

PLS 340: US Foreign Policy / PLS390: US Foreign Relations

Spring Term: MW 9:00-10:15

Room: B-103

Instructor: Itsuki Kurashina

Office: C3-6

Office Hour: MT 10:30-12:00

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Course Goals

This course has three primary goals:

1. The students will acquire basic information about various international problems.
2. The students will understand US policies of these problems.
3. The students will get accustomed with a seminar-style course.

Course Description

This upper-level lecture course will examine the international circumstances in which people in the United States live in the current world. It will provide students with information about various problems the United States faces, how the country deals with them, and how to explain the US behaviors. A central theme will be upon the interaction of international factors and domestic pressures in making a US foreign policy.

Class Activities

This course is provided as a combination of lectures and seminars. First, the instructor explains important points and discussions on the assigned issue. Then, in the next class, seminar style discussion on the same issue will be held. All students have to make one presentation in these seminar sections. They are also requested to participate to discussions in summary sections and group presentation/discussions in the final debate section.

Prerequisite: None

Course Materials

Textbook: Charles W. Kegley, Jr., with Shannon L. Blanton, *World Politics: Trends and Transformation*, 12th edition, 2009-2010 Updated (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth – Cengage Learning, 2010 (2009))

Following materials are suggested as basic readings for students interested in US foreign relations:

1. Graham Allison & Philip Zelikow, *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, 2nd edition (New York: Longman, 1999)
2. Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Boston: McGraw Hill, 1979)
3. Robert O. Keohane & Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Power and Interdependence*, 3rd edition (New York: Longman, 2001)
4. G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000)

Evaluation

Presentation in Seminar 20%: All students are expected to make at least one presentation on the assigned issue, based on his/her reading of the textbook and the lecturer's explanation in the previous class.

Participation to Seminar Discussion 10%: Students should express their opinions to presentations in the seminar sessions.

Participation to Discussion in Summary Sessions 30% (10% each): Students are divided into several groups to discuss issues related to the lectures and seminars so far. Each group should present their discussion in a written form by the class after each summary session.

Group Works in the Final Debate 10%

Final Paper 30%: Students are requested to express their opinions regarding the debate of realism and liberalism after the group work in a written form. The length of this paper should be no more than three, double-spaced A4 paper.

Extra Points 6%: If you attend two special lectures (see schedule) and write a response paper of one A4 page length, you will up to 3 points for each paper.

Course Schedule

APRIL

13th **Introduction**

- 15th **Great Power Rivalries and Relations**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 86-125
- 20th **Seminar on Great Power Rivalries**

***Special Lecture** by Prof. Seung-Young Kim, 17:00-19:00
“American Efforts to Promote Democracy in South Korea”
- 22nd **The Global South in a World of Powers**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 126-160
- 27th **Seminar on the Global South**
- MAY
- 7th **Intergovernmental Organizations**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 161-188
- 8th **Seminar on IGOs**
- 11th **Nongovernmental Organizations**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 189-218
- 13th **Seminar on NGOs**
- 18th **People Power and the Promotion of Human Rights**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 219-253
- 20th **Seminar on Human Rights**
- 25th **Summary Discussion on the Globe’s Actors**
- 27th **The Globalization of International Finance**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 256-275
- JUNE
- 1st **Seminar on International Finance**

***Special Lecture by Professor Hrebнар, 17:00-19:00**

“Evaluating the Obama Presidency”

- 3rd **International Trade in the Global Marketplace**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 276-303
- 8th **Seminar on International Trade**
- 10th **The Demographic/Cultural Dimensions of Globalization**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 304-335
- 15th **Seminar on Demographic/Cultural Globalization**
- 17th **Summary Discussion on Globalization**
- 22nd **Threats to the Preservation of the World’s Common Ecology**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 338-374
- 24th **Seminar on the World Ecology**
- 29th **The Threats of Armed Aggression to the World**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 375-417
- JULY
- 1st **Seminar on Armed Aggression**
- 6th **Summary Discussion on Global Threats**
- 8th **Realist Approaches in US Foreign Policy**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 420-483
- 13th **Liberal Approaches in US Foreign Relations**
Required Reading: *World Politics*, pp. 486-547
- 15th **Group Work on Realist/Liberal Approaches**
- 22nd **Presentation Based on Group Works**

*****Final Paper is due on July 27th*****