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Elizabethtown College
Fall Semester, 2010
Classroom: Zug 126
TTh: 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

PS 345 American Foreign Policy
(A Policy Approach)
4 credits

This syllabus is online with assignment hyperlinks at <http://users.etown.edu/s/selchewa/home/PS345.pdf>.

In this course we will examine contemporary U.S. foreign policy within an analytical framework designed to identify both the processes of reaching policy decisions and the patterns of those decisions over time. We will identify the long-standing principles, values, and interests of the United States that condition the ways in which today's policymakers respond to and shape changes in the international and domestic environments. Forces for continuity and those for change will be considered, especially regarding institutional characteristics and roles, and personal and public perceptions, values, and beliefs. We will analyze some of the current and future issues, debates, challenges, and opportunities facing the foreign policy community and the public, in regard to historical context, trends and options, and pros and cons. The theme of values, alternatives, and choices within bounded decision possibilities will be a constant in our conceptually-based approach. Many of the main concepts are in "Key Concepts" and "Other Key Terms" at the end of every chapter in the Rosati and Scott text.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who pass this course will be able to discuss and apply to concrete cases the major concepts and theories that explain and interpret American foreign policy formulation and execution, in both international and domestic aspects. They will be able to identify the major elements and trends of continuity and change in U.S. foreign policy over several decades of time, understanding foreign policy as a process rather than as a collection of unrelated facts or events. They will be able to use a sound combination of quality printed and online sources in proper bibliographic form to analyze the nature and implications of a specific current foreign policy issue, to outline alternative approaches for that issue, and to select and defend their own preferred course of action.

Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings and exercises before each class, and coming to class with observations and questions for the rest of the class. Your regular class attendance and careful preparation before class will both maximize everybody's learning and increase your own class response rate and participation grade. Do come to class prepared to respond to and discuss the topic of the day. Those who fall behind in assignments and cut class too often usually find that their grade, learning, and enjoyment of the course all suffer. **More than three unexcused absences from class per semester will be considered excessive and will reduce your class participation grade.**

One of the main objectives of the course is to develop your ability to interrelate the concepts and principles of American foreign policy with the flow of domestic and foreign events and trends. To develop this skill, you will work through the semester on a foreign policy issue brief in four drafts. The first three drafts (about 5 pages each) will focus, in sequence, on the three analytical angles of American policy toward a current international problem or trend you choose: (1) empirical, (2) normative, and (3) policy-oriented. I will provide comments on each of these, in turn. The polished final version will persuasively and succinctly (in 15 pages) synthesize the previous three and provide (section 1) your explanation of the nature, causes, and effects of the situation, (section 2) your assessment of the values, interests and options at stake, and (section 3) your recommendations on what should be done (and by whom) to solve the problem you have identified. Only the final version will be graded. During the semester, you will also become our class expert on your topic as it relates in class discussion to concepts and principles of the course. Further information on this assignment will be distributed early in the course and is online at <http://users.etown.edu/s/selchewa/home/PS345brief.pdf>.

You are expected to abide by the Elizabethtown College Pledge of Integrity in all of your work, in and out of class. It is online at <http://www.etown.edu/web/policies/academicPolicies.html#pledge>. Also see the yearly booklet Academic Integrity at Elizabethtown College, used in the First Year Seminar and available in the Office of the Dean of Student Life.

I edit and maintain a large web directory site in international studies that will help you in this and the other international courses you may take on campus— the WWW Virtual Library: International Affairs Resources at <http://www2.etown.edu/vl/>. It is part of the global WWW Virtual Library system, is very highly ranked on Google, and is widely used and referenced worldwide, including by U.S. government and military personnel. You can find tips on doing quality academic research on the Internet at the top of the “Starter Tips for Internet Research” page at <http://www2.etown.edu/vl/starter.html>.

The class will write reaction sheets on class topics (such as videos) and on programs on international topics that are presented on campus this semester. Students may also attend non-required events on international affairs on or off-campus and write a reaction sheet for extra class participation credit. A reaction sheet is a typed, single-spaced, one-inch margined essay or questionnaire on the event attended or the item assigned. In the essay form, discuss the event, its significance to and place in international relations and/or American foreign policy generally, your own reactions to it, and what you learned and why from attending or participating. Turn in this sheet **within two weeks** after you attend the event, or it will not be valid for class credit!

Elizabethtown College welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities to participate in all of its courses, programs, and activities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations to access course material, activities, or requirements, you must:

- (1) Contact the Director of Learning and Disability Services, Lynne Davies, in the Center for Student Success, BSC 228, by phone (361-1227) or e-mail: daviesl@etown.edu.
- (2) Meet with me, the instructor, within two weeks of receiving a copy of the accommodation letter from Disability Services to discuss your accommodation needs and their implementation.

Grading

Grades will be determined as follows, in proportion to average workload ratios during the semester:

First exam	20%
Second exam	20%
Final exam (<u>partially</u> comprehensive)	20%
Foreign policy brief	20%
Class participation and reaction sheets	<u>20%</u>
	100%

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER LEARNING MATERIALS

Jerel Rosati and James Scott. The Politics of United States Foreign Policy. Fifth Edition. Wadsworth. 2011.
Glenn P. Hastedt, ed. Annual Editions: American Foreign Policy, 11/12. Dushkin/McGraw-Hill. 2011.
(Reading selections are listed below as “Annual Editions.”)

