

**CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**  
(Political Science 675)

Fall 2002  
Office Hours By Appointment

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The Internet homepage for the ISU Political Science Department provides information about a wide variety of topics, including grad school/job opportunities and links to assist in doing research. Its address is: web.indstate.edu/polisci  
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Most courses on U.S. foreign policy attempt to be very comprehensive, presenting a smattering of such diverse subjects as diplomatic history (i.e., the overall evolution of U.S. foreign policy), the nature and mechanics of the policy-making process, motivational theories of Washington's international behavior, and current problems confronting U.S. policy. Here, however, we are going to be much more selective and focus on the latter topic of contemporary problems. To the extent that the other concerns listed above are addressed, it will be within the context of their relevancy to the particular policy problem under consideration.

This examination of contemporary problems falls under the larger rubric of "policy science", which implies that we will be doing many of the same things done by those who are responsible for formulating U.S. foreign policy. Specifically, as we address these individual problems, we will in each case be particularly concerned with such considerations as:

- gathering pertinent information (background and otherwise) about the problem at hand, including a survey of the evolving U.S. role in the situation;
- determining what vital U.S. interests, if any, are at stake and exactly what threats to them may be developing;
- pinpointing and evaluating the various policy options available to the United States, the ultimate goal being to decide (at least in your mind) the best course of action for the United States to follow in dealing with the problem.

Since this is a graduate seminar rather than an undergraduate class, the examination of these foreign policy problems (as outlined above) will be undertaken primarily in the form of presentations to the seminar by individual members of the group.

Also, because this is a small seminar group, it is **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** that **everyone attend every meeting**. Much of our work will entail discussion of individual presentations, the basic idea being that such discussions will provide you with the opportunity to hone your critical/evaluational skills and hopefully will provide comments/suggestions that are helpful to the person making the presentation. In short, attendance at the seminars and participation in the proceedings are considered "givens"--they are part of your basic responsibilities as a member of the seminar and failure to carry them out will adversely affect your final grade for the seminar.

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Carter, Ralph G. (ed.), **Contemporary Cases In U.S. Foreign Policy** (Congressional Quarterly Press, 2002)

Combs, Cindy, **Terrorism In The 21st Century**, Third Edition (Prentice-Hall, 2003)

Taras, Raymond and Ganguly, Rajat, **Understanding Ethnic Conflict: The International Dimension**, Second Edition (Longman, 2002)

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:**

The basic course requirements (along with their weight in terms of their contribution to your overall seminar grade) are summarized below. Additional details will where necessary be provided regarding what is involved/expected with regard to a particular requirement.

"Instructor For A Day"--you will on several occasions throughout the semester be responsible preparing and presenting material to the seminar dealing with some aspect of an issue under consideration. A detailed outline of your presentation will be submitted to the instructor. These presentations will account for **40 percent** of your overall course grade.

- Preparation of a research proposal and presenting the proposal to the seminar for discussion. More details will be provided later regarding the nature and content of such proposals--in essence, they will follow the format for MA thesis proposals. The proposal will account

for **10 percent** of your overall course grade.

- Completing the final version of the research paper, which will be submitted directly to the seminar instructor for evaluation. The research paper will account for **35 percent** of overall course grade.

The research paper will be due on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9** by 4PM.

- General participation in and contributions to the policy discussions occurring in the seminar. This component will account for **15 percent** of your overall course grade.

Grading in this course will operate on a 100-point scale, with the grade breakdown being as follows:

A	90-100
B+	85-89
B	80-84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
D+	65-69
D	60-64
F	Less Than 60

#### **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

RC = the Carter book  
CC = the Combs book  
TG = the Taras/Ganguly book

#### I. Introduction

##### A. Introduction To The Course

(Summary Of Course Requirements, Goals, Logistics, Etc.)

##### B. Introduction To Foreign Policy Analysis--Some Basic Guidelines

Read: Rosenau, "Theories and Pre-Theories of Foreign Policy" (handout)

##### C. The U.S. And The Post-Cold War World: An Overview

Read: Handout(s) to be provided

#### II. Conflict Issues

- A. The War Against Terrorism
  - 1. Introduction: Concepts And Perceptions  
Read: CC, chapters 1-3
  - 2. The Nature And Logistics Of Terrorism  
Read: CC, chapters 4-9
  - 3. Dealing With Terrorism  
Read: CC, chapters 10-15  
RC, chapter 8
- B. Ethnic Conflict
  - 1. Introduction: Surveying The Problem Of Ethnic Conflict  
Read: TG, chapters 1-3
  - 2. The World Community And Ethnic Conflict  
Read: TG, chapters 4-7
  - 3. The U.S. And Ethnic Conflict  
Read: TG, chapters 10 and 8-9  
RC, chapters 1-3
- C. The Use Of Economic Sanctions As A Tool Of Foreign Policy  
Read: RC, chapters 10-12  
Handout(s) to be provided

### III. Cooperation Issues

- A. Dealing With The International Drug Trade
  - 1. Introduction: A General Survey Of The Problem  
Read: Handout(s) to be provided
  - 2. The Perils Of Cooperation: A Colombian Case Study  
Read: RC, chapter 4  
Handout(s) to be provided
- B. Controversial Treaties: The U.S. And The Creation Of International Law  
Read: RC, chapters 7, 13, and 15

**REMINDER** The final version of your research paper will be due on  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9** By 4PM.