

# PSYC 423



## AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY!

**Term:** Fall 2014

**Instructor:** Dr. Jess Morrissette

**Office Hours:** MW 9-11, Th 12:30-1:30

**Email:** morrissette@marshall.edu

**Meetings:** TR 11:00-12:15

**Location:** Harris Hall 234

**Office Location:** Smith Hall 739

**Phone:** (304) 696-2760

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*“A political society does not live to conduct foreign policy; it would be more correct to say that it conducts foreign policy in order to live.” – George F. Kennan, American diplomat and historian*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The study of descriptive, analytical, and normative aspects of US foreign policy with emphasis on contemporary problems and issues (International, 3 credit hours).

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of this course is to equip students with the analytical tools necessary to understand American foreign policy, in both its contemporary and historical contexts. By the end of the semester, students should be able to...

- Contextualize significant events and trends in the history of US foreign policy.
- Identify enduring themes, values, and principles that underlie US foreign policy.
- Assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the basic tools of US foreign policy.
- Compare and contrast external, societal, and institutional sources of US foreign policy.
- Predict future trends in US foreign policy with regards to specific issues and regions.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:** Your course grade will be based on two exams, two papers, and participation. Failure to complete any component of the course will result in a failing grade for the semester, regardless of the missing assignment’s point value. There will be no extra credit offered for this course—no exceptions. Your final grade is determined as follows:

5%	Participation	A =	90%-100%
25%	National Security Strategy	B =	80%-89%
20%	Midterm Exam	C =	70%-79%
25%	Final Exam	D =	60%-69%
25%	Decision Point Paper	F ≤	59%

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- David P. Houghton, *The Decision Point: Six Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy Decision Making* (2013).
- Charles Stevenson, *America’s Foreign Policy Toolkit: Key Institutions and Processes* (2013).
- Additional readings will be available on MUOnline.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Attendance is required in this class, and students are expected to have read and be ready to discuss all assigned readings prior to class. Students will also be graded based on their class participation—engaging in discussion of the readings and current political events, asking questions, and so forth. Once again, attendance is clearly important; if you aren't in class, you can't participate. If you feel that you are having trouble getting your voice heard in our discussions, please contact me as soon as possible and we will work together to get you more involved.

The participation grade will be determined as follows: 5 points will be awarded to students who attend class consistently and make valuable contributions to class discussion on a regular basis; 4 points will be awarded to students who attend class consistently and contribute to discussions occasionally; 3 points will be awarded to students who attend class consistently, but seldom participate in class discussions. Attendance grades of 2, 1, and 0 points are reserved for those students who fail to attend class regularly and therefore cannot participate meaningfully in class discussions.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Students are expected to adhere to the University's policies concerning academic honesty (please see pages 70-72 of the 2014/2015 undergraduate catalog). Cheating or plagiarism on any exam, quiz, or assignment will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent under University policies. **The penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a failing grade for the course.**

Cheating is defined by the University as “[a]ny action which if known to the instructor in the course of study would be prohibited” (Undergraduate Catalog, p. 70). This includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized materials or assistance during an academic exercise.

The University defines plagiarism as “[s]ubmitting as one's own work or creation any material or an idea wholly or in part created by another” (Undergraduate Catalog, p. 71). Furthermore, it is “the student's responsibility to clearly distinguish his/her own work from that created by others. This includes the proper use of quotation marks, paraphrase and the citation of the original source. Students are responsible for both intentional and unintentional acts of plagiarism” (p. 71).

**PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND THE SIREN OF DOOM:** Please silence and stow your cell phone prior to class. Texting and other inappropriate forms of cell phone usage during class time are strictly prohibited. If I see you playing around with your phone during class, I will activate the dreaded **SIREN OF DOOM**. In order to achieve maximum public embarrassment, the **SIREN OF DOOM** will continue to sound until you have put your cell phone away. Furthermore, I will track how many times I have deployed the **SIREN OF DOOM** over the course of the semester. After five infractions, I will administer an unreasonably difficult on-the-spot pop quiz to the entire class. The **SIREN OF DOOM** tally will then reset and the process will begin anew.

Students are welcome to use a laptop or tablet to take notes, but I ask that you please refrain using class time to update your Facebook status, tweet, or watch BitTorrented episodes of *Game of Thrones*. If I catch you using your laptop or tablet for purposes unrelated to our class, I will not hesitate to activate the aforementioned **SIREN OF DOOM**.

