

P.S. 345/INTL 396, Fall 2007  
Prof. Mel Gurtov

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## **U.S. FOREIGN POLICY: FROM THE COLD WAR TO THE WAR ON TERROR**

The course examines the changing international perspectives, policy instruments, and processes of decision making in U.S. administrations since 1945. Two major objectives of the course are to develop an understanding of the interests that shape foreign policy, and a capacity for critical analysis of the ways in which U.S. power has been projected abroad. In pursuit of those objectives, we pay considerable attention to clashes of cultures and value systems, the use of force, ethical considerations in policy making, and alternatives to chosen courses of action.

### **Texts:**

Spanier and Hook, *American Foreign Policy Since World War II* (16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> ed.);  
Hunt, *Crises in U.S. Foreign Policy*

**Course website:** <http://web.pdx.edu/~hpmg>

### **Course requirements:**

Your grade will be based on: (1) **consistent attendance and participation**; (2) midterm exam, **October 30**; (3) research paper (see below for guidelines), due **November 15**; (4) comprehensive final exam, **Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 10:15 AM**.

**Please take note:** (1) Students are responsible for being aware of the date and time of the final examination, and making preparations to take it then. Only in exceptional circumstances will a final exam be given at another time. (2) The grade of I (incomplete) will only be given in extraordinary circumstances, and then only if the student has attended class regularly and completed all other assignments. In addition: **take notes or don't take the class.**

### **Discussion sequence:**

#### **Submarine Warfare and Pearl Harbor: Patterns and Priorities**

Spanier, ch. 1 & Hook, preface, introduction, and ch. 1,  
Hunt, chs. 1 and 2  
Website: "Schools" (overhead)

#### **Origins of the Cold War (Roosevelt and Truman)**

Spanier & Hook, ch. 2  
Hunt, ch. 3 (through doc. 19)

#### **Globalizing Containment (Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy, 1947-63)**

Spanier & Hook, chs. 3-4  
Hunt, ch. 3 (from doc. 20) and chs. 4-5 (Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis)

**Vietnam and the Imperial Presidency (Johnson, 1963-68)**

Part I: Spanier & Hook, ch. 5 (to p. 130); Hunt; ch. 6 (documents to p. 333)

Part II: Spanier & Hook, remainder of ch. 5; Hunt, remainder of ch. 6

*Film*: “Fog of War”

**Managing World Order (Nixon and Ford, 1969-76)**

Spanier & Hook, ch. 6 (to p. 150)

**Human Rights versus Revolution (Carter, 1977-80)**

Spanier & Hook, ch. 6 (from p. 150)

Hunt, ch. 7 (Iran)

**Counterrevolution (Reagan, 1981-88)**

Spanier & Hook, ch. 7

**A New World Order (Bush, 1989-92)**

Spanier & Hook, ch. 8 and ch. 9 to p. 229, and ch. 10, pp. 249-54

**Engagement and Enlargement (Clinton, 1993-2000)**

Spanier & Hook, rest of ch. 9 and chs. 10-11

**Unilateralism and the War on Terror (G.W. Bush, 2001-08)**

Spanier & Hook, chs. 13-14

\*Bush, *The National Security Strategy of the US* (online)

*Film*: “Buying the War” (Bill Moyer)

*Website*:

[www.nytimes.com/2007/08/12/world/asia/12afghan.html?ex=1188619200&en=8578d3e dfbcc1c17&ei=5070](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/12/world/asia/12afghan.html?ex=1188619200&en=8578d3e dfbcc1c17&ei=5070) (Afghanistan)

[www.nytimes.com/2007/06/16/washington/16diplo.html?ei=5070&en=10e7926243212ef e&ex=1188619200&adxnln=1&adxnlnx=1188493384-2tyGo0HoD3mj+omfEilVhQ](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/16/washington/16diplo.html?ei=5070&en=10e7926243212ef e&ex=1188619200&adxnln=1&adxnlnx=1188493384-2tyGo0HoD3mj+omfEilVhQ)

(Iran)

**Instructions for the Paper**

1. Topic: Choose any topic within the scope of the course. *Check with me to make certain your choice is appropriate.* The possibilities are many, and include: (1) the decision-making process in a foreign-policy crisis, such as the Berlin Blockade; (2) the influence of some aspect of domestic politics on foreign policy; (3) the role of transnational corporations or commercial interests in foreign policy decisions or processes; (4) origins or application of a foreign-policy doctrine; (5) tracing policy over time on a specific issue, such as human rights, nuclear weapons, alliances, immigration, drugs, or terrorism; (6) assessments of external threat; (7) overall assessment of U.S. foreign policy in one or more time periods, or comparatively between one administration and another; (8) study of U.S. relations with a particular country or region.

2. Approach: It is important that your essay **begin with a statement of the issue and the way you intend to handle it**. Your essay should be more than a description of events; it should first and foremost be a foreign-policy *analysis that concludes with your own evaluation* of what the evidence shows.

3. The Paper: 8-10 pages of text, using a *minimum* of 6 sources (including at least one *primary* source, such as memoirs, documents, and newspaper accounts of the period under study). You may cite the course texts, but they will not count as one of your sources. The *Internet* may be used for official documents, newspapers, and published, signed scholarly articles. Do not use news magazines such as *Time* unless the news item is a primary source, such as an interview.

4. Citing sources: Use any consistent form for citing sources: footnotes, endnotes, in-text notes. A bibliography is *not* needed; include all relevant information (author, article and journal or book title, and page numbers) in your notes. Cite specific pages. **See the end of this syllabus for samples of footnotes or endnotes.**<sup>1 2 3 4</sup>

5. Check spelling, punctuation, and grammar. (If you don't yet know the following distinctions, learn them: there/their, principal/principle, its/it's, affect/effect, to/too, country's/countries.) A sloppily written paper will count heavily against you. Don't forget to **paginate** and **title** your essay. Use 12-point font, please. **Do not rely excessively on any one source.**

6. Questions? I'm here; and I would like to *see* each of you at sometime during your research.

### **Basic Documentary (Primary) Sources**

#### **U.S. Department of State**

*Department of State Bulletin* (weekly); *Foreign Relations of the United States* (diplomatic and other official papers); *American Foreign Policy: Current Documents*; *American Foreign Policy, 1950-55*; *U.S. Treaties and Other International Agreements* (since 1952).

#### **Other Documentary Collections**

*National Security Archive* ([www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/](http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/)); *Public Papers of the Presidents* (includes speeches, press conferences, etc.); *The Pentagon Papers* (Vietnam policy; various editions); *The Congressional Record* (day-to-day record of speeches and debates in the Congress); hearings of House and Senate committees.

#### **Recommended Newspapers and Journals**

*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times* (all on-line); *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *International Security* (all quarterly)

**U.S. Government Agencies and International Organizations on the Web** (see the back of Spanier and Hook)

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<sup>1</sup> Morton Smyth, ed., *Henry Kissinger's Diplomacy* (New York: Norton, 1995), pp. 1-10.

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<sup>2</sup> Mary Jones, "Clinton's China Connection," *Journal of International Security*, vol. 61, No. 3 (Summer, 1998), pp. 8-12.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13. ("Ibid." refers to the last-mentioned item.)

<sup>4</sup> Smyth, ed., *Henry Kissinger's Diplomacy*, p. 58.