POL 285 (sec 18): American Public Policy  
Spring 2008  
3 credit hours  
Tu, Th 3:30-4:50 p.m. AB1 317  
Masoud Kazemzadeh, Ph.D.  
Office: AB1, 319F  
Phone: (936) 294-1462  
E-mail: mxk002@shsu.edu  
Office Hours:  
Tues 4:50-5:10 p.m.  
Wed 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Thur 3:00-3:25 and 4:50-6:00 p.m.  
and by appointment  
Course Description and Goals  
This is an introductory course on American public policy. I have chosen foreign policy as the focus for this course. We will study both the process and the substance of American foreign policy.  
What was the Cold War all about? What should we expect in the post-Cold War era? Do we live in a unipolar or a multipolar world since the collapse of USSR? What is the impact of September 11 on the international system and U.S. foreign policy? What is the Bush Doctrine? Are we at the beginning of the “Age of Terror”? Have we entered “the clash of civilizations” between Islam and the West as Harvard scholar Samuel Huntington theorized? These are some of the questions that we should be able to answer by the end of the semester.  
Studying American foreign policy is not only exciting, but is essential to an understanding of everyday life in the 21st century. Understanding the world and American attempts to deal with it is a matter of life and death. We begin with briefly discussing the main countries around the world. We will, then, study the competing paradigms of American politics, the lenses through which scholars view and analyze the actual reality. We will proceed to study, in some depth, the policy making process. After that, we turn to the making of American foreign policy. After a brief historical overview of world events in the past century, we will discuss various concepts and theories such as Realism, Idealism, constructivism, feminism, and Marxism. Finally, we will discuss several cases of American foreign policy in great detail. Throughout the course we will distinguish between description (what happened), analysis (why did it happen), and normative judgement (was it good or bad).  
There is a substantial amount of materials to be read, and it is imperative for each student’s success that he or she develops a regular study schedule that permits keeping up with the assignment at all times. If you wait until the exams to begin reading, you would probably fail the class.  
You are expected to watch national and international news such as CNN at least five times a week. I highly recommend PBS’s News Hour with Jim Lehrer on channel 8 Monday through Friday between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. If you do not have access to television, you should read The

Course Objectives
(1) Students will learn basic information about 45 major countries around the world;
(2) Students will learn major concepts in the field of political science; and
(3) Students will learn competing paradigms and theories in American politics, international
relations and foreign policy.

Attendance Policy
Class attendance is mandatory. It is imperative that you attend all the lectures. If you are going
to miss a class, ask a friend to tape the lecture for you. Rolls will be taken periodically. Anyone
with 3 absences (that are not excused) will receive an “F.” Permission to take a make-up exam
will rarely be given and only a dire situation will warrant one. Make-up exams will be harder
than the one given to the entire class.

Religious Holy Day or Days
A student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day or days or to travel
for the purpose of religious observance may take an examination or complete an assignment
within a reasonable time. The student should inform me before or immediately after the absence
in writing (e-mail preferred). The student will have 15 days to complete the assignment or take
the exam. If you are to miss the lecture, have a fellow student tape the lecture for you. Absence
due to religious holy day does not count towards the 3 absences.

Academic Dishonesty
Anyone caught cheating will receive “F” for the course and will be referred to the Associate Vice
President for Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Attention Students with Disabilities
It is the policy of SHSU that individuals that otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by
reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further,
they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs, nor shall they be subject to
discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are
expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the
Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with me so that appropriate strategies
can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and
achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Visitors in the classroom
If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the
visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. As a rule, I have no objections to “tourists” if
extra seats are available.

Instructor evaluations
Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the
semester.
Classroom rules of conduct
The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:
http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html

Course Grade will be Computed as Follows*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: the point distributions are somewhat tentative. They might fluctuate a little bit. For example, the 1st mid-term might be 25 points and the final 35 depending on how fast we are able to proceed. There is a total of 100 points for the course.

Textbooks:


OUTLINE

weeks 1-4: Introduction: Countries Around the Globe and Basic Concepts
* Hook, Maps 1-11 (pp. xvi-xx), Table 3.2 (p. 84).
* Davis, pp. 1-7.
Map Quiz
1st Mid-Term Exam
weeks 5-7: Paradigms of American Politics; International Relations Theory
* Hook, ch. 1, and pp. 64-76.
* Davis, pp. 9-20.

2nd Mid-Term Exam

week 8: Structures of Public Policy (Constitution, Federalism)
* Davis, pp. 32-38.

week 9: Substance of Public Policy (Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, Right to Privacy)

week 10: The Expansion of U.S. Power
* Hook, ch 2.

week 11: Dynamics of Decision Making
* Hook, ch 3 (only pp. 76-97).

week 12: Presidential Power
* Hook, ch 4.

week 13: Congress
* Hook, ch 5

week 14: Foreign Policy Bureaucracy
* Hook, ch 6

week 15: National Security and Defense Policy
* Hook, ch 10

FINAL EXAM Tuesday May 13, 3:00-4:00 p.m.