**POL 4900-NSA**

**The United States in an Age of Globalization **

**Baruch College**

**Winter 2021, MoTuWeThFr 11 am – 1:30 pm**

**Class:** <https://baruch.zoom.us/j/2988192739>

**Teaching format:** Virtual asynchronous

**Instructor:** Sally Sharif

**Office:** https://baruch.zoom.us/j/2988192739

**Office Hours:** MoTuWeThFr 9:30 – 11 am

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**Course Description:**

Not since the period of the Vietnam War has U.S. foreign policy been the subject of as much debate and controversy as it is today both in the United States and around the world. At the heart of this controversy is the issue of the unrivalled global power of the United States. What does this power mean for America’s role in the world? How should it be exercised? For what purposes? Will it last? These critical questions will guide us throughout this course. To gain some necessary background for addressing these questions, the first part of the course will briefly survey the history of U.S. foreign policy, especially during the Cold War, and outline the domestic political context in which it is formulated, with particular attention paid to the central policy actors and processes involved in making U.S. foreign policy. The second part of the course will then examine some of the major issues in U.S. foreign policy in the post-Cold War era, including preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, humanitarian intervention, promoting democracy and human rights, and globalization and trade. The impact that the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001, have had upon U.S. foreign policy and the Bush Administration’s conduct of the ‘war on terrorism’ and the Iraq war will be given special consideration.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, you should have:

* A basic knowledge of the history of U.S. foreign policy
* An understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is made and the role of the major actors
* An understanding of the factors that shape U.S. foreign policy
* A substantive knowledge of the major contemporary issues in U.S. foreign policy

**Course Text:**

Bruce W. Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*, fifth edition. W.W. Norton, New York, 2014.

The assigned textbook is available in the Baruch bookstore and on Norton Publishing website. It is paramount that you acquire the book/eBook as soon as possible. You can also rent the eBook on Amazon.com.

**Grading:** The following scheme, although subject to change under extraordinary circumstances, will be used for grading:

A: 100-90 B: 80-89.9 C: 70-79.9 D: 60-69.9 F: 59.9 and below

***Lectures*:** This class is taught in the virtual asynchronous format. On class days, I will post a link to the recorded lecturer on Blackboard under “Lectures.”

***Daily tests*:** (*30%)* You will have to do the daily assignments – under the “Tests” section of Blackboard - by midnight of class days. I believe in continuous assessment: not submitting assignments will be detrimental to your final grade. The test is mostly twenty multiple-choice questions you have to complete in 30 minutes.

***Response essay*:** *(20%)* You will write a page-long response essay, due on January 19th. In the essay, you will respond to a question about a current foreign policy issue I present to you. The question will be posted under the “Discussion Board” of Blackboard. Please note your essays will be visible to other students. Each person will be assigned a classmate’s essay to provide feedback on.

***Midterm exam*:***(25%)* The questions in the midterm are meant to test your knowledge of the material we will have read until January 12th. The exam is open book, but no cooperation is allowed with other students.

***Final exam*:***(25%)* The questions in the final exam are meant to test your knowledge of the material we will have read between January 14th and January 25th. The exam is open book, but no cooperation is allowed with other students.

***Extra credit*:** I believe in continuous assessment and grade students based on the progress they make during the semester. There is no assignment you can do overnight to gain knowledge of the field with. Thus, there is no extra credit.

**Online learning**

There are three platforms you should be competent in using:

***Blackboard*:** All students must obtain access to Blackboard. If you are experiencing problems with Blackboard, you should contact IT immediately and notify me. You should check Blackboard every day prior to class, in case there are announcements or class cancellations.

***Zoom:*** Please do not share Zoom link or meeting information with anyone who is not enrolled in our course. Learning remotely means many of us will be sharing our workspace with children, pets, partners, and roommates. Keep yourself muted if necessary. Students are not required to turn their cameras on during class discussions: you may participate with audio only or use the chat function. Technological issues will happen. Please be patient with everyone.

***Office hours:***

I will be holding virtual office hours in <https://baruch.zoom.us/j/2988192739>. Sign up for one-hour appointments under the “Office Hours” section of Blackboard.

