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct"; "Cold Warrior—Dean Acheson"

## FIRST PAPER DUE: OCT. 7 — SECOND PAPER TOPICS AVAILABLE

Lecture 11 (Oct. 17): U.S. Attitudes towards Europe – George Marshall, "European Initiative Essential to Economic Recovery"; Brad DeLong and Barry Eichengreen, "The Marshall Plan"

**Lecture 12 (Oct. 19): Facing the Soviets** – Martel Ch. 11; *Time*, "Uproar over a Brink"; Dwight D. Eisenhower, "Farewell Address to the Nation"

**Lecture 13 (Oct. 24): The Cuban Missile Crisis** – Brawley, Chapter 7 OR Martel Ch. 8; John F. Kennedy, "Inaugural Address"

Lecture 14 (Oct. 26): The American-led Economic Order – Brawley, Chapter 8; James Boughton, "Harry Dexter White and the IMF"; Douglas Irwin, Petros Mavroidis, and Alan Sykes, "The Genesis of the GATT"

Lecture 15 (Oct. 31): Breakdown of the American-led Economic Order? – John Odell, "The U.S. and the Emergence of Flexible Exchange Rates,"; Joanne Gowa, "State Power, State Policy: Explaining the Closing of the Gold Window"

**Lecture 16 (Nov. 2): Vietnam** – Brawley, Chapter 9; Richard Nixon "The Challenge of Peace"

## SECOND PAPER DUE: NOV. 4 — FINAL PAPER TOPICS AVAILABLE

Lecture 17 (Nov. 7): Turning to China — Richard Nixon, "Announcing Acceptance of Invitation to Visit PRC"; "Henry Kissinger"

**Lecture 18 (Nov. 9): The 1970s: Challenges to American Economic Leadership** –

Lecture 19 (Nov. 14): Reagan and the Revival of the Cold War – Brawley, Chapter 10 OR Martel Ch. 9; Council on Foreign Relations, "Macfarlane on Reagan's Foreign Policy"

Lecture 20 (Nov. 16): The End of the Cold War – William Wohlforth, "A Certain Idea of Science"

Lecture 21 (Nov. 21): The Unipolar Moment – Brawley, Chapter 11 OR Martel Ch. 12; George H. W. Bush, "A New World Order"; William Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World"; Samuel Huntington, "The Lonely Superpower"

Lecture 22 (Nov. 23): September 11: Continuity vs. Change – White House, "Excerpts from The National Security Strategy (2002)"; Mackubin Thomas Owens, "Realism, Iraq and the Bush Doctrine"

**Lecture 23 (Nov. 28): Unilateralism, Multilateralism, and Coalitions of the Willing** – Chicago Council on Foreign Relations "Troubled by Loss of Standing in the World"; David Skidmore, "Understanding the Unilateralist Turn in U.S. Foreign Policy," *Foreign Policy Analysis 2*, 2005, 207–228

Lecture 24 (Nov. 30): Obama's Foreign Policy -- Brawley, Chapter 12; James Lindsay, "George Bush, Barack Obama, and the Future of US Global Leadership"; "America's Path: Grand Strategy for the Next Administration," edited by Richard Fontaine and Kristin M. Lord

Lecture 25 (Dec. 5): Current Dilemmas/Assessing Theories — Brawley, Chapter 13; Joseph Nye, "The Future of American Power"

THIRD PAPER DUE: DEC. 5