

University of Toronto
Syllabus
POL326H1
Fall Session 2025
The Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy

Instructor: Dr. Arnd Jürgensen, Office: Sidney Smith Bldg. 3068; Office Hours: by appointment; please contact me by e-mail: arnd.jurgensen@utoronto.ca

Course Objectives

This course explores the making of foreign policy in the U.S. through a detailed examination of the institutions of the U.S. government involved, as well as the forces acting upon them to shape policy. After exploring theoretical approaches to the subject, it examines the evolution of the constitutional context within which U.S. foreign policy has been articulated, the bureaucracies involved in shaping policy, the impact of elections, groups and the mass media.

Format and Requirements

This course will meet every Monday from 5 to 7PM. Students will be responsible for the materials covered in the lectures as well as the readings (which are complimentary to the lectures and will not always cover the same material). An effort will be made to link class discussions to current events, wherever possible. It is therefore recommended that students keep themselves informed of current developments by reading the New York Times or Washington Post as well as Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy etc..

Mid-term quiz:	20% (one hour Oct. 6)
Essay	40% (Due Nov. 3 on Quercus before midnight)
Final Examination	40% (two hours, date TBD)

The midterm test and final examination will be administered on line for the whole class.

Students will be required to submit an essay on the politics of U.S. foreign policy. An essay prompt providing details on the assignment will be posted May 26. The length of the paper should not exceed 2500 words (not including references). Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 2% per day including weekends. Extensions will be granted only with documentary evidence of illness or other emergencies. Students are required to keep a copy of all submitted work.

“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).”

Required Texts

James M. Scott & Jarel A. Rosati; *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy* (7th ed.); Sage, 2021

Course Reader: available through the library course reserve system. Additional readings may be announced in class and posted on the course reserve system.

Recommended readings are identified by *

Lecture Topics and Readings for Fall Term by Week

Lecture 1: **Introduction**

Sep. 8

Readings: Rosati & Scott: chapter 1

Lecture 2: **Continuity and Change in U.S. Foreign Policy**

Sep. 15

Readings: Rosati & Scott: chapter 2
Hans J. Morgenthau, "The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy", In *Defense of the National Interest: A Critical Examination of American Foreign Policy*, 1951.

Lecture 3: **The Constitution and U.S. Foreign Policy**

Sep. 22

Readings: Rosati & Scott: chapter 9
U.S. v. Curtis Wright Export Co.
Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co. v. Sawyer

Lecture 4: **American Political Culture and U.S. Foreign Policy**

Sep. 29

Readings: Rosati & Scott: chapter 11
Loren Baritz, *Backfire*, chapter 1

Lecture 5: **The President**

Oct. 6

Readings: Rosati And Scott: chapter 3

Midterm Quiz

Oct 13: **Thanks Giving**

Lecture 6: **The State Department**

Oct. 20

Rosati and Scott: chapter 4

Oct.27 reading week

Lecture 7: **Bureaucracy I: The Military Establishment**

Nov. 3

Readings:

Rosati & Scott: chapter 5

Richard Lachman; "The American Military: Without Rival and Without Victory" chapter 7 in R.Lachman: "First Class Passengers on a Sinking Ship", Verso Press 2020, pp. 305-54

*Gordon Adams & Shoon Murray; "An Introduction to Mission Creep" in Adams and Murray eds. "Mission Creep: the Militarization of U.S. Foreign Policy", Georgetown University Press, 2014, Pg.3-21

Risa Brooks; "Paradoxes of Professionalism: Rethinking Civil Military Relations in the United States" International Security, Spring 2020, vol. 44, no.4 pp.7-44

Lecture 8: **Bureaucracy II: The Intelligence Community**

Nov. 10

(Essay assignment due)

Readings:

Rosati & Scott: chapter 6

Gabriel Kolko, "The Limits of Intelligence", in World in Crisis, Pluto Press 2009, Pg. 126-46

Lecture 9: **Bureaucracy III: The N.S.C and the N.E.C.**

Nov. 17

Readings:

Rosati & Scott: chapters 7 & 8

Lecture 10: **Interest Groups & The Mass Media**

Nov. 24

Readings:

Rosati & Scott: chapter 12 &13

Lecture 11: **Decision-making Theory and U.S. Foreign Policy**

Dec. 1

Readings:

Rosati & Scott: chapter 10

Edward N. Luttwak; "The Three China Policies of the United States", chapter 21 in "The Rise of China vs. The Logic of Strategy; Harvard

Edward N. Luttwak; "Why We Need an Incoherent Foreign Policy" and "Free Will and Predestination in U.S.-China Strategic Relations" chapters 2&3 in "The Virtual American Empire: War, Faith, and Power";

Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick and London 2009, Pg.11-23.

Howard Wiarda, "Beyond the Pale: The Bureaucratic Politics of United States Policy in Mexico" World Affairs 162, No.4 Spring 2000

Lecture 12: **Conclusions**

Dec. 2

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. In essence, it is the theft of the thoughts or words of others, without giving proper credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s). You must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable in a university.

The University of Toronto provides a process that faculty members must initiate when they suspect a case of plagiarism. In the Department of Political Science, suspected evidence of plagiarism must be reported to the Chairman.

A faculty member may not mark an assignment or assess a penalty if he or she finds evidence of plagiarism – the matter must be reported. The Chairman, or Dean, will assess the penalty.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
2. Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
3. Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation marks around the material and reference the source and author. **Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!**
4. Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
5. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask a faculty member than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty.

Plagiarism is **cheating**. It is considered a **serious offence** against intellectual honesty and intellectual property. Penalties for an undergraduate can be **severe**.

At a minimum, a student is likely to receive a "0" mark for the assignment or test in question. But a further penalty is often assessed, such as a further reduction from the course mark or placing a permanent notation of the incident on an academic record.

Some website listed below on avoiding plagiarism:

'How to Use Sources and Avoid Plagiarism' - available at:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

and <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html>

Other Advisory Material available at:

www.utoronto.ca/writing