

**Manar Shorbagy**

**Spring 2016**

**Time: MR 5:00 – 6:20 p.m.**

**Room: Waleed C130**

**Office Hours: R 2:00 – 3:15**

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## **POLS 4615 – American Foreign Policy**

Throughout the World, American foreign policy has always been contentious and troubling to some, while simply puzzling to others. From Vietnam to Iraq, people around the World have questioned the US use of military force with poor justifications and with no end in sight.

For other people, the US foreign policy appears to be incoherent, inconsistent or even in disarray. How, some would ask, can the US support undemocratic regimes, topple democratically elected governments and then expect peoples around the World to believe it when it talks about working for democracy abroad? How with all the talent and capabilities could the Iranian revolution in the late seventies, the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions today take the US government by surprise? Why would the US, which helped create the UN stop paying its dues to the international organization for several years? And how is it that the foreign policy of the “nation of immigrants” repeatedly reflects a willful ignorance of the complexities of the immigrants’ nations of origin? Who makes US foreign policy? And what factors affect the decision making in, apparently, such unproductive ways?

These and related questions will be at the center of our work in this course. We will study the cultural and constitutional context of US foreign policy. We will compare the different theoretical approaches to the study of US foreign policy and the different institutions and societal factors that make and influence the foreign policy decisions respectively. We will study the determinants of continuity and change in US foreign policy.

### **Course Requirements**

The course material is designed in a way so as to provide you with the different keys to understanding US foreign policy. The class and the material are NOT identical. What we do in class is we critically discuss the different topics and develop the links to other topics. We follow unfolding events, link them to concepts, and ask questions to sharpen our understanding of the literature. Therefore, attendance, attentiveness and participation in class are basic requirements in this course. Your opinion, questions and comments are crucial for enriching our class work.

You are expected to read the material *before* coming to class. You will be asked during the class to provide base information or lead the discussion. Failure to respond and/or interact will automatically affect your evaluation.

Missing class, and thus the discussions, will negatively affect your performance in both presentations and exams.

***Please do not hesitate to discuss with me any ambiguities or questions as soon as they occur. The sooner you come the easier it will be for me to help you.***

## **Grading**

- \* Two Exams (30% each)
  - Midterm Exam 1: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
  - Midterm Exam 2: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- \* Class research/ presentation (25 %).
  - Paper Presentation and critique: May 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Class participation and attendance 15% (including pop-quizzes, leading discussions and following unfolding events)

***No make-ups in this course.***

## **Readings**

**We will work mainly from three books in addition to a collection of chapters and articles from other books and sources. More material may be added according to unfolding events if necessary.**

***\*The following three books are available in the book store and on reserve in the library***

1- Michelle Bentley and Jack Holland, *Obama's Foreign Policy, Ending the War on Terror*, (New York, Rutledge, 2014).

2-Eugene R. Wittkopf and James McCormick, eds., *The Domestic Sources of American foreign policy*, 5th edition (Maryland: Roman and Littlefield Publishers, 2007). *Please note that we will also use some articles from an earlier edition (the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1999) of this same book.*

3-Sтивен Hook and John Spanier, *American foreign Policy since World War II*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, (Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2007).

***\*The following is available in the library as an e-book***

Gregoire Chamayou, *Theory of the Drone*, (New York, The New Press, 2015)

***\* The following will be available as a package at the copy center:***

- Seymour M. Hersh, Military to Military, *London Review of Books*, January 2016.
- Howard J. Wiarda, *American Foreign Policy, Actors and Processes*, (NY: Harper Collins College Publishers 1996), Ch. 2 & 8
- Roger H. Davidson and Walter J. Oleszek, *Congress and Its Members*, (Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2008), Ch. 13 and 15
- James Risen, *State of War*, (NY: Free Press, 2006).
- Peter Beinart, The Failure of the American Jewish Establishment, *New York Review of Books*, June 10, 2010
- Peter Beinart, The Crisis of Zionism, *New York Review of Books*, June 7, 2012
- Dana Priest and William Arkin, *Top Secret America, The Rise of the New American Security States*, (New York: Little Brown and Company, 2011), Ch. 10
- Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine*, (NY: Henry Holt and Company, 2007), Ch. 16 & 17

## **Course outline**

*We will proceed according to the following plan. Any changes will be announced well ahead of time. (Please note that we will give time in class to discussing important unfolding events. Therefore the outline will remain somewhat flexible).*

### **American Political Culture and US foreign Policy**

- The American Approach to Foreign Policy (Hook and Spanier)
- Adam Quinn, US Decline and Systemic Constraints (Bentley and Holland)
- Samuel Huntington, the Erosion of American National Interest, (Wittkoph and McCormick, 1999)

### **The US Constitution and American Foreign policy**

- Davidson and Oleszek, Congress and National Security Policies (copy center package)
- James Lindsay, Shifting Pendulum of Power, (Wittkoph and McCormick 2007)
- Louis Fisher, Costly Presidential Wars, (Wittkoph and McCormick 2007)
- William Quandt, The electoral Cycle and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy, (Wittkoph and McCormick, 1999)

### **Models of US foreign Policy**

- Howard Wiarda, Models of American Foreign Policy Making (copy center package)

### **Institutions of American foreign Policy**

- Christopher Jones, Trading with Saddam, (Wittkoph and McCormick, 1999).
- Paul Pillar, Intelligence Policy and the War in Iraq, (Wittkoph and McCormick, 2007)
- Seymour Hersh, Military to Military , (copy center)
- James Risen, Rogue Operation, (copy center)
- Nicholas Kitchen, Structural Shifts and Strategic Change (Bentley and Holland)
- Richard Jackson, The War on Terror as Social Structure (Bentley and Holland)

### **Societal Factors**

- Miroslav Nincic, External Affairs and the Electoral Connection, (Wittkoph and McCormick, 2007)
- Davidson & Oleszek, Organized Interests, (copy center package)
- Philip Brenner, Intermestic Interests and the US policy toward Cuba (Wittkoph and McCormick, 2007).
- John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, The Israel Lobby, (Wittkoph and McCormick 2007)
- Peter Beinart, The Failure of the American Jewish Establishment, (copy center)
- Howard Wiarda, New Actors: Think Tanks and Foreign Policy, (copy center)

### **US foreign Policy in Action**

- James Thomson, How Could Vietnam Happen, (Wittkoph and McCormick 2007)
- Wali Islam, Drones and the Issue of Continuity (Bentley and Holland)
- Iraq and Afghanistan, (Chapter 13: Hook & Spanier)
- Erasing Iraq, In search for a model for the Middle East, (Naomi Klein)
- Managing the Battlefield from a Suburban Sanctuary, (blackboard)