

UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO
Summer 2009

United States Foreign Policy: Process and Explanation

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Teaching Assistants:
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This short course is intended to enhance your understanding of the process and substance of U.S. foreign policy. First, we will examine the process by which U.S. foreign policy is made, focusing on relations between the executive and legislative branch, and on relations within the executive branch. Second, we will examine various approaches to explaining U.S. policy, focusing on such factors as interest groups, ideology, bureaucratic politics, and the structure of the international system. We will also consider the policies of the Bush administration and discuss the challenges facing the Obama administration.

This is both a lecture and discussion class. Active participation is encouraged and required. I expect students to attend class, listen carefully, be familiar with reading assignments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions.

Requirements:

- 1) Class participation
- 2) End of class paper or take home exam

Texts:

John Ikenberry, ed., American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays (Fifth edition, Houghton Mifflin, 2005).

This book is a selection of essays that illustrate theoretical approaches to explaining U.S. foreign policy. We will use readings from it to supplement the lectures and discussions.

Ivo Daalder and James Lindsay, America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy (Updated edition, Brookings, 2005).

This book tries to explain how and why the Bush administration responded to the 2001 terrorist attacks and undertook a “revolution” in U.S. foreign policy.

Walter LaFeber, America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2006 (Updated tenth edition, McGraw-Hill, 2008).

Every student of U.S. foreign policy should be familiar with the politics of the Cold War. This book is one of the best comprehensive histories, so you should read as much as you can for background for the class. The most important parts are chapters 1-5 on the origins of the Cold War and chapters 12-13 on the end of the Cold War.

CLASS AND TOPIC SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 29 (classes 1,2)

The Foreign Policy Process: How do the President and Congress Share Power?

Ikenberry, introduction and articles by Huntington, Mastanduno, and Trubowitz (pp. 1-12, 213-268, 383-400).

Thursday, July 30 (classes 3,4,5)

The Foreign Policy Process: The President, the Executive Bureaucracy, and the National Security Advisor (With a Government So Big, How Does Anything Get Done?)

Ikenberry, articles by Roskin and George (pp. 311-356).
Daalder and Lindsay, chapters 1-5 (pp. 1 -76).

Monday, August 3 (classes 6,7)

Approaches to Explanation: Does **International Structure** Help Us Understand Foreign Policy?

Ikenberry, articles by Waltz, Huntington and Krauthammer (pp. 59-83, 539-564).
Daalder and Lindsay, chapters 6-8 (pp. 77-126).

Tuesday, August 4 (classes 8,9)

Approaches to Explanation: Is **Ideology** the Driving Force Behind U.S. Foreign Policy?

Ikenberry, articles by Ikenberry, Bacevich and Jervis (pp. 268-89, 167-199, 576-599).
Daalder and Lindsay, chapters 9-12 (127-202).

Wednesday, August 5 (class 10)

Approaches to Explanation: **Business Interests** and U.S. Foreign Policy – Are the Marxists Right?

Ikenberry, articles by Frieden, Jacobs and Page (pp. 137-166, 357-382).

Wednesday, August 5 (classes 11,12)

Approaches to Explanation: Do **Bureaucratic Politics** Matter, and Does **Groupthink** Explain Policy Failure?

Ikenberry, articles by Allison, Krasner, Jervis (pp. 402-483).

Thursday, August 6 (classes 13,14,15)

Challenges Facing the Obama Administration

Student Presentations

FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE SEPTEMBER 8