

Eastern Michigan University

PLSC 327 – American Foreign Policy Processes – Writing Intensive – 3 Credits

M/W 11:00 - 12:15 Pray-Harrold 420

Winter 2018 – CRN: 26649

Instructor Information

Connor Sutton

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 12:30 – 1:45 pm or *by appointment*

Course Description:

“This course explores the content and conduct of American foreign policy. It examines American foreign policy history, theories of decision making, foreign policy actors inside and outside government, as well as specific policy areas including national security, economic prosperity, the environment, and human rights.”

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, you will be able to...

- *Recognize* the elements which impact American foreign policy and their consequences on the policy making process;
- Develop a knowledge of concepts, actors, and theories central to American foreign policy, as well as the discipline of political science and international relations;
- *Interpret and analyze* recent and historical events using evidence, theories, and concepts addressed in class;
- *Apply* learned knowledge and critical thinking skills to a variety of problems facing both the modern world and United States, as well as America’s role in the interstate system;
- *Argue* through persuasive and informed writing on a topic central to American foreign policy.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to critically engage evidence presented in class lectures, discussions, and films. You will need to regularly attend classes, participate fully in class, and complete all assigned readings and assignments. This course will consist of weekly lectures and class discussions. The course will engage a range of topics central to American foreign policy – including the topics of international relations theory, the history of AFP, decision making, international organizations, war, terrorism, and climate change, among other topics. Final grades in this class will be earned from two take-home exams, a term paper, and three term-paper related assignments (paper proposal, lit review, rough draft).

Writing Intensive Requirements

PLSC 327 satisfies the writing Intensive requirement of the General Education curriculum. In this course, you will be required to write a term paper with a minimum length of 15 pages. This class will equip

students with the skills necessary to successfully meet this challenging assignment – including reading comprehension, forming research questions, research skills, synthesizing published research, analysis, and argumentation. These skills form the basis of the discipline of political science and will prepare you to be successful in the field. The paper will be sequenced to ensure students can successfully complete the assignment and craft a quality product. The sequences are as follows: paper proposal, lit review, rough draft w/ peer review, final paper. Each will be graded independently. The final paper will comprise 25% of final grades, with an additional 20% in the various related assignments.

Exams:

This class will have two exams. These exams will be **take-home** exams. Exams will consist of short answers and essay questions. The second exam will be due on the scheduled 'final' date per the EMU final exam schedule and must be turned in at that time. Each exam is worth 50pts

Term Paper:

Each student will complete a paper on a topic germane to the topics discussed in class. The term paper will be a minimum of 15 pages in length (double spaced), and all topics must be approved by the instructor by the date in the course schedule. All papers must be properly cited, using a proper academic style of citation (i.e. APSA, MLA, Chicago), use normal fonts, standard margins, and 10-12 point font. Please see the detailed term paper instructions on Canvas. The term paper has several component assignments, including a paper proposal, 5 journal guides, literature review, and peer review. See the schedule below for due dates and canvas for assignment specifics.

Course Materials

REQUIRED:

Major Problems in American Foreign Relations, Volume II, 7th ed.

Eds. Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Patterson

Other Required/Optional Readings:

Throughout course of the semester, several other texts may be provided, either as required or suggested, and will be posted electronically.

Communication Policy:

- If at any point during the semester questions, comments, concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is the fastest and easiest way to reach me. I will always respond within 2448 hours, except for weekends, breaks, and holidays. When emailing, **please put PLSC 327 in the subject line**. Please also be sure to identify yourself in your email. Finally, remember that emailing is not text messaging. Be sure to use full sentences, punctuation, and all formalities you would use in academic writing. If for whatever reason you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, please send another email. *Please note that I may not respond if there is not a specific question due to the volume of emails I receive but that does not mean I have not made note of your comment.* As a test, to see if students read the entire syllabus, you will receive 2pts of extra credit on your first assignment if you email me by our second-class meeting with a brief personal introduction.

- I also encourage students to make use of office hours (times listed above). If these hours do not work, please inform me and we will make other arrangements to meet.

Technology Policy:

- In today's classroom, technology plays an integral role. With that in mind, you may use laptops, electronic note taking devices, etc... ○ **However, if at any point your electronic device becomes a distraction to you, those around you, or to me, I will ask that you cease to use it.** Please refrain from cell phone usage in the class. Keep cell phones on silent in class.

