

POLS 329 Seminar on American Politics: The Politics of Defense and Foreign Policy

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Office Hours: Tu Th 11:00 and by

The purpose of this seminar is to read, think about, and try to research questions about the processes in which American foreign and military policy is made. This is obviously a huge and quite controversial area in American politics. What *we* need to do is to identify some interesting ideas and try to design at least partial ways of deciding whether they are true or not. In the first couple weeks we will read Phil Shively's book, *The Craft of Political Research*. The next few weeks will focus on reading books and articles on the politics of American foreign and defense policy, talking about them in the seminar, and trying to discern the interesting ideas and questions about them that need answers. We will also try to formulate researchable hypotheses. The third part of the seminar will be devoted to trying to test the hypotheses we have identified.

During part 2, everyone will read the assigned reading and prepare a short reaction paper that answers the question: what are interesting ideas herethere may be several -- and report on some kind of information from the internet that relates to the idea. After about eight weeks we will take a midterm on the assigned readings. In the last part of the seminar we will focus on a particular question and hypothesis, test the latter, and report to the seminar on our findings.

Grades in POLS 329 will be based on attendance (10%), quality of seminar participation (15%) and reaction papers (15%), performance on the midterm (25%) and the seminar paper 35%. The seminar is too large to provide grades on multiple drafts of the paper but you are encouraged to write several and to discuss them with me. Feel free to use the writing center to edit and improve your writing.

Everyone should prepare two reaction papers on our readings and be prepared to start the discussion of the reading in question. These reports will primarily occur during the first half of the seminar.

Some questions that may come up are:

- 1) How big is American defense policy?**
- 2) Does defense policy cause foreign policy or vice versa?**
- 3) What is imperialism?**
- 4) How does current American imperialism differ from earlier versions?**

- 5) Which universities are the most involved in American defense policy? Why are some more than others?
- 6) Is current American imperialism a by-product of the cold war or would it occur anyway?
- 7) Are there different kinds of American imperialism? – say by industry, political party, era, etc.?
- 8) Should foreign and military policy be a) In the national interest? b) Consistent with public opinion? c) Economically efficient? d) Maintain the status quo” e) Preemptive?
- 9) What causes foreign and defense policy to take the forms they do: a) The cold war, b) The military industrial congressional complex? c) Oil? d) Corporations, e) Inter-service rivalry?
- 10) What “other things” would have to characterize foreign and defense policy making if one of our theories are valid? E.g., what, when, where, who (e.g. who would be benefiting and who would be losing) , and how?

Second Version (Feb 2) of Tentative Schedule for POLS 329 Spring 2008

I Introduction. Overview, Course Mechanics, and Some Key Concepts (Week 1)

Jan 14. Introductions.

II Research Basics a la Shively

Jan 16. Discuss Shively Chapter 1 and 2.

Jan 21. Martin Luther King Day. No class. (Week 2)

Jan. 23. Shiveley

III Issues in Foreign and Defense Policy

Jan 28. Discuss Shively, *Blowback*, Chapters

Jan 30 Attend LAS Lecture by Professor Paul Zeleza

Feb. 4 Discuss Blowback chapters. Think of possible research questions hypotheses,

research designs, web-data, etc. **FORM IMPERIALISM GROUP**

Feb. 6 Discuss Rundquist and Carsey Chapters 1 to 4. Think of possible research questions, etc.

Feb. 11. Discuss Rundquist and Carsey, Chapters 5 to . Think of possible research questions, etc. FORM CONGRESS GROUP

Feb. 13. Discuss Page and . Chapter . Think of possible research questions, etc.

Feb. 18. Discuss Page and . Chapters . Think of possible research questions, etc. FORM PUBLIC OPINION GROUP

Feb. 20. Discuss Packet: Think of possible research questions, etc.

Feb. 25. Discuss Packet: Think of possible research questions, etc.

Feb. 27. Discuss Packet: Think of possible research questions, etc.

March 3. Discuss Packet:

March 5. Midterm

IV. Research and writing

March 10. RESEACH PROPOSAL

March 12.

March 17.

March 19.

March 24. Spring Break

March 26. Spring Break

March 31.

Apr. 2. FIRST DRAFT

Apr. 7.

Apr. 9.

IV Reporting

April 14.

April 16. SECOND DRAFT

April 21. REPORTS

April 23. REPORTS

April 28. REPORTS

V. Summary and conclusion

April 30. Summary and conclusion