The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:  
The Making of American Foreign Policy

Course Number:  
PSC 5123-492

Course Description:  
This course will examine the evolution of American Foreign Policy since WWII. Beginning with the emergence of the Cold War and the creation of the liberal international economic order in the late 1940s, the course will focus on major foreign policy issues and approaches. Students will then read and reflect upon recent analyses of American foreign policy in the post 9-11 world. The backbone reading is Steven Hook and John Spanier, American Foreign Policy Since WWII. We will spend the first four weeks of the course reading and discussion-boarding this book. The last four weeks of the course will be directed at three other books. Robert Kagan is an influential neo-conservative intellectual. His short book The Return of History and the End of Dreams offers a contemplation of the broad historical context in which the post-cold war era turned into the 9-11 era. Neo-conservatives have promoted a robust role for American in that era. Fareed Zakaria peers into the future and sees The Post American World, in which America is forced to cede influence to other nations that are emerging on the world stage. It is clear that Kagan and Zakaria see the world quite differently. Joseph Nye has long been noted for his concept of soft power. In his recent book The Future of Power he assays the various forms that power will take in the 21st Century and offers his prescriptions for American policy.

Course Dates:  
January 16-March 12, 2012  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 18, 2011

Site Director:  
This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or e-mail our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:  
Course Professor: Ronald M. Peters, Ph.D.  
Mailing Address: The University of Oklahoma  
Carl Albert Center  
Monnet Hall, Room 101  
Norman, OK 73019  
Telephone Number: (405) 325-6372  
Fax Number: 405) 325-6419  
E-mail Address: rpeters@ou.edu  
Virtual Office Hours: You can email Professor Peters at any time.  
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.
Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


5. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

OU E-Mail:
All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

Online Learning Resource Center:
The Online Learning Resource Center of the University of Oklahoma’s College of Arts and Sciences Online Program is here to serve you and assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance go to http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/ or contact us by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or Email: casonline@ou.edu

Course Objectives:
1. To familiarize students with major issues and trends in American foreign policy since WW II.
2. To examine and discuss American foreign policy in the post-Cold War/post-9-ll era.

Course Outline:

January 16-February 12 (four weeks):
- Readings: Hook and Spanier, *American Foreign Policy*
  - Week of January 16: Chapters 1-4
  - Week of January 23: Chapters 5-7
  - Week of January 30: Chapters 8-12
- Week of February 6: Exam Writing (Due February 12, 2012)

February 13-March 6 (four weeks):
- Week of February 20: Zakaria, *The Post-American World*
- Week of February 27: Nye, *The Future of Power*
- Week of March 6: Comparative Book Review Writing (Due March 13, 2012)
Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

Participation:

I will post on the D2L Discussion Board three discussion questions during each week (except for the fourth and eighth weeks when exams are underway). Your participation in these discussions is important and will comprise 1/3rd of your course grade. At the beginning of the course I will post a grade rubric on D2L that will provide guidance to your participation. In general, your grade will be based upon:

1. The number of postings
2. The substantive quality of postings
3. The extent to which the postings reflect knowledge of the readings
4. The extent to