Grading Policies:

% 5 Participation (10 pts)

% 20 Essay Sequences (proposal 10pts, journal guides 10pts, lit review 10pts, rough draft w/ peer review 10 pts)

% 25 Essay Assignment (50pts for final paper)

% 25 Midterm Exam 50 pts

% 25 Final Exam 50 pts

%100

- **A = 94-100 A- = 91-93 B+ = 88-90 B = 84- 87 B- = 81-83 C+ = 78-80 C = 74-77 C- = 71-73 D+ = 68-70 D = 64-67 D- = 59-63 F = Less than 58**

Late Policy:

- **For each calendar day an assignment, exam, or paper is turned in late, it will be marked down a full letter grade – Do not be late.**

Attendance:

- Attendance is mandatory. You may miss two classes without penalty to your participation grade. If you must miss for a Eastern Michigan University event (athletics, music, club etc...) please notify me well in advance, especially when concerning tests, papers, and assignments. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis.
- If you must miss class on the day of an assignment, you may turn it in early electronically. Otherwise all assignments must be turned in during class time (hardcopy).

Religious Holidays

- Eastern Michigan University recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student.
 - Students will provide advance notice to their instructors in order to make up work, including examinations, which they miss as a result of their absence from class due to observance of religious holidays.
 - If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the appropriate instructor(s), students may appeal to the head(s) of the department(s) in which the course(s) is/are offered.

EMU Extreme Weather Policy

- It is the policy of Eastern Michigan University that the President or his/her designee, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and the Physical Plant, has the authority to temporarily modify class and/or work schedules in the event of extreme weather conditions including but not limited to snow, freezing rain, floods, and hazardous winds. This decision may include the temporary cancellation of all or part of scheduled academic programs and closure of the University.

Student Exchange Visitor Statement (SEVIS)

- Please see following link: <http://www.emich.edu/oiss/immigrationstatus.html>

Student with Disabilities

- Statement from EMU DRC:
 - The Disability Resource Center (DRC) views disabilities as an integral part of the rich diversity at Eastern Michigan University. To that end, we work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to create an inclusive educational environment for students. **We are available to faculty and students to explore how best to implement accommodations or to think in terms of inclusive course design.** The DRC acknowledges that classroom and campus accessibility needs and considerations is expanding as more classes and campus experiences incorporate online and technological components. We are happy to discuss any course or campus barriers that may be preventing access to education and an equitable campus experience for students.
- Disability Resource Center Link: <http://www.emich.edu/drc/>

Academic Dishonesty

Engaging in academic dishonesty in any form with respect to examinations, course assignments, research projects, grades, and/or academic records, including, but not limited to the following:

- *Cheating* - using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic assignment. Examples of cheating are: looking on someone else's paper; using any kind of "cheat" sheet or other enhancement during a test; allowing someone else to take an exam in your place; submitting the same work more than once for credit; using someone else's homework or lab assignments; collaborating with another student on any assignment or take-home test if told that collaboration was not allowed; assisting another student in committing an act of academic dishonesty by allowing another student to copy homework or an exam; taking an exam for someone else; or giving test information to students in other sections of the same class.
- *Falsification* - intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic assignment. Examples of falsification are: making up data on an assignment; making up a source to cite in a paper; altering then resubmitting returned academic work; giving false information to a faculty or staff member to increase one's grade; or attempting to change, actually changing, altering grades or any other unauthorized tampering with grades.
- *Plagiarism* - deliberate and knowing use of someone else's work or ideas as one's own. Examples of plagiarism are: quoting a source verbatim, or paraphrasing text from a given source, without properly citing the source; turning in a research paper that was written by someone else; or in any

other way passing off someone else's work as one's own; or failing to give credit for ideas or materials taken from someone else.

EMU Writing Center

- The University Writing Center (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. The UWC opens for the Fall 2016 semester on Monday, September 12 and will close on Thursday, December 15. Students are encouraged to come to the UWC at any stage of the writing process. The UWC also has several satellite locations across campus (in Owen, Marshall, Pray-Harold, and Mark Jefferson). These satellites provide drop-in writing support to students in various colleges and programs. Satellite locations and hours can be found on the UWC web site: <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.
- UWC writing consultants also work in the Academic Projects Center (116 Halle Library), which offers drop-in consulting for students on writing, research, and technology-related issues. The APC is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>.
- Students seeking writing support at any location of the University Writing Center should bring a draft of their writing (along with any relevant instructions or rubrics) to work on during the consultation.

| <u>Unit</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Reading (* = Canvas; + = Textbook; @ = suggested)</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
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| Syllabus | 1/3 | Syllabus and writing expectations | Read, then reread the syllabus! | |
| The World Stage | 1/8 1/10 | IR Foundations | *Kagan 2015, <i>The Weight of Geopolitics</i> *Waltz 1991, <i>America as a Model for the World? A Foreign Policy Prospective</i> + McCormick, <i>The World System, Hegemony, and Decline</i> + Leffler, <i>National Security, Core Values, and Power</i> | |
| Paradigms in World Politics | 1/15 1/17 | Paradigms and Inquiry in World Politics | *Kuhn 1970, <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> (Chapters 1-4) @*Vasquez 1997, <i>The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz's Balancing Proposition</i> @*Waltz 1997, <i>Evaluating Theories</i> | |

