US FOREIGN POLICY, PS220
Syllabus, Spring, 2003

Instructor: Doug Clark
Office: T-212
Phone: 917-4557

E-Mail: doug.clark@linnbenton.edu

Texts: PRIMIS: Foreign and Defense Policy
THE PARADOX OF AMERICAN POWER by Joseph Nye

Additional readings will be included on the Course Calendar, Notes, Resources and Topics pages on the course web-site: [http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social_sciences/clarkd/web.cfm?pgID=16](http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social_sciences/clarkd/web.cfm?pgID=16) and occasionally as hand-outs in class.

Purpose of the Course: This course is an introduction to the relations of the United States with other states, organizations and interests. We focus on what those relations are----a descriptive task; the politics of those relations, the who decides and with what consequences---an analytical task; and, the debate about what those relations should be----a prescriptive task.

Needless to say, this is a particularly auspicious moment to examine U. S. foreign policy as recent events have witnessed a major revision in grand strategy for the first time since the end of World War II. For the past decade the U.S. has been in the throes of a struggle to understand the meaning of the U.S. national interest as the world that provided the explanation for America’s diplomacy, strategy and tactics over the past 50 years was transformed by the death of the Soviet system. Clearly the terrorist attacks on the U.S. have opened up to the Bush administration an opportunity to initiate a new set of answers to the question of how the world’s greatest power should use its economic, military and diplomatic resources to preserve the nation’s people, territory and values. The purpose of the course is to help us join the discussion as students and citizens by exploring the major substantive topics of foreign policy and by examining the decision-making process.

Our study begins with the war in Iraq as the first major manifestation of the emerging Bush doctrine. We then turn to a brief overview of recent U.S. foreign policies and a summary of the policy-making process.

Methods of Instruction and Evaluation: Class time will be taken up with discussions, videos, class presentations and lectures. Please do the readings on time. Please be in class regularly. This is not a correspondence course! Your success will depend on your regular involvement in the work of the class.

Each of us, in order to understand the U. S. in the world, needs to look, listen and discuss. You will be much more successful if you take some time to regularly follow a good source of news and information about current foreign policy. In print (and on-line) I recommend the New York Times; on the radio (and on-line) I recommend NPR (550AM) generally and The World (3pm, weekdays) specifically; on television (and on-line) I recommend The News Hour (Channel 10, 7pm, weeknights); for perspective from outside the US I recommend the International Herald Tribune and the BBC.
These are only a few of the worthwhile sources available to you. It is not required that you select one of these. It is necessary to your success in the class and your general awareness of U.S. foreign policy that you decide on some news sources and make them a part of your daily routine.

**In general, you will be evaluated on the basis of your commitment to the course as demonstrated by your participation in the reading and discussion process.**

**Grades** will be based on the following:

- 7 discussion sheets @ 10 points each = 70 points
- 1 letter to your member of Congress = 30 points
- 1 foreign policy position paper = 100 points
- 2 exams @ 50 points each = 100 points

**300 total points:** A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%

**Late Assignments:** All of the written assignments are take-homes. They should be turned in on time. I will not accept papers that are more than three (3) class meetings late. Within this time-frame, late papers will lose 40% of their value. I will try to return on-time papers within three class meetings. For late papers, I make no promises. If your attendance is good and your papers on time, you may re-write papers to improve your grade. Of course, there will be no penalty if you are late due to circumstances beyond your control

**Course Calendar—Readings and Topics**

**Week 1 (April 1) The Bush Doctrine and the War in Iraq**

**Reading:** Kagan and Kristol, “The Bush Doctrine Unfolds”

Justifications for a War Against Iraq—a Synopsis
[http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/bush/iraqjust.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/bush/iraqjust.htm)

Nicholas Lemann, “How It Came to War”
[http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/030331fa_fact](http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/030331fa_fact)

Timothy Garton Ash, “Beyond the Sandstorm”
[http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,917856,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,917856,00.html)

Brian Urquhart, “The Prospect of War”
[http://www.nybooks.com/articles/15911](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/15911)

Michael Klare, “The Coming War with Iraq”

**Video:** Frontline: The War Behind Closed Doors
Unless citizens are armed with deeper understanding of the implications of foreign policy decisions and an awareness of a wider range of policy alternatives, they are easy marks for demagogic rhetoric. In an age of propaganda, media hype, and disinformation, the message most people hear is that issues of war and peace are too complicated to think about.