NOTE: Handouts, reaction sheets, and web sites will be assigned through the semester as relevant to our progress and to the flow of current events. Also watch your e-mail for suggestions and for short readings from me as topical online sources become available. Most of these e-mail messages will have hyperlinks that you can open directly if your e-mail client is enabled for HTML. I recommend that you create an e-mail folder for items from PS 345.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

August 31	Introduction to the subject, the course, and each other
September 2	Analytical Framework and Purposes-- Searching for the Big Picture beyond Chronologies, Current Events, Immediacy, Media Hype and Frenzies, and Infotainment Rosati: Preface and Chapter 1
September 7, 9, 14, 16, 21	Historical Patterns, the Current Context, and the Future Rosati: Chapter 2 <u>Annual Editions</u> : 1 through 7 “Animated Atlas of US History” http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html Program on International Policy Attitudes. “Global Views of the United States Improve While Other Countries Decline” (April 2010) http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/views_on_countriesregions_bt/660.php?nid=&id=&pnt=660 Topic selection for the foreign policy brief is due on September 14.
September 23	The Paradoxes of Presidential Power and Leadership Rosati: Chapter 3 <u>Annual Editions</u> : 18, 21, 22
September 28, 30	The Bureaucracy, Presidential Management, and the NSC Rosati: Chapter 4 <u>Annual Editions</u> : 23, 26 September 28: Workshop on online research, High Library, McCormick Lab
October 5, 12	The Department of State Analyzed as a Bureaucracy Rosati: Chapter 5 Empirical draft of the foreign policy brief is due on October 5.
October 14	First Section Exam

Section Two: Executive Decision-making and the Role of The Other Branches and Levels

October 19, 21	The Department of Defense and the Military Establishment Rosati: Chapter 6 <u>Annual Editions</u> : 24, 35, 36, 37, 38
October 26	The Intelligence Community Rosati: Chapter 7 <u>Annual Editions</u> : 25, 30
October 28	International Economic Bureaucracy and Politics Rosati: Chapter 8 <u>Annual Editions</u> : 31, 33 Normative draft of the foreign policy brief is due on October 28.

November 2 Decision-Making Theory Applied to Washington, D.C.
Rosati: Chapter 9
Annual Editions: 29

November 4 The Role of the Congress
Rosati: Chapter 10
Annual Editions: 27, 28

November 9 Second Section Exam

**Section Three: The Public Role, Domestic Issues, and the International
Challenges of the Future**

November 11, 16 Public Opinion and Political Culture
Rosati: Chapter 11
Public Agenda. Confidence In U.S. Foreign Policy Index: Volume 7, Spring 2010.
<http://www.publicagenda.org/pages/foreign-policy-index-2010>.
(Read the full report in PDF.)
Program on International Policy Attitudes. “Americans and the World in Difficult
Times.” (June 2010)
[http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brunitedstatescanadara/662.php?
nid=&id=&pnt=662&lb=](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brunitedstatescanadara/662.php?nid=&id=&pnt=662&lb=)
Policy draft of the foreign policy brief is due on November 16.

November 18 Electoral Politics and Trends
Rosati: Chapter 12

November 23 Group Politics
Rosati: Chapter 13
Annual Editions: 19, 20

November 30 The Media and the Communications Process
Rosati: Chapter 14

December 2 Conclusions, Patterns, Change, Models, and into the Future
Rosati: Chapter 15

December 7, 9 Issues and Bilateral/Regional Overviews from Annual Editions:
1. Issues: 15, 32, 34, 39, 40, 41
2. Bilateral/Regional Overviews: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 42, 43, 44, 45

December 9 Final draft of the foreign policy brief is due in class.

**Thursday, December 16, Final Exam— Heavily on the third section of the course, but
2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. partially comprehensive**

Due Dates for the Foreign Policy Brief

Task

1. Selection of a topic
2. Empirical analysis draft (4-5 typed pages)
3. Normative analysis draft (4-5 typed pages)
4. Policy analysis draft (4-5 typed pages)
5. Final version (15 typed pages)

Due Dates

- September 14
October 5
October 28
November 16
December 9

NOTE: Your adherence to this timeline is CRUCIAL in your semester-long writing improvement process, and severe tardiness at the intermediate or final stages will be a negative factor in the final grade for the brief. The common causes of poor performance (Ds and Fs) on this assignment have been

1. Not staying on the timeline for both the intermediate and final drafts
2. Ignoring the specific requirements of the assignment
3. Handing in poorly done first drafts just to meet the due date, hoping to do well anyhow on the final draft
4. When you prepare your final draft, ignoring my comments and suggestions on your intermediate drafts and those I give to the class as a whole
5. Handing in fewer than 15 pages; *i.e.*, 12 pages equals 80% of the full assignment and a maximum possible grade of B-, even if all else is excellent.