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## Political Science 383 -U.S. Foreign Policy (**In Person**)

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Fall 2023

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| Instructor:            | Dr. Saemyi Park  |
| Class Location & Time: | <b>SCI D320 &amp; T/TH 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM</b>  |
| Instructor's Office:   | Science Building D335  |
| Office Hours:          | <b>Online:</b> Monday from 2 PM to 4 PM via Zoom<br><b>In-Person:</b> 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM (T/TH) and by appointment   |
| Email                  | <a href="mailto:spark@uwsp.edu">spark@uwsp.edu</a>   |
| Important Note         | Please keep in mind that this syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, is subject to change. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement in Canvas and through email. |

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to gain a better understanding of U.S. foreign policy. No prior background in international relations is assumed. At the beginning of the semester, we will briefly review the history of U.S. foreign policy and theoretical frameworks to analyze key events and decisions made in the post-war era until today. Then, we will move on to explore processes of foreign policymaking and examine how these policies are made. Our principal focus in this class is to understand the different roles and interests among many actors such as bureaucratic agencies, institutions, the public, interest groups, the media, and the international arena. Throughout the semester, we will review foreign policy challenges facing the United States and its policymakers. Some of the topics we will discuss have been long-standing dilemmas, but others have become prominent challenges only recently.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & ASSESSMENT

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

- LO1: Develop a basic understanding of the historical debates and competing perspectives inside U.S. foreign policy
- LO2: Integrate theory and practice by examining current policy arenas and historical cases
- LO3: Identify key actors and sources of the policy-making process, paying particular attention to the diverse array of social, political, and economic forces that influence the policymaking process
- LO4: Improve professional skills including clear and effective oral presentation, written argumentation, and policy memo formulation

Students will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Exams (LO1, LO2 & LO3)
- Policy Briefing (LO1, LO2, LO3)
- Film Analysis & In-Class Activity (LO2 & LO3 & LO4)
- Policy Memo (LO2 & LO3 & LO4)
- Class Discussion & Simulation (for all LOs)

## REQUIRED READINGS

The following book has been ordered at University Bookstore for textbook rental:

- Title: ***The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*** (7<sup>th</sup> Core Edition, 2021)
- Authors: James M. Scott and Jerel A. Rosati
- Publisher: SAGE/CQ Press

Please find **Textbook Rental Information** for in-person pickup or shipping options at <https://www.uwsp.edu/centers/store/Pages/default.aspx>. Please make sure to have it with you BEFORE the first main module begins. Additionally, other learning materials such as newspaper articles, reports, data, documentaries, and more will be used for each topic. Learning materials will be shared at the course site in Canvas.

This class brings together scholarly perspectives and real-world U.S. foreign policy decisions and outcomes. I want to help you become critical consumers of current events and journalistic writing on these subjects. Students should therefore stay current with foreign policy developments by reading a major newspaper on a daily basis (including *The Economist*, *The Financial*, *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Washington Post*). Second, students should subscribe to a daily digest of foreign policy news such as **Foreign Policy Magazine’s Editor’s Picks**. To sign up for this free e-newsletter, please go to: <https://foreignpolicy.com/newsletters/>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

|                              | Weight | Due Date              |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Midterm Exam                 | 20%    | October 26 (TH)       |
| Final Exam                   | 20%    | December 18 (M)       |
| Policy Briefing              | 15%    | on your assigned date |
| Film Presentation & Activity | 15%    | see page              |
| Policy Memo                  | 20%    | December 20 (W)       |
| Attendance & Participation   | 10%    | Every class           |
| Total                        | 100%   |                       |

Note: **Students MUST complete all required work** in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. **You do NOT have the option to “take a zero” on each assignment.** Not submitting all required work will result in either an F for the course or a final grade of incomplete until the work is submitted (however, this option is rarely permitted to students). Late submission is not accepted unless you receive permission from the instructor in advance. Please read the attendance policy on page 5 for more information about the excusable absence.

## GRADING SCALE

I will use the weight system and follow the university’s standard grading scale for a letter grade. There is no curve.

|                       |    |          |    |       |    |       |
|-----------------------|----|----------|----|-------|----|-------|
| <b>Outstanding</b>    | A  | 94-100   | A- | 90-93 |    |       |
| <b>Above average</b>  | B+ | 87-89    | B  | 83-86 | B- | 80-82 |
| <b>Average</b>        | C+ | 77-79    | C  | 73-76 | C- | 70-72 |
| <b>Below average</b>  | D+ | 67-69    | D  | 63-66 |    |       |
| <b>Unsatisfactory</b> | F  | Below 62 |    |       |    |       |

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

### A. *Online Exam (20% per each exam)*

There are TWO ONLINE exams, which will take place on the course site in Canvas. Each exam will be open at 9 AM and close at 11:59 PM on the scheduled exam day. You will be given two hours to take the test. Once you start the test, you are not allowed to take a break to return. If you need accommodation for the exam, please contact the UWSP Disability Resource Center (<https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>) and arrange for the DRC letter to be delivered to me as soon as possible.

