GOVT 344  
American Foreign Policy  
Spring 2019  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.  
Innovation Hall Room 105

Instructor: Professor Edward Rhodes

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telephone: 703-993-8497

office hours: to be announced  
office hours location: to be announced

Course Description:

This class is an upper-level undergraduate introduction to the history of American foreign policy, the process of American foreign policymaking, and current issues in American foreign policy. Given the role of the United States on the world stage, American foreign policy has a significant impact on lives across the world, affecting regional stability as well as political, economic, and social development. At home, here in America, decisions on foreign policy significantly impact not only American prosperity and the safety of the American people but also the evolution of America’s political institutions and political culture. Understanding the forces and influences shaping America’s interaction with states and nations around the world thus is a critical element in understanding today’s world and predicting tomorrow’s.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should have acquired an understanding of:

- The historical evolution of American foreign policy and the historical, intellectual, and cultural forces that have shaped and continue to shape American foreign policy;
- Basic world geography and its impact on American foreign policy;
- The governmental and political processes that shape the making and implementation of American foreign policy; and
- Foreign policy challenges facing the United States.

Course Materials:

Class members are responsible for obtaining and reading all assigned course materials. Study groups and the sharing of reading notes are encouraged. Used, shared, or borrowed assigned materials are fully acceptable. The four texts are available at the campus bookstore. Used or
discounted copies of some of the assigned books may also available through online retailers such as Amazon or AbeBooks.

The following are required reading:

- Edward Rhodes, *GOVT 344.001, American Foreign Policy, Spring 2019* (Cognella, 2018).

In addition, other materials will be available online.

**Requirements and Grading:**

Class members are required to:

- Complete all assigned readings prior to class;
- Attend class and participate fully;
- Take and pass required quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Grading will be based on:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Geography Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>60%</td>
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Geography quizzes, administered as indicated on the syllabus, test basic political geography. Students are required to correctly identify the location of sovereign states on maps of regions of the world. There are no make-ups for geography quizzes. Students who anticipate missing a geography quiz must discuss this anticipated absence with the instructor in advance. After-the-fact explanations for absences will not be accepted except in cases of truly unanticipatable events – for example, illness or family tragedy. Documentation for absences will be required.

While class members are strongly encouraged to work together in study groups to master course materials, all quizzes and exams are individual work. Students are not to give or receive help on quizzes or exams.

Course grading is NOT on a curve. Class members are not competing with each other for marks.

**Academic Accommodation for a Disability:**

The following is Schar School policy with regard to accommodation for a disability:
“If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Services office at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through them.”

**Plagiarism and Other Academic Dishonesty:**

Faculty in the Schar School have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty and will strictly enforce Mason’s honor code.

**Use of Cell Phones, Computers, and Other Electronic Devices in Class:**

Class members are expected to focus entirely on class activities and to refrain from other personal or professional activities during class periods. Class members engaged in other personal or professional activities during class time will be asked to leave the classroom and will be permitted to return only when they are prepared to participate in the class.

Computers and similar electronic devices may not be switched on during class.

Use of cell phones in class is not permitted. Class members who for professional or other reasons need to carry a cell phone with them must turn these devices off or set them to “vibrate.” Students whose phones ring during class will be asked to leave the classroom and to return only when their conversation is finished and they are prepared to participate in the class.

Class members with disabilities that necessitate the use of computers or other electronic devices should inform the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). All accommodations must be arranged through ODS.

**Attendance and Tardiness:**

Class attendance is mandatory.

Make-up exams will be offered only:

- in cases of documented medical or family emergencies,
- when absence is due to a religious holidays recognized by George Mason University,
- if authorized in advance of the absence by the instructor, at his sole discretion.

**Schedule of Classes:**

An updated syllabus with a complete schedule of course topics, readings, quizzes, and exams will be available before the beginning of the semester.