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| | 1/22 | Realism | +La Follette (33-34) +Carr 1939, Chapter 5 (@Suggested Chapter 4) @Morgenthau 1948, <i>Politics among Nations</i> (Available in library) | ***tentative paper topics due in class 1/22 (not graded)*** |
| | 1/24 | LIBRARY DAY | Find sources in library for term paper | ***LIBRARY DAY 1/24 *** ROOM TBA |
| | 1/29 | Neorealism | *Waltz 1998, <i>The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory</i> @Waltz 1979, <i>Theory of International Politics</i> (Available in library) | |
| | 1/31 | Liberalism | +Wilson (31-33; 34-36; 36-42) +Knock, <i>From Peace to War: Progressive Internationalists Confront the Forces of Reaction</i> | |
| | 2/5 | Neoliberalism | *Milner 1993, <i>The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory</i> *Keohane, <i>Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond</i> @+McEnaney, <i>Gender Analysis and Foreign Relations</i> @+ Krenn, <i>the Adaptable Power of Racism</i> | |
| History of American Foreign Policy (1898-1991) | 2/7 2/12 | 1898-1991 | +Knock, <i>From Peace to War: Progressive Internationalists Confront the Forces of Reaction</i> +Weinberg, <i>The Global Threat and the Case for War</i> +Gaddis, <i>Two Cold War Empires: Imposition and Multilateralism</i> +Christensen, <i>The Lost Chance for Peace: Washington's Rejected Chinese Communist Overtures</i> +Sherry, <i>Eisenhower's Heroic but Failed Attempt Against Militarization</i> +Woods, <i>An Unwinnable War</i> +Hunt, <i>Cold War Triumphalism and U.S. Led Globalization</i> | ***Paper proposal due 2/7*** |

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| Elements of American Foreign Policy | 2/14 2/26 | Decision Making | *Allison 1969, <i>Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> +Merrill and Patterson (362-379; 461-463) @Allison and Zelikow 1999, <i>Essence of Decision</i> (Available in library) | |
| | 2/28 | Polarity and Alliances | *Walt 1985, <i>Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power</i> +Nixon Discusses "Philosophy" with Mao Zedong (457-460) | |

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| | | | *Layne 1993, <i>The Unipolar Illusion: Why New Great Powers Will Rise</i> | |
| | 3/5 3/7 | International Organizations | *Grieco 1988, <i>Understanding the Problem International Cooperation: the Limits of Neoliberal Institutionalism and the Future of Realist Theory</i> *Preamble to the U.N. Charter +Articles 10-16 of the League of Nations Covenant (36-37) | ***TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE 3/7 at START OF CLASS*** |
| | 3/12 3/14 | War | *Waltz 1967, <i>The Politics of Peace</i> *Twain 1905, <i>The War Prayer</i> @Vasquez (2 nd ed) 2012, <i>What Do We Know About War?</i> @Organski and Kugler 1981, <i>The War Ledger</i> @Bueno de Misquita 1981, <i>The War Trap</i> | |
| | 3/19 3/21 | The Democratic Peace? | *Russett 1995, <i>The Fact of the Democratic Peace</i> *Layne 1994, <i>Kant or Can't: the Myth of the Democratic Peace</i> | ***Lit Review DUE 3/21 in class *** |

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| | 3/26 3/28 | Nuclear Weapons | No required Readings – Just write! @Waltz 1983, <i>Toward a Nuclear Peace</i> @Waltz 1990, <i>Nuclear Myths and Political Realities</i> @Mueller 1988, <i>The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World</i> @ Geller 1990, Nuclear Weapons, Deterrence, and Crisis Escalation | |
| Contemporary American Foreign Policy and It's Future | 4/2 4/4 | <i>"The Clash of Civilizations"</i> | *Huntington 1993, <i>The Clash of Civilizations?</i> +Bush 2001 (554-557) +Khalidi 2004 (565-567) +Obama 2009 (573-578) @Huntington 1996, <i>The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order</i> (Available in the library) | ***Peer Review Due 4/2 in class*** |
| | 4/9 | Terrorism and American Response | TBD | |
| | 4/11 4/16 | Responding to Climate Change in Anarchy | TBD | ***FINAL DRAFT PAPER DUE 4/16*** |
| | 4/23 | EXAM | | ***EXAM DUE DURING SCHEDULED EXAM TIME*** |