The difference between ignorant and educated people is that the latter know more facts. But that has nothing to do with whether they are stupid or intelligent. The difference between stupid and intelligent people – and this is true whether or not they are well-educated – is that intelligent people can handle subtlety. They are not baffled by ambiguous or even contradictory situations – in fact, they expect them and are apt to become suspicious when things seem overly straightforward. – Neal Stephenson (1995)

Description


Text

You are responsible for obtaining the articles online. They may not be available from a Google search, however. You will have to use the databases available in the library such as EBSCO and others.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes

This course is associated with the major, second major, and minor in the political science. The course is not part of the general education core curriculum. No specific general education objectives or outcomes are addressed in this course.
Program Learning Objectives

The following program learning outcomes for a political science major are addressed in this course:

The student will critically analyze and critique political institutions and/or complex contemporary political issues.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Analyze challenges to American foreign policy goals and identify the sources of such challenges (e.g., state or non-state actors).
- Prioritize American foreign policy goals and identify how these goals may conflict with one and other.
- Identify traditional and non-traditional security challenges for the United States.

Reading and Discussion

I expect you to have read, digested, and understood the assigned material prior to class. I will call on students, unannounced, during class. For each assigned reading, the student called upon will be required to provide a discussion of the reading. This discussion should include a thesis, three primary supporting arguments, and a critique of the article. Thereafter, I may call on a second person to evaluate the first presentation. You may note your differences in opinion, add things initially missed, and otherwise comment both on the reading and the prior presentation. In either of these cases, or if I call on you for any other reason, you will be penalized if you are unprepared. If you are absent when called upon, you will be counted as unprepared unless a University accepted written excuse is provided. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes based on the reading. In this event, I will modify the class participation percentages to take the quizzes into account as set forth below. Reading, discussion, the library assignment, other specified assignments, and quizzes if necessary, will account for 25% of your total grade.

Note that we will rarely use power point slides in this class and I will seldom lecture. Rather I hope for an ongoing conversation influenced by the readings. If you do not do the reading, the discussion will lapse along with your grade.
Participation Grades

You will receive a grade of 0-10 for each reading brief, library assignment, and any other assignment specified as worth 0-10. These points will all be converted into a raw participation grade with a maximum value of 100 as described below.

The raw participation will be modified based on your daily contributions. For any day on which you make a valuable contribution to class participation (but are not presenting a reading), you will receive 1 point at my discretion. These points will be combined, and then added to your raw participation grade at the end of the semester, resulting in your final participation grade. Although it is mathematically possible to score more than 100 points in your final participation grade, no student will be given more than 100 points – 100 points is the maximum you can earn. This final participation grade will represent 25% of your class grade.

Critiques will count for 1 point in the same way as daily participation grade, if well done.

Example: You do two reading briefs (a 6 and an 8), are absent for one (a 0), do the library assignment (10), do one critique (you do it well and get 1 point), and are given a point on each of 7 other days. Your participation grade will be as follows:

\[(6+8+0+10) = 24 \rightarrow (24/4) = 6.0 \rightarrow 60 \] (raw participation grade) \[\rightarrow (60 + 1 + 7) = 68 \] (final participation grade), which itself is 20% of your final grade.

Quizzes: If quizzes are necessary, they would be factored into the equation before adjustments are made for daily participation. So, if two quizzes were necessary, each score would be factored in as a reading presentation. If you earned a 7 and a 9, the above equation would change as follows:

\[(6+8+0+10+7+9) = 40 \rightarrow (40/6) = 6.66 \rightarrow 67 \] (raw participation grade) \[\rightarrow (67 + 1 + 7) = 75 \] (final participation grade).

This does not make quizzes something to be desired. I have simply allowed a higher quiz score in the example.

Power Point/Conference

A power point presentation of no more than 10 slides (not including title slide), lasting no more than 10 minutes, will be presented to the class on SATURDAY, 16 April 2016 in (location on campus TBA) (10:00 am – 5:00 pm) in a conference format. This conference will be open to other faculty, students, and the public. Please dress appropriately. You are required to attend the entirety of this conference as part of the class. If you do not attend the conference in its entirety, you will receive a 0.

Please make arrangements now to take off work and otherwise ensure attendance. Participation in athletic events will not excuse attendance.
The presentation will explain your paper, your research, and your findings to an audience in 10 minutes. If you do it correctly, you will find much of your work completed before you even begin writing. We will discuss this more in class. I will provide a [thoroughly imperfect] demonstration on 12 April 2016.