The midterm exam covers the first part of the subjects, and the final exam will cover the topics addressed in class after the first exam. That is, the exam is **NOT cumulative**. The format of exams is a combination of multiple-choice questions, true-or-false questions, fill-in-the-blank questions, and short-answer questions. **A study guide** will be distributed one week before each exam, and I will provide a review session before each exam.

|                   | <b>Review Session</b> | <b>Exam Day</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Midterm Exam Week | Oct. 24 (T)           | Oct. 26 (TH)    |
| Final Exam Week   | Dec. 14 (TH)          | Dec. 18 (M)     |

Because it is an online exam that is open for a day, students would not have a make-up exam opportunity. Only extraordinary circumstances can excuse your absence on the exam day. You

must have instructor approval BEFORE the exam. Please keep in mind that it is extremely rare for students to have a make-up exam opportunity. A make-up exam will be all essay questions, and you need to take it on the last day of class in my office. It will be much harder to complete the make-up test.

**B. Policy Briefing (15%)**

To achieve the goal of becoming an effective ‘consumer’ of foreign policy decisions and outcomes, you are invited to lead a short briefing to address the topic of your interest. That is, you will present a “Foreign Policy in the News” to the class. This will encourage you to critically assess whether historical theories work for current challenges with comprehension of the complexities of the foreign policymaking process.

On the second day of the semester, you will sign up for a class session (two choices). I will collect this information and assign you to the topic based on your preference. Then, you will do some research on finding the news stories featuring the topic of your choice and brief it to the class for 7-10 minutes. It is an individual work, and the following contents should be included in your briefing:

- Briefly summarize the article’s main points. Highlight the main points.
  - What happened? Where? When?
  - How is the United States involved in this case?
- Critique the article.
  - Do you agree with the findings?
  - What makes this topic difficult (or maybe, not difficult, in your estimate)?
  - Does the article point out new challenges vis-à-vis the class readings?
  - What implications does the article have for future foreign policy research?

You will need to share a link on the course site in Canvas. You are asked to use the PowerPoint slides. You will receive a separate worksheet during the second week of the classes.

**C. Film Presentation & Activity (15%)**

You will watch two films throughout the semester in light of the lecture materials and assigned readings for this course. You will be given the in-class activity where you can exercise the incorporation of learning materials to analyze the film’s theme that is related to U.S. Foreign Policy.

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|                      | <b>Showing Dates (in class)</b> | <b>Activity (in class)</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Film Presentation I  | Oct. 17 (T)                     | Oct. 19 (TH)               |
| Film Presentation II | Nov. 28 (T)                     | Nov. 30 (TH)               |

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Film showing occurs in class during the designated class time. The class on the following Thursday will be devoted to the in-class activity. The activity should be completed on the scheduled date. A separate worksheet will be distributed in class for more details.

#### ***D. Policy Memo (20%)***

Students should write an 8-10 page policy memo to the American president. You will select an important, current U.S. foreign policy issue, identify the goal(s) to be achieved, assess the current operations and/or efforts for the issue, outline the alternatives for U.S. policy to reach those objectives, weigh the costs and benefits of each alternative, and makes a recommendation about which course to follow.

Examples could include containing and rolling back North Korea's nuclear program, withdrawal from Afghanistan, deterring the Russian threat in Europe, how to handle Brexit, renegotiating NAFTA, etc. Students are required to discuss their topics and their plans for the assignment with the professor during office hours, prior to the due date of the memo. Memos are to be uploaded to Canvas as a Word document by **11:59 PM on Wednesday, December 20**. The memo should include a one-page executive summary up front. A separate worksheet will be distributed in early October.

#### ***E. Attendance & Participation (10%)***

You are required to attend all class sessions. It is your interest too. Students who regularly attend class generally enjoy the course more, learn more, and get the most out of their education with higher grades. In addition, you are expected to enrich the learning experience of fellow students and teachers through regular attendance and active participation in class. For most class times, you will be invited to complete a brief activity that helps you better understand the topic of American Politics. These activities will promote in-depth class discussion and will be graded.

