Michael Tkacik  
Email: mtkacik@sfasu.edu  
Phone: (936) 468-2813  
Class Time: M/W 11:00-12:15

Office Hours: M-F (4:00 – 5:00) and by appointment.  
Office Location: McKibben 381  
Class Location: Ferguson 179

The difference between ignorant and educated people is that the latter know more facts. But that has nothing to do with whether they are stupid or intelligent. The difference between stupid and intelligent people – and this is true whether or not they are well-educated – is that intelligent people can handle subtlety. They are not baffled by ambiguous or even contradictory situations – in fact, they expect them and are apt to become suspicious when things seem overly straightforward. – Neal Stephenson (1995)

*God always favors the big battalions.* – Frederick the Great

*God fights on the side with the best artillery.* – Napoleon Bonaparte

Description

“Analysis of the formulation and control of United States foreign policy and the origin and content of contemporary policies; formulation and application of theories of U.S. foreign policy.”  

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours

This class is a three-credit hour class. You will meet as a class three hours per week (75 minutes on Tuesday and 75 minutes on Thursday). The class should require at least six hours work outside of class per week. I am confident that the reading requirements, along with the Saturday “conference,” test preparation, and completion of the research paper will require at least six hours per week for the 15 weeks the class meets. See Assignments section beginning on page 10 for further breakdown.
Text

You are responsible for obtaining the articles online. They may not be available from a Google search, however. You may have to use the databases available in the library such as EBSCO and others. I have tried to make sure each reading is accessible either by an online search or through a library database. However, if you cannot find an assigned reading, please contact me immediately by email so I can advise you. **Make sure you have used SFA library databases before contacting me.**

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes

This course is associated with the major, second major, and minor in the political science. The course is not part of the general education core curriculum. No specific general education objectives or outcomes are addressed in this course.

Program Learning Objectives

The following program learning outcomes for a political science major are addressed in this course:

The student will critically analyze and critique political institutions and/or complex contemporary political issues.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Analyze challenges to American foreign policy goals and identify the sources of such challenges (e.g., state or non-state actors).
- Be able to identify and match means and ends in foreign policy.
- Identify traditional and non-traditional security challenges for the United States.

Reading and Discussion

I expect you to have read, digested, and understood the assigned material prior to class. I will call on students, unannounced, during class. For each assigned reading, the student called upon will be required to provide a discussion of the reading. This discussion should minimally include a thesis, three primary supporting arguments, and a critique of the article. Ideally, you will also include some thoughts about how the reading fits into larger, ongoing class themes and discussions.

You will be penalized if you are called upon and unprepared. If you are absent when called upon, you will be counted as unprepared unless a University accepted written excuse is provided.
Reading, discussion, the library assignment, and other specified assignments will account for 25% of your total grade.

You are allowed one backbench per semester. Please tell me before class begins that you would like to backbench. If you invoke the backbench, I will not call on you to brief an article that day.

Note that we will rarely use power point slides in this class and I will seldom lecture. Rather I hope for an ongoing conversation influenced by the readings. If you do not do the reading, the discussion will lapse along with your grade.

Participation Grades

You will receive a grade of 0-10 for each reading brief, library assignment, and any other assignment specified as worth 0-10 (e.g., library assignment). These points will all be converted into a raw participation grade with a maximum value of 100 as described below.

The raw participation will be modified based on your daily contributions. For any day on which you make a valuable and ongoing contribution to class discussion (but are not presenting a reading), you will receive 1 point at my discretion. It is not enough to simply make an observation at some point in class. The participation must be meaningful and ongoing in my estimation. These points will be combined and then added to your raw participation grade at the end of the semester, resulting in your final participation grade. Although it is mathematically possible to score more than 100 points in your final participation grade, no student will be given more than 100 points – 100 points is the maximum you can earn. This final participation grade will represent 25% of your class grade.

Example: You do two reading briefs (a 6 and an 8), are absent for one (a 0), do the library assignment (10), and are given a point on each of 7 other days based on making a valuable and ongoing contribution to class discussion. Your participation grade will be as follows:

\[(6+8+0+10) = 24 \rightarrow (24/4) = 6.0 \rightarrow 60 \text{ (raw participation grade)} \rightarrow (60 + 7) = 67 \text{ (final participation grade), which itself is 25% of your final grade.}\]

Library Assignment

We will (tentatively) have a “library session” during class hours on 8 February 2024 in the library (Room 215, Infolab 2). The reference librarian for Political Science, Mr. Edward Kownslar, will lead a research session. Attendance is mandatory. Missing this session will be the equivalent of a “not prepared” on your daily assignments (i.e., a 0). Thereafter, you will use the skills you learned to locate five scholarly (i.e., refereed) articles relating to a single topic in American Foreign Policy. The choice of topics is yours. I require only that each article relate to the same topic. You are to turn in (electronically or hardcopy) the basic journal article entry (not the entire article), including an abstract, the full citation, and the location of the article. You do not have to write the abstract – it should be in the article entry you have found. If you cannot find
an abstract, find another article. The articles are due one week after the library session. This assignment will be graded as a 10-point participation grade.