The grading scale for the power point presentation will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>0-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You will lose 4 points for every minute you exceed the limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content:</td>
<td>0-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation:</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This includes eye contact, dress, professionalism, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is your presentation organized in a logical fashion? Does the reader anticipate points before they occur, etc.?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q&amp;A:</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The audience will have a five minute Q&amp;A period. Your grade will depend upon how well you answer their questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The overall grade for this presentation will be worth 100 points, which itself will be 5% of your total grade.

Research Paper

You are required to write a 10-15 page research paper for this class. The paper must include at least five scholarly (refereed) sources. We will discuss this paper in detail during class. Please review the attached “Term Paper” guidelines for more detail. Michael Wicker from the AARC will speak in class on 22 March 2016 about writing and citation. These guidelines are incorporated by this reference. The paper will be due 21 April 2016 at the beginning of class. When you hand in your final paper, please also e-mail me an electronic version in Microsoft Word or a compatible format. Also, please submit a copy to “Turnitin” at www.turnitin.com. You should submit the paper to Michael Tkacik (American Foreign Policy). The student password is: American. The unique class ID is: 11444575. The research paper will be worth 25% of your grade. I will return your graded paper when you finish your final exam.

The paper will be graded on content, grammar, organization, clarity, the attached Term Paper guidelines, and so forth.

A proposal for your topic is due to me on 8 March 2016. This proposal should include a short statement (no more than a paragraph or two) explaining the issue to be researched as well as a list of sources you expect to use. The proposal will count as one of the 0-10 points assignments referenced in the participation section.

You may hand your paper in on 12 April 2016 for an initial read through. At this time I will briefly review your paper and provide you with some comments for improving the paper. You will not
receive a grade for this and do not have to hand in a paper. But if you do I will read it and thereby allow you an opportunity to improve your work. While I do not expect the paper to be complete, the quality of my comments will be commensurate with the amount of work you have put into the paper to that point. I will not accept an outline.

Although in no way exhaustive, please take note of two additional points. First, these papers should provide careful citation to ideas and material not your own. Please review the discussion of plagiarism herein. Consult me with questions or on any issue that is unclear. Second, I will not give an “A” to any paper with even one spelling error. In this day and age, such carelessness is inexcusable. See the attached Term Paper statement for additional points.

**Library Assignment**

We will set up a tentative meeting in Steen Library during class hours on 23 February 2016 at 11:00 am in the **LINC classroom** (1st floor behind the AARC) (please note this date and location are subject to change). The reference librarian for Political Science will lead a research session in the library. Attendance is mandatory. Thereafter, you will use the skills you learned to locate five academic journal articles relating to a single topic in American Foreign Policy. The choice of topics is yours. I require only that each article relate to the same topic. You are to turn in the print out of each journal article entry (not the entire article), including an abstract and the location of the article. The articles are due to me one week later at the beginning of class. This assignment will be worth 0-10 points and be included in your participation grade.

**Examinations**

There will be two exams in class. Both will be primarily essay exams, though I may add some short identification questions regarding student presentations and/or group presentations to the final. The midterm will count for 20% of your grade while the final will count for 25% of your grade. Please arrive at the exam with one or more large size bluebooks. I prefer you to write in pen rather than pencil. Please place your name, your student ID number, the course title, and the date on the BACK of the bluebook[s].

Absolutely no early exams will be given. No make-up exams will be given unless documentary evidence is provided to show a medical emergency or other University accepted excuse. If given, the make-up exam may be more difficult and different in kind from the regularly scheduled exam. Thus, a make-up exam may (or may not) include essay questions.
Grading System

The grading system is as follows:

Midterm: 20% of grade (10 March 2016).
Final: 25% of grade (10 May 2016, 10:30-12:30).
Research Paper: 25% of grade (due on 21 April 2016 at beginning of class).
Power Point/Conference: 5% of grade (SATURDAY, 16 April 2016, 10:00-5:00).
Reading briefs, critiques, general participation, library assignment, other specified assignments, and quizzes if necessary: 25% of grade.

Due Dates

Unless otherwise explicitly noted, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified. Work handed in thereafter will be considered late.

Late Work

Late work will be penalized 10 points for every day it is late. An assignment is late once I have concluded collecting that assignment during class. Late work will not be considered handed in until it is in my hand. You are responsible for getting it into my hand. This means that if I am not on campus, you have a problem. Save yourself some trouble and avoid late work.

Assignment Return Dates

All assignments will be returned within 10 school days of submission, with the following exception: final papers will be returned upon receipt by the instructor of your final exam.

You final exam grade will be posted within the timeline set by the University.

