

Course Title: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, Political Science 405d/605d, Sect 001, 4-6:45 pm Thursday, OSN204.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: 432, 632 AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (3+0) 3 credits. Environmental influences on U.S. policy; post-World War II problems; interests, principles, objectives, policies and commitments of current policy. Prerequisite: PSC 231

I. INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John A. Scire, Ph.D., Office Tel: 789-4004, Home: 356-0226. Cell: 233-7724. E-mail: scire@unr.nevada.edu.

Office Hours: By appointment, usually before class on Thursday in the Political Science Department office.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES are: The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to U.S. foreign policy with an emphasis on how policies are made and why items of importance to the American people are or are not part of U.S. foreign policy. This course will use different theoretical and empirical approaches to analyze the processes involved. Finally, this course will focus on the current and anticipated foreign policy issues confronting the United States.

III. The COURSE STRUCTURE is as follows:

To accomplish these objectives the course relies on a combination of assigned readings, a term project, and class discussions.

A. Readings will be assigned from the following textbooks available in the JTU bookstore:

Hastedt, Glenn P. ed. Annual Editions: American Foreign Policy 2007-2008. Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill. 2008. (Hastedt)

Rochester, J. Martin. US Foreign Policy in the 21st Century: Gulliver's Travels. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 2008. (Rochester)

B. There may also be assigned readings from class handouts and items on reserve in the library or posted on WEBCT, as required.

C. EXAMS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS: Undergraduates will have two exams and a term project. A detailed explanation of the term project will be distributed during the second week of class. Graduate students will have the same mid-term exam as the undergraduates. They will not have a final exam but they will have a separate research assignment as appropriate to their specializations. We will meet after the second class period to discuss the graduate term projects. Graduate students will also make an oral presentation of their projects.

D. GRADING: The two exams and the term project are each worth 30% of the final grade for the undergraduates. The midterm exam is worth 30% and the term project 60% of the graduate student's final grade. Class participation is worth 10 points for all students.

E. Grades in this course will be awarded using the plus/minus system.

IV. OTHER POLICIES PERTAINING TO THIS COURSE

A. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result, at a minimum, in a failing grade in this course.

- B. This university does not tolerate harassment of any sort of its students and employees. If you or anyone you know of is experiencing any type of harassment, please let me know.
- C. Students with physical or learning disabilities have the right to accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at the University of Nevada, Reno. For assistance, please let me know. Any requests for assistance will be handled in an accommodating and confidential manner.
- D. **ATTENDANCE:** Class participation counts for 10% of your grade. A significant portion of the exams come from the lectures and class handouts. If you miss a class, you alone are responsible to get the handouts and notes from another student. I do not carry old lecture notes and handouts from class to class.
- E. **LATE RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMISSIONS AND MISSED EXAMS.** The only excuses for late project papers and missed exams are valid medical emergencies certified by a physician or a valid personal crisis on the level of your death or that of a close family member, friend, or significant other. In addition, a total psychotic break with reality is a valid excuse. Mere neurotic episodes are no excuse. Unexcused late research projects will result in a full letter grade reduction for every day the paper is late.