Paper Presentation/Conference

A power point presentation of no more than 10 slides (not including title slide), lasting no more than 10 minutes, will be presented to the class on SATURDAY, 13 April 2024 in McKibben 351 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm) in a conference format. This conference will be open to other faculty, students, and the public. Please dress appropriately. You are required to attend the entirety of this conference as part of the class. If you do not attend the conference in its entirety, you will receive a 0. Please make arrangements now to take off work and otherwise ensure attendance.

The presentation will explain your paper, your research, and your findings to an audience in 10 minutes. If you do it correctly, you will find much of your organizational work completed before you even begin writing. We will discuss this more in class.

The grading scale for the power point presentation will be as follows:

- **Time:** 0-20 points. You will lose 4 points for every minute you exceed the limit.
- **Content:** 0-50 points.
- **Presentation:** 0-10 points. This includes eye contact, dress, professionalism, etc.
- **Organization:** 0-10 points. Is your presentation organized in a logical fashion? Does the reader anticipate points before they occur, etc.?
- **Q&A:** 0-10 points. The audience will have a five-minute Q&A period. Your grade will depend upon how well you answer their questions.

The overall grade for this presentation will be worth 100 points, which itself will be 5% of your total grade.

This is a Keystone Event as defined by Handbook of Operating Procedures, Policy Number: 04-110. It cannot be skipped. An Institutional Absence will not be granted for this event.

Research Paper

This class requires a 10-page term paper, due on 25 April 2024 at the beginning of class. The paper must include at least five scholarly (refereed) sources. We will discuss this paper in detail during class.

Please submit your paper via email (mtkacik@sfasu.edu) in Microsoft Word or compatible format. Also, please submit a copy to “Turnitin” at www.turnitin.com prior to class on 25 April 2024. You should submit the paper to Michael Tkacik (American Foreign Policy). The student password (enrollment key) is: Foreign. The unique class ID is: 42292824. The research paper
will be worth 25% of your grade. I will return your graded paper when you finish your final exam.

The paper will be graded on content, grammar, organization, clarity, and the attached Term Paper guidelines.

**A proposal for your topic is due to me on 7 March 2024 at the beginning of class.** This proposal should include a short statement (no more than a paragraph or two) explaining the issue to be researched as well as a list of sources you expect to use.

**Examinations**

There will be two exams in class. Both will be primarily essay exams, though I may add some short identification questions regarding student presentations and/or group presentations to the final. The midterm will count for 20% of your grade while the final will count for 25% of your grade. Please arrive at the exam with one or more large size bluebooks. I prefer you to write in pen rather than pencil. **Please place your name, your student ID number, the course title, and the date on the BACK of the bluebook[s].**

Absolutely no early exams will be given. No make-up exams will be given unless documentary evidence is provided to show a medical emergency or other University accepted excuse. If given, the make-up exam may be more difficult and different in kind from the regularly scheduled exam.

**Grading System**

The grading system is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7 March 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25 April 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Mandatory Attendance (SATURDAY, 13 April 2024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>7 May 2024, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading briefs, general participation, library assignment, and other specified assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Due Dates**

Unless otherwise explicitly noted, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified. Work handed in thereafter will be considered late.
Late Work

Late work will be penalized 10 points for every day it is late. An assignment is late once I have concluded collecting that assignment during class. Late work will not be considered handed in until it is in my hand. You are responsible for getting it into my hand. This means that if I am not on campus, you have a problem. Save yourself some trouble and avoid late work.

Assignment Return Dates

All assignments will be returned within 14 school days of submission.

Your final exam grade will be posted within the timeline set by the University.

Graduate or Honors Credit

Anyone taking this class for graduate or Honors credit will be required to do additional assignments. Please see me by the end of the first week of classes to negotiate and sign a contract to this end.

Attendance Policy

Though I do not require attendance, I call on students at random. If you are not present, you will be given an “unprepared” (a “0”) for participation.

The Saturday conference is a “Keystone Event” per SFA Handbook of Operating Procedures, Policy 04-110. This means the event cannot be missed, even with what would otherwise be an Institutional Absence. You cannot miss this event and pass the class.

Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying
research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
Student Wellness and Well Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see generally, the Student Conduct Code, policy 04-106—https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/04-106.pdf). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program (also known as iCare). This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Some examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. arriving late for class;
2. talking while your classmates are talking or I am talking;
3. distracting your classmates or me; and/or,
4. using a cell phone (texting, talking, ringing, or otherwise), tablet, or other electronic device (you may, of course, use a notebook or tablet for note taking purposes).