Graduate or Honors Credit

Anyone taking this class for graduate or Honors credit will be required to do additional assignments. Please see me by the end of the first week of classes to negotiate and sign a contract to this end.
Attendance Policy

Though I do not require attendance, I call on students at random. If you are not present, you will be given an “unprepared” (a “0”) for participation.

Academic Integrity (4.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all University faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by University policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-integrity.pdf.

All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to University Policy Manual (4.1). The consequences for academic dishonesty may range from a score of zero (0) on the assignment to an “F” for the course or even expulsion. For details, students should refer to the University’s General Bulletin, 2013-2014 section entitled “Academic Integrity” (46-7) and other sources of University policy.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

For the entire policy on course grades, please see: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf.
Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of any accommodation approved by ODS.

For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

Please also see: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf).

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see generally, the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4 - [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf)). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program (also known as iCare). This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Some examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. arriving late for class;
2. talking while your classmates are talking or I am talking;
3. distracting your classmates or me; and/or,
4. using a cell phone (texting, talking, ringing, or otherwise), tablet, or other electronic device (you may, of course, use a notebook or tablet for note taking purposes).
Communications

Each student must use their jacks.sfasu.edu email account. This is official SFA policy. You are deemed to have received any message sent to your jacks.sfasu.edu account. If you use another account, have your SFA email forwarded to that account. Make sure your jacks.sfasu.edu email does not go to a quarantine folder and/or is not interpreted as spam. All official communications in this class will occur to your jacks.sfasu.edu account.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given in this class.

Recording Lectures

Good note taking remains important, even today. **Please do not use recording devices of any kind during my lectures. My lectures are my legally protected work product.**

Timeliness

Please show up on time for class. I will shut and lock the door once class begins. You will not be permitted to enter once the door is shut.

Keep Copies of Your Work

Students are required to keep an extra copy of each assignment until the instructor has returned the graded assignment. Students are also required to keep graded, returned copies of all exams, quizzes, and writing assignments until two weeks after the final exam or until you appeal a grade, whichever comes later.

Course Complaints

Any course complaints or problems should first be discussed with the course instructor for the particular course. Difficulties can usually be resolved there. If the complaint cannot be resolved, the next person to see is the appropriate department chairperson.
Other Points

The last day to drop a class is 23 March 2016.

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY ANY PORTION OF THE CLASS AND/OR SYLLABUS. SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, I WILL NOTIFY YOU BY EMAIL AT YOUR JACKS.SFASU.EDU ACCOUNT.

ASSIGNMENTS

Topics

A. Systemic Issues (Weeks 1-2)


B. Strategy (Weeks 3-4)


C. Democracy and Democratization (Weeks 5-6)


3. Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and George W. Downs, Development and Democracy, *Foreign Affairs* 84/5 (September/October 2005), 77-86.


D. The Arab Spring and its Progeny (Week 7)


E. Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control (Week 8)


F. Nontraditional Issues (Weeks 9)

1. Isabel Coleman, The Payoff from Women’s Rights, *Foreign Affairs* 83/3 (May/June 2004), 80-95.


5. Elinor Sloan, Robotics and War, *Survival* 57/5 (October/November 2015), 107-120.

G. China (Week 10-11)


5. Timothy Heath and Andrew Erickson, Is China Pursuing Counter-Intervention? *The Washington Quarterly* 38/3 (Fall 2015), 143-156.


16. Andrew Krepinevich, How to Deter China, *Foreign Affairs* 94/2 (March 2015), 78-86.


H. India (Week 12)

1. Harsh Pant, A Rising India’s Search for a Foreign Policy, *Orbis* (2009), 250-264.


I. Russia


J. Islam and Israel (Week 13-14)


4. A Fifth of all Congressmen taking Paid-For Holidays to Israel this Summer, *Mail Online* (August 8, 2011) (please locate and print out) (very short).

K. Iran


L. The Future (Week 15)


**FINAL EXAM: 7 May 2016 (1:00-3:00)**
TERM PAPER

My experience at SFA is that students are often not prepared to write a quality term paper. Consequently, I have put together a short check list of things you should be sure to include in your paper. NOTE: this list is not exhaustive. These are only a few of the areas in which I have seen large-scale and repeated mistakes. Please see me if you are unsure about what else goes into a university-level term paper.

1. Use print no larger than 12 point font.

2. Double space between lines – except in indented quotes where you should single-space. A quote should be indented if it includes more than 50 words.

3. Number the pages. Do not number the title page.

4. Use margins of 1” on the sides, top, and bottom of the paper. I will measure and take off points on this issue.

5. Your paper should make an argument. Do not simply explain something to me. That was high school. As you prepare for the work world you need to be able to research and evaluate information on some topic. You must then clearly write a convincing argument about the topic.