We will have about 30 class sessions throughout the semester. **7 OR MORE unexcused absences will result in an automatic F in the course.** Please make sure to be aware of this policy. Please keep in mind that only a few cases are considered as excusable absences:

1. UWSP-sponsored activities (sports games, organization events, etc.)
2. The university-recognized religious holidays
3. The serious and extraordinary circumstances of your medical issues

In the above-mentioned cases, you are required to submit the proof of evidence to the instructor in advance. For the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cases, you are supposed to know the schedule already or by the beginning of the semester. Please check your schedule and the course calendar to see if any conflicts occur. Make sure to submit the official documents (letters, emails from the coach, etc.) by September 21 (TH).

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> case, you should inform your instructor immediately and provide the documentation within 48 hours of the event occurring. I reserve the right to review the document and determine if your absence is excusable. If you are simply sick or under the weather, you do not need to email me about it. I will give you **TWO free passes** on your attendance record.

## GENERAL RULES

**Readings:** Students are required to complete each week's required readings before that lecture. You need to bring your book, assigned readings, and lecture notes to each class.

**Assignments:** Online submission through Canvas is required for writing assignments. Late submission or email submission is NOT accepted except for a very rare case as written in the previous section. You must faithfully follow the instructions regarding the format, style, and length of these assignments.

**Late Submission:** If you miss the deadline for any activities for unforeseen reasons, please contact me as soon as possible. I understand that students may encounter unplanned and unfortunate circumstances. Therefore, I will accept your late work within 5 days of the original deadline. There will be a 10% penalty per day.

**Canvas:** This course will have a site on Canvas. Course materials including, but not limited to, lecture notes, additional readings, data, and/or reports will be shared on the course site. Make sure that you check this site before every class.

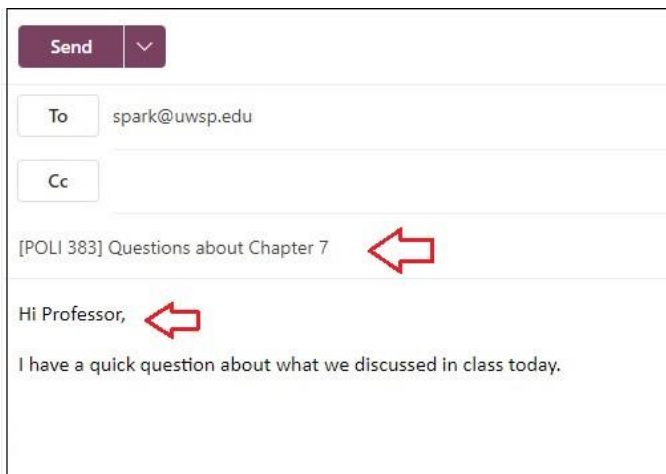
**Lectures:** Before we begin a topic in class, I will post an outline of the lecture material on the course website. The outlines give you the framework of the lecture but do not give you the entire script. If you wish, you can print these outlines and bring them with you to class to use as a base for notetaking. You will learn and remember better when you write things down yourself. Regarding notetaking, make sure you take notes that will be meaningful to you later when you are reviewing your notes, rather than focusing only on transcribing the slides verbatim.

**Office Hours:** I will have office hours in two different ways (in-person & online). Please utilize this opportunity to make yourself clear with course materials. I highly recommend you to visit my office hours to discuss your assignments such as policy briefing and policy memo. Email consultation on these assignments is not recommended. If my regular online office hours do not work for you, you can certainly schedule an online meeting for a different time and/or date. Just email me to set up the appointment. The Zoom link will be posted on the course site.

- **In-Person:** 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM (T/TH) & by appointment
- **Online:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (W) & by appointment

**Technology Policy:** Technology devices are NOT allowed to be used in class except for some cases where you are asked to bring your laptop for class activities. Out of respect for your fellow students, your professor, and the educational process, all technology devices (iPad, Kindle, cell/smartphones, Laptop, etc.) must be powered down and put away, not on the desk or in your hoodie pocket, or on your lap, during class. If texting, using social media, and attending to tasks other than the class material are more important than paying attention for 75 minutes, please do not come to class. If you feel you have an emergency that requires your phone to vibrate, please clear this with the professor before class begins. Students who disregard the policy will be asked to leave class.

**Email:** Email is a convenient way to continue contact between the professor and students outside of class. Email is best for 1-2 sentence responses, and conceptual questions do not lend themselves well to email. If you have any questions regarding your papers, please visit my office hours for an in-depth consultation. I will NOT consult on your written assignment via email. While students should take advantage of this email communication opportunity with me, you should also do so in a professional manner. I may not be able to respond to your email if it does not meet the following format:



The image shows a screenshot of an email composition interface. At the top left is a 'Send' button with a dropdown arrow. Below it are fields for 'To' (containing 'spark@uwsp.edu') and 'Cc'. The subject line is '[POLI 383] Questions about Chapter 7', with a red arrow pointing to it. The body of the email starts with 'Hi Professor,' followed by a red arrow pointing to the salutation. The main text reads 'I have a quick question about what we discussed in class today.'

Include a course # in a parenthesis & indicate the reason for contact in the subject line.

Have a proper salutation.

Indicate who you are and what your concerns are.

I will also NOT respond to emails that ask for answers to questions that can easily be found on the syllabus or the lecture notes. If you have a question regarding lectures or assigned material that you just cannot seem to master, then ask a question in class, or come to me during office hours. I will only respond to questions about coursework or academic requirements, and I may not respond to questions of a personal nature. I will be able to respond to your email during weekdays (not weekends), but please email me again if you do not receive my response within 48 hours.

**Respect:** I expect all students to behave professionally in this class. I am intolerant of disruptive behavior in the classroom, including talking during lectures, reading newspapers, frequently going to a restroom, and especially playing with digital devices. Students engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom in order to preserve the learning environment for other students. Class discussions are expected to be civil, rational, and respectful of others' opinions. Please do not intimidate, patronize, or ridicule anyone else during the course of classroom activities. This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting history, theories, and policies. Students are encouraged to share their questions and ideas in lectures. Since there will be differences and disagreements, students are expected to show respect to the comments and positions of fellow students and me.

**Honesty:** Any instance of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and may result in failure of the course. Misconduct will result in notification to the Dean of Students. If you are having a problem, it is much better to talk to me about it. Do not struggle by yourself. I want you to learn and do well in this course, not punish you with a lower grade. Talk to me if you are having a problem so I can try to help you work out a solution. In addition, there is a great resource for your study on the campus. The Tutoring-Learning Center provides a variety of services to support your needs such as Writing Lab and One-On-One Assistance for Study Skills. Please contact Learning Resource Center (715-346-3568 & [tlctutor@uwsp.edu](mailto:tlctutor@uwsp.edu) & [www.uwsp.edu/tlc](http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc)) for more information.

**Academic Coaching:** if you feel you need help with any of the following skills - time management strategies, note-taking, study skills, communication on campus, or preparing for mid-terms, please consider scheduling an appointment with an Academic Coach on campus or virtually. They are here to help you be successful in your online courses when you feel you need extra support. Email **Kari Van Den Elzen** ([kvandene@uwsp.edu](mailto:kvandene@uwsp.edu)) to schedule an appointment or use the Navigate student app by selecting Tutoring Learning Center. You can meet as many times as you need. Coaches are also available to review campus technology platforms with you. (Canvas, AccesSPoint, Office 365, Navigate, etc.)



## COURSE CALENDAR

(Topics, readings, and schedule subject to announced change by instructor.)

| Topic   | Tentative Dates     | Readings        |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| Introduction                                      | Sept. 5 & Sept. 7   | None            |
| Theoretical Overviews                             | Sept. 12 & Sept. 14 | Ch. 1 & Ch. 2   |
| POTUS & White House Leadership                    | Sept. 19 & Sept. 21 | Ch. 3           |
| Bureaucracy: The Dept of State                    | Sept. 26 & Sept. 28 | Ch. 4           |
| Bureaucracy: The Dept of Defense                  | Oct. 3 & Oct. 5     | Ch. 5           |
| Bureaucracy: The Intelligence Community           | Oct. 10 & Oct. 12   | Ch. 6           |
| <b>Film Presentation Week I</b>                   | Oct. 17 & Oct. 19   |                 |
| <b>Review Session</b>                             | <b>Oct. 24</b>      |                 |
| <b>Midterm Exam</b>                               | <b>Oct. 26</b>      |                 |
| Bureaucracy: The National Security Council System | Oct. 31 & Nov. 2    | Ch. 7           |
| Bureaucracy: National Economic council            | Nov. 7 & Nov. 9     | Ch. 8           |
| Congress & Interbranch Politics                   | Nov. 14 & Nov. 16   | Ch. 9 & Ch. 10  |
| <b>Special Activity</b>                           | Nov. 21             |                 |
| <b>Film Presentation Week II</b>                  | Nov. 28 & Nov. 30   |                 |
| The Public & Interest Group                       | Dec. 5 & Dec. 7     | Ch. 11 & Ch. 12 |
| The Media   | Dec. 12             | Ch. 13          |
| <b>Review Session</b>                             | <b>Dec. 14</b>      |                 |
| <b>Final Exam</b>                                 | <b>Dec. 18 (M)</b>  |                 |

- No class on November 25 (TH): Thanksgiving Recess