**Academic honesty**

Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated and will receive the maximum penalty permitted by Baruch College, a failing grade in the course and notification of the dean. Everything which is not your own must be cited. Use footnotes or endnotes to give credit for direct quotes, paraphrased quotes, or borrowed ideas. For detailed definitions of cheating and plagiarism you should consult the College’s Academic Honesty website (<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html>).

**Accessibility**

If you have ability constraints, please see me within the first two weeks of class to discuss any accommodations you might need for class activity, examinations, and other assignments in order to participate fully and demonstrate your abilities. If you need further assistance or information, contact the Office of Special Services for Students with Disability Services.

**Schedule of Topics and Readings:**

**PART I: BACKGROUND**

**Class 1 (January 4) Course Overview and Introduction**

* Ivo H. Daalder and James M. Lindsay. 2003 “The Globalization of Politics: American Foreign Policy for a New Century.” Brookings Institute. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-globalization-of-politics-american-foreign-policy-for-a-new-century/>. [On Blackboard under “Readings”]

**Class 2 (January 5) The Foreign Policy Context**

* Jentleson, ch. 1, pp. 2-23
* John J. Mearsheimer, “*Realism*,” in Jentleson, pp. 216-219

**Class 3 (January 6) The Making of U.S. Foreign Policy**

* Jentleson, ch. 2, pp. 27-53
* Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., “What the Founding Fathers Intended,” in Jentleson, pp. 234-236

**Class 4 (January 7) Debates in American Foreign Policy**

* Jentleson, ch. 4, pp. 100-127
* Tony Smith, “The United States and the Global Struggle for Democracy,” in Jentleson, pp. 229-233

**Class 5 (January 8) The Cold War**

* Jentleson, ch. 5, pp. 136-162
* George Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” in Jentleson, pp. 271-274
* Graham T. Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis,” in Jentleson, pp. 237-238
* Leslie H. Gelb, “Vietnam: The System Worked,” in Jentleson, pp. 275-278

**Class 6 (January 11) U.S. Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era**

* Jentleson, ch. 7, pp. 286-315
* Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, “Democratization and the Danger of War,” in Jentleson, pp. 611-617

**Class 7 (January 12) No Class: Reading day**

**Class 8 (January 13) Midterm Exam**

**PART II – CONTEMPORARY FOREIGN POLICY GOALS AND CHALLENGES**

**Class 9 (January 14) The Globalization Debate**

* Jentleson, ch.8, pp. 332-362
* Joseph Stiglitz, “Making Globalization Work,” in Jentleson, pp. 603-606

**Class 10 (January 15) 9/11 and the War on Terror**

* Jentleson, ch. 11, pp. 455-483
* Dan Caldwell, “U.S. Policy toward Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq,” in Jentleson, pp. 645-647

**Class 11 (January 18) No Class: MLK Day**

**Class 12 (January 19) Rising Powers: Relations with Asia**

* Jentleson, ch. 10, pp. 419-441
* Kenneth Lieberthal and Wang Jisi, “US-China Strategic Distrust,” in Jentleson, pp. 635-638

**Class 13 (January 20) Old Friends, Old Enemy: Europe and Russia**

* Jentleson, ch. 12, pp. 516-537
* Giovanni Grevi, “Reviewing EU Foreign Policy,” in Jentleson, pp. 651-653
* Yevgeny Primakov, “Russia in Polycentric World,” in Jentleson, pp. 654-656

**Class 14 (January 21) The Americas in a US-Centric Globe**

* Jentleson, ch. 13, pp. 541-564
* Julia E. Sweig, “US-Latin American Relations,” in Jentleson, pp. 657-658
* Larry Birns and Frederick Mills, “End the Anachronistic Policy,” in Jentleson, pp. 661-663

**Class 15 (January 22) Africa on the Periphery of a Globalized World?**

* Jentleson, ch.14, pp. 567-591
* Obama Administration, “U.S. Strategy toward Sub-Saharan Africa” in Jentleson, pp. 664-668

**Class 16 (January 25) Final Exam**