6. Use a minimum of five refereed “journal” sources (you should use more). You may not use text books or encyclopedias as one of these five (though clearly you may use such sources in addition to the five). A website does not count. Though the journal may be accessed on the Internet, it must be a journal that can also be found in print. You may also use other Internet sources, but they do not meet the requirement of at least five journal sources.

7. Be careful with Internet sources. While the Internet provides a great deal of information, much of this information is unreliable. In some sense, the Internet actually requires more from the student. As a general rule of thumb, if you cannot find the information in “hard copy” (a journal or book), it is not worthy of reproduction in your paper. Increasingly, however, information exists on the Internet that cannot be duplicated in hard copy. In this case, you should look more carefully at the source and make a determination about its credibility. While the United Nations (www.un.org) is relatively credible, another site may not be. Anticipate doubts your reader might have and argue the source’s credibility in an endnote. Indeed, you should even try to note the biases of “reliable” sources. For example, we should acknowledge that given the United Nation’s Charter and history, the organization probably sees sovereignty as creating more problems than it solves in international politics. We therefore might expect to find a general bias in favor of weakening state sovereignty. You should be aware of this bias and make your reader aware. You might even seek out sources
on the other side of the sovereignty issue. Note: nothing in this paragraph relieves you of the requirement to find five journal sources that can be found in print.

8. When you cite to the Internet, be certain I can retrieve the source. If I type in an Internet source and cannot locate it, I will consider the source nonexistent.

9. List the sources at the back of your paper in bibliographic form (include a full citation: Author’s name, title of book or article, title of journal if using an article, year and date of publication, publisher, and page of publication).

10. Direct quotes in your paper should use quotation marks and be followed by an endnote (not a footnote). Direct quotes should also indicate the precise page number on which the quote is located. Endnotes should use the Chicago Manual of Style. Examples may be found here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

11. You may use shortened citations after the first use of a source, but do not use “Ibid.” “Id.” or other such form.

12. On your cover sheet, include only:
   a. paper title;
   b. date submitted;
   c. course name, and,
   d. Stephen F. Austin State University.

13. Plagiarism: Anytime you use the ideas, words, or expression of others, you must acknowledge the author. This is why we use sources and citations. When you do not cite to the author but use his or her idea, you have plagiarized. For example, the above 12 rules (except numbers 5, 7 and 8) were actually taken from Dr. Allen Richman’s Spring 1999 Honors History 134 syllabus. If I had not given Dr. Richman credit, I would be guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism is academic dishonesty of the gravest form. It is the equivalent of fraud or stealing. You can be expelled from school for plagiarism. At this point in your academic career, it is better to use too many citations than too few. You should review the University Policy on Academic Integrity A-9.1 for further information. You may access this policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp. Please see me with any questions.

14. The very last page in the paper should have your name, student identification number, and paper title on it. Your name should not be included anywhere else in the paper (including the first page). This approach allows me to more easily grade blindly.
15. Note the difference between a citation and the bibliography. The bibliography is a list at the end of your paper that tells the reader all of the sources you used. A citation tells the reader specifically (source and page number) where an idea or quote was found. Papers should include both citations and a bibliography. A bibliography alone will not suffice.

16. Page requirements and/or limitations DO NOT include your title page, your bibliography, your endnotes, or any additional addenda such as the “name page” I ask for. If you are asked to write a 10 page paper, this means 10 pages in the body of the paper. Other material does not count toward your page requirements.

17. If you do not cite properly, I reserve the right to fail you on those grounds alone.

18. I expect a statement of what your paper is going to demonstrate somewhere in the first two paragraphs. Tell me up front what your paper is about. What will you investigate and how will you do it? Do not make your reader guess. This is one of the single greatest weaknesses in papers at SFA.

19. Organization is very important and tends to be under-emphasized by students. If it is easy for the reader to follow the argument, the paper typically gets a better grade. Take the time to outline and organize before you write. Consider rewriting things and moving paragraphs around so as to improve organization (sarcasm intended).

20. Make an argument. Convince your reader of something. The strongest arguments often get the best grades. Similarly, in the real world, those who can convince others in written form tend to get big raises and live in nice houses. I know this duplicates number 5 above. It is important.

21. Proof your paper a number of times after writing it. Ideally, you should proof it once for each area you want to review. A short but incomplete list would include punctuation, organization, sentence structure, paragraph structure, transitions, and so forth.

22. Take pride in what you produce.

23. After you write your paper (or as you write it), go through this list and check off each and every item to make sure you have not forgotten anything.