**E-MAIL POLICY:** Please check your Marshall e-mail account regularly. Articles, assignments, and other important announcements may be sent to your “@marshall.edu” e-mail address during the course of the semester. If you prefer to use a different e-mail service, please contact Computing Services for assistance with forwarding your Marshall e-mail to your preferred address.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** There will be no make-up exams administered for students without a legitimate excused absence from the University (e.g. family emergency, illness, athletic commitment). Students who need to miss an exam should contact me prior to the scheduled exam period if at all possible.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late assignments submitted without a University excuse will be assessed a 10% penalty per day (including weekends), up to a maximum penalty of 50% after five days.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** Students can review the policies for weather-related closings and delays at the University's website. If a closing coincides with an exam date or other deadline, the relevant assignment will be postponed to the following class meeting.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students who require any special accommodations should contact the instructor at their earliest convenience. Please refer to the University's website for more information on relevant policies (<http://www.marshall.edu/disabled>).

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**MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS:** Students will complete two in-class exams—a midterm and a non-cumulative final. I will provide additional details as the exams approach.

**NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY:** After reading the 2010 National Security Strategy issued by the Obama administration and the 2006 National Security Strategy issued by the Bush administration, students will draft an original National Security Strategy. Imagine, through a series of unlikely events, that you have won the 2016 presidential election. One of your first priorities after entering office is to establish your administration's national security policy.

This document should, at a minimum, establish what you consider to be the core values at the center of American foreign policy, identify the most prominent foreign policy challenges currently facing the country, outline your central foreign policy objectives, and describe the policies you will enact in pursuit of those objectives.

In terms of format, you should model your National Security Strategy on Obama and Bush documents—only much shorter (approximately 8 pages).

**DECISION POINT PAPER:** Students will choose a decision from American foreign policy history (one not covered already in the *Decision Point* text) and apply one of Houghton's four theoretical models—*Homo Economicus*, *Homo Bureaucraticus*, *Homo Sociologicus*, or *Homo Psychologicus*—to explain how and why that decision was made.

This paper should be approximately 8-10 pages long and should cite at least 6 scholarly sources (i.e. journal articles and books published by university presses).

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Please consider the following guidelines while completing your writing assignments:

- No e-mail submissions will be accepted.
- Please staple your papers and *do not* enclose them in report covers.

- Be sure to include a brief introduction that states the purpose of your paper, as well as a concise conclusion that sums up what you have written.
- Always cite your sources! For this class, I request that you use the American Political Science Association style guidelines (uploaded to MUOnline). In turn, be sure to make it clear where you found any “outside” information in your essay. This includes not only citing direct quotations, **but also any paraphrased material or statistics**. As a rule of thumb, any information those you decide to include in the paper and didn’t know before you began working on the project merits a citation. Also, include a “works cited” page at the end of your essays and exams. Failure to properly cite your sources constitutes ~~PLAGIARISM~~.
- Proofread your essays! Most grammatical and typographical errors can be easily caught with a simple read-through before a paper is submitted.
- Papers should conform to the suggested lengths provided above (title pages and works cited pages do not count toward the suggested length). Papers should be double-spaced with 1” margins and typed using the standard 12-point Times/Times New Roman font (or the Macintosh equivalent). Please include page numbers in the upper right-hand corner of your pages.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

#### **Week of August 25: Enduring Values of American Foreign Policy**

- Stevenson, Introduction and Chapter 1

#### **Week of September 1: American Foreign Policy History (Part 1)**

- Stevenson, Chapter 2

#### **Week of September 8: American Foreign Policy History (Part 2)**

- Stevenson, Chapter 2 (review)
- George W. Bush, *National Security Strategy* (online)

#### **Week of September 15: The President’s Role in American Foreign Policy**

- Stevenson, Chapter 3
- Barack Obama, *National Security Strategy* (online)

#### **Week of September 22: The Role of Congress in American Foreign Policy**

- Stevenson, Chapters 4 and 5

#### **Week of September 29: The Decision Point (Theories)**

- Houghton, Chapters 1-4

<p><b>NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY DUE</b>  <b>Thursday, October 2</b></p>
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#### **Week of October 6: The Decision Point (Cases)**

- Houghton, Chapters 5-7

**Week of October 13: The Decision Point (Cases and Conclusion)**

- Houghton, Chapters 8-11

**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**Tuesday, October 21**

**Week of October 20: Diplomacy**

- Stevenson, Chapter 6

**Week of October 27: Economics**

- Stevenson, Chapter 7

**Week of November 3: Military Power**

- Stevenson, Chapter 8

**Week of November 10: Intelligence and Covert Action**

- Stevenson, Chapters 9 and 10

**Week of November 17: International Institutions**

- Stevenson, Chapter 11

**DECISION POINT PAPER DUE**  
**Thursday, November 20**

**Week of November 24: Thanksgiving Break!**

**Week of December 1: Constraints and Limitations on the Foreign Policy Toolkit**

- Stevenson, Chapters 12 and 13

**FINAL EXAM**  
**Thursday, December 11 (10:15-12:15)**

*Please note that all assignments are tentative. Readings, papers, and exams may be removed, added, or moved to a different day based on our progress in the semester.*