The United States does not have a choice as to whether it will or will not play a great part in the world. Fate has made that choice for us. The only question is whether we will play that part well or badly.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Description
This course examines the sources, substance, and enduring themes of American foreign policy, with a special focus on the post-Cold War era. Part I reviews the rise of American power in world affairs from the 18th Century through the end of the Cold War. Part II provides an overview of the process and politics of American foreign policy making. Part III applies the theory and history of Part I, and the process of Part II, to examine a number of contemporary U.S. foreign policy issues and debates, including America’s two wars with Iraq; how the U.S. should deal with other “rogue” states; America’s responses to the threat of global terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and what role the U.S. should play in the world economy, global and regional institutions, and the developing world.

Requirements
Grading will be based on the results of a take-home midterm exam (optional for graduate students); a policy memorandum paper; and a cumulative three-hour final exam. The midterm questions, covering Parts I and II of the course, will be handed out at the end of class on Wednesday, Oct. 26, and due the beginning of class on Monday, Oct. 31. The policy memorandum paper assignment will be handed out at the end of class on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and due the beginning of class on Monday, Nov. 21. The final exam will be scheduled during finals week, Dec. 15-22.

Readings
The following texts are available at the Columbia Bookstore, and on reserve at Lehman Library. Other required readings are available as a course packet at Broadway Copy Center (121st and Broadway). Required (and supplementary) speeches and documents are posted on CourseWorks.

*John Lewis Gaddis, Strategies of Containment (Oxford University Press, 1982).
*Stuart Gottlieb, ed., Central Issues in American Foreign Policy (Foreign Affairs, 2005).
*James Nathan and James Oliver, Foreign Policy Making and the American Political System, 3d ed. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994).
Part I: Theoretical and Historical Framework

Week 1
Introduction

Week 2
Lectures
The Analysis of Foreign Policy
Unique America? American Ideals and International Realities

Readings [~150 pp.]
Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics (McGraw-Hill, 1979), Ch. 6, “Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power,” pp. 102-128. (CP)

Week 3
Lectures
The Strategy of Revolution, Survival, and Expansion: 1776-1900

Readings [~140 pp.]
Norman Graebner, Ideas and Diplomacy (Oxford University Press, 1964), Ch. 2, pp. 77-90, Ch. 3, pp. 154-163, Ch. 5, pp. 262-274, Ch. 6, 334-346. (CP)
Nicholas Spykman, America’s Strategy in World Politics (Harcourt Brace, 1942), Ch. 3, “From Monroe Doctrine to Hemispheric Defense,” pp. 65-89. (CP)
McDougall, Promised Land, Ch. 5.

Week 4
Lectures
The Strategy of World Power: 1900-1945

Readings [~115 pp.]
Kennan, American Diplomacy, Part I, Ch. 4, pp. 55-73.
McDougall, Promised Land, Ch. 6.
Kennan, American Diplomacy, Part I, Ch. 5, pp. 74-90.
Henry Kissinger, Diplomacy (Simon & Schuster, 1994), Ch. 15, “America Re-enters the Arena,” pp. 369-393. (CP)
**Week 5**

**Lectures**
*American Strategy and the Cold War: 1945-1990*

- Origins of the Cold War
- Containment in Theory and Practice

**Readings** [~175 pp.]
- McDougal, *Promised Land*, Ch. 7.

**Week 6**

**Lectures**
*American Strategy and the Cold War: 1945-1990* (Continued)

- Case Studies in Strategic Decisionmaking: The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War
- The Cold War’s Decline, Renewal, and End

**Readings** [~315 pp.]
- Stephen Krasner, “Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland)” *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1972), pp. 159-179. (FA)
Part II: The Making of American Foreign Policy

Week 7
Lectures
The Nature of the American State

Readings [~130 pp.]
James Nathan and James Oliver, Foreign Policy Making and the American Political System (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), Chs. 9-12.