Communications

Each student must use their jacks.sfasu.edu email account. You are deemed to have received any message sent to your jacks.sfasu.edu account. If you use another account, have your SFA email forwarded to that account. Make sure your jacks.sfasu.edu email does not go to a quarantine folder and/or is not interpreted as spam. All official communications in this class will be sent to your jacks.sfasu.edu account.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given in this class.

Recording Lectures

Good note taking remains important, even today. Please do not use recording devices of any kind during class. My lectures are my legally protected work product.

Timeliness

Please show up on time for class. I will shut and lock the door once class begins. You will not be permitted to enter once the door is shut.
Keep Copies of Your Work

Students are required to keep an extra copy of each assignment until the instructor has returned the graded assignment. Students are also required to keep graded, returned copies of all exams, quizzes, and writing assignments until two weeks after the final exam or until you appeal a grade, whichever comes later.

Course Complaints

Any course complaints or problems should first be discussed with the course instructor for the particular course. Difficulties can usually be resolved there. If the complaint cannot be resolved, the next person to see is the Government Department chairperson.

Other Points

The last day to drop a class is 10 April 2024

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY ANY PORTION OF THE CLASS AND/OR SYLLABUS. SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, I WILL NOTIFY YOU BY EMAIL AT YOUR JACKS.SFASU.EDU ACCOUNT.

ASSIGNMENTS

Topics

A. Introduction (Week 1) (minimum 3 hours outside of class)

1. Stephen M. Walt, “Why is the United States so bad at Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy (13 January 2020),

B. Systemic Issues (Weeks 1-2) (minimum 15 hours outside of class)

1. Samuel Huntington, Clash of Civilizations, *Foreign Affairs* 72/3 (1993), 22-49. (To be read and briefed for class meeting two: 23 January 2024)


10. Stephen Walt, Making the Grade: Is There a Way to Judge if Foreign Policy is Successful, *Foreign Policy* (June 6, 2014) (online).

C. Strategy (Weeks 3-4) (minimum 16 hours outside of class)


13. John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, The Case for Offshore Balancing,


15. Jack Snyder, Imperial Myths and Threat Inflation, in T. Thrall and J.


24. MT: Add a reading on Integrated Deterrence.

D. China (Week 5-7) (minimum 18 hours outside of class)


5. Timothy Heath and Andrew Erickson, Is China Pursuing Counter-Intervention? *The Washington Quarterly* 38/3 (Fall 2015), 143-156.


18. Andrew Krepinevich, How to Deter China, *Foreign Affairs* 94/2 (March 2015), 78-86.


22. Ely Ratner, Course Correction: How to Stop China’s Maritime Advance, *Foreign Affairs*, 96/4 (July/August 2017), 64-___.


24. Wenjuan Nie, Xi Jinping’s Foreign Policy Dilemma: One Belt, One Road or the South China Sea, *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 38/3 (2016), 422-444.


E. Democracy and Democratization (Weeks 8-9) (minimum 8 hours outside of class)


3. Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and George W. Downs, Development and Democracy, *Foreign Affairs* 84/5 (September/October 2005), 77-86.


F. Weapons of Mass Destruction (Week 10) (minimum 6 hours outside of class)


12. Add Tkacik reading on China’s Nuclear policy?

G. Nontraditional Issues (Weeks 11) (minimum 4 hours outside of class)

1. Isabel Coleman, The Payoff from Women’s Rights, *Foreign Affairs* 83/3 (May/June 2004), 80-95.


5. Elinor Sloan, Robotics and War, *Survival* 57/5 (October/November 2015), 107-120.

H. India (Week 12) (minimum 4 hours outside of class)

1. Harsh Pant, A Rising India’s Search for a Foreign Policy, *Orbis* (2009), 250-264.


I. Russia (Week 12) (minimum 6 hours outside of class)


3. Add reading on Ukraine war, origins, ways out?

J. Islam and Israel (Week 13) (minimum 6 hours outside of class)


4. A Fifth of all Congressmen taking Paid-For Holidays to Israel this Summer, Mail Online (August 8, 2011) (please locate and print out) (very short).


6. Add something on Hamas war

K. Iran (Week 14) (minimum 3 hours outside of class)


L. The Future (Week 15) (minimum 6 hours outside of class)


6. The Cost of Replacing Today’s Air Force Fleet, Congressional Budget Office (December 2018)

7. Long-Range Emerging Threats Facing the United States as Identified by Federal Agencies, Government Accountability Office (13 December 2018)

8. Lindsey Sheppard, Artificial Intelligence and National Security, CSIS (November 2018)


FINAL EXAM: 7 May 2024 (10:30 am – 12:30 pm)