Richard Barnet, 1990

Week 2 (April 8)  The Grand Strategy Debate and the Bush Doctrine

Reading: Nicholas Lemann, “The Next World Order”
http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?020401fa_FACT1

Frontline Companion Web-site
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/iraq/

National Security Strategy of the United States
http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html

Jack Spencer, “Why Preemption is Necessary”
http://www.heritage.org/Research/MiddleEast/wm226.cfm

Steven Weisman, “Pre-emption: Idea With a Lineage…”
http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/bush/preempt.html

Week 3 (April 15)  The U.S. in the World—The Doctrinal Record

Reading: PRIMIS—Patterson, “Foreign and Defense Policy”
“The Machinery of American Foreign Policy”
http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social_science/clarkd/upload/mak.pdf

FPIF, Who’s Who in the Bush Administration
http://www.foreignpolicy-infocus.org/republicanrule/profiles.html

NOW, “Selling the War: Propaganda and History”
http://www.pbs.org/now/politics/propaganda.html

Video: Frontline: Give War a Chance
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/military/

Week 4 (April 22)  Liberal Internationalists and Realists: How to Use Power

Reading: Nye, Preface
Chapter 1, “The American Colossus”
Chapter 2, “The Information Revolution”
Consider how the global transformation of the past quarter century has challenged the traditional concept of national security:

“In effect, the world has become smaller yet less secure……self-preservation in an interdependent world means controlling a state’s entire environment of action. For a great power, whose economic ties and alliance relations stretch around the planet, the security arena is truly global. To extend the largely obsolete traditional concept: security=military control+national autonomy into a world of growing interdependence entails the gargantuan task of policing the entire world.

Gordon Schloming, 1991

Week 5 (April 29) U.S. Foreign Policy and Multi-lateralism---Irreconcilable?
Reading: Nye, Chapter 3, “Globalization”
Chapter 4, “The Home Front”
“The Unilateralist—A Conversation with Paul Wolfowitz”

Foreign Policy Magazine, “If I Were President”

Week 6 (May 6) Post-9-11 National Security---the War on Terror
Reading: Jeffrey Goldberg, “The Unknown”
http://www.newyorker.com/printable/?fact/030210fa_fact

Week 7 (May 13) North Korea, Pakistan, and the Problem of Proliferation
Reading: Carnegie Endowment, “Non-Proliferation Project”
http://www.ceip.org/files/projects/npp/npp_home.ASP
Selig Harrison, “Gas and Geopolitics in NE Asia”
http://www.worldpolicy.org/journal/articles/wpi02-4/harrison.html

Week 8 (May 20) Nation-building and the Remaking of the Middle East
Reading: Nicholas Lemann, “After Iraq”
http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?030217fa_fact

Week 9 (May 27) US Foreign Policy—What is the National Interest?
Reading: Nye, Chapter 5, “Redefining the National Interest”
Week 10 (June 3)  
**U.S. Foreign Policy—Judgements and Recommendations**  
**Reading:**  
*Michael Ignatieff, “The Burden”*  
[http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/bush/burden.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/bush/burden.htm)

Week 11 (June 10)  
**Final Thoughts and Final Exams**

You’ve got to be taught  
To hate and to fear,  
You’ve got to be taught  
From year to year……..  

You’ve got to be taught  
Before its too late  
Before you are six  
Before you are eight  
To Hate all the people  
Your relatives hate.  

from the musical *South Pacific*