Week 8
Lectures
The Institutions of American Foreign Policy

*Midterm examination questions handed out Oct. 26; due in class Oct. 31*

Readings [~240 pp.]
Nathan and Oliver, Foreign Policy Making, Chs. 2-6, 8.
David Rothkopf, “Inside the Committee that Runs the World,” Foreign Policy (March/April 2005), pp. 30-40. (FA)
“CAFTA Reflects Democrats’ Shift From Trade Bills,” Washington Post, July 6, 2005. (CP)
Part III: Issues in Contemporary American Foreign Policy

Week 9  
Oct. 31, Nov. 2

Lectures
*The First Iraq War and the “New World Order” of the 1990s*
Case Studies: Somalia, Rwanda, Kosovo and the Principle of (Non)Intervention.

Readings [~125 pp.]

Week 10  
November 9

Lecture
*Before 9/11: The George W. Bush Doctrine vs. the Clinton Legacy*

Readings [~75 pp.]
Week 11
Lectures
After 9/11: Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and Homeland Security

*Policy Memorandum assignment handed out Nov. 16; due in class Nov. 21*

Readings [~230 pp.]
“The Nuke Pipeline; Can We Turn off the Spigot?” Time, Dec. 17, 2001, pp. 40-45. (CP)
“Patriot Act Push Angers Some on Right,” Los Angeles Times, June 12, 2005. (CP)

Week 12
Lectures
American Primacy and the Role of Allies and Institutions

Readings [~150 pp.]
Charles Krauthammer, “Unipolar Moment Revisited” The National Interest, No. 70 (Winter 2002/03), pp. 5-17. (FA)
John Ikenberry, “America’s Imperial Ambition” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 81, No. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2002), pp. 44-60. (FA)
Jesse Helms, “American Sovereignty and the UN,” The National Interest, No. 62 (Winter 2000/01), pp. 31-34. (FA)

Week 13
Lectures
Lessons from the Second Iraq War
Democracy on the March?

Readings [-140 pp.]
George W. Bush, 2nd Presidential Inaugural Address, January 19, 2005. (CW)
Week 14

Lectures

America and the World Economy
Addressing (or not) Crises in the Developing World

Readings [~125 pp.]

“All Free Traders Now?” The Economist, December 7, 1996, pp. 21-25. (CP)
Responses to Kapstein by Krugman, Lawrence, Barnes, Donahue, and Forbes; Kapstein responds, Foreign Affairs, Vol. 75, No. 4 (July/August 1996), pp. 164-181. (FA)
Warren Buffett, “America’s Trade Deficit Is Selling the Nation,” Fortune, Nov. 10 2003. (CP)

Week 15

Lecture

The Future of American Foreign Policy
Review and Conclusions

Readings [~110 pp.]

James Laney and Jason Shaplen, “How to Deal With North Korea,” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 82, No. 2 (March/April 2003), pp. 16-30. (FA)

Neil Hughes, “A Trade War with China?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 4 (July/August 2005), pp. 94-106. (FA)


“Russia, China, Team Up to Assail US Foreign Policy,” *Los Angeles Times*, July 2, 2005. (CP)


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**Required and Suggested Readings Available on CourseWorks (asterisk denotes required)**

**Week 3**  
Washington’s Farewell Address  
JQ Adams Monsters speech  
Monroe Doctrine speech

**Week 4**  
Hay’s Open Door Notes  
Wilson, Peace Without Victory

**Week 5**  
Truman Doctrine speech  
NSC-68

**Week 6**  
Carter, UND address*  
Reagan’s Westminster address

**Week 7**  
Eisenhower’s Farewell Address  
Kerry campaign speech (Week 12)

**Week 8**  
War Powers Act

**Week 9**  
Bush 41, New World Order speech*  
Baker’s Senate testimony*

**Week 10**  
1995 National Security Strategy

**Week 11**  
US Terrorism Strategy*  
Bush’s post-9/11 address  
Blair’s post-9/11 address  
Amnesty’s 2005 Report  
Chertoff’s first speech

**Week 12**  
2002 National Security Strategy*  
John Kerry campaign speech

**Week 13**  
Duelfer Report, Key Findings*  
Pew Survey, 2004*  
Bush 43, Second Inaugural*  
Bush 43, NED speech  
Rice’s Cairo address  
Pew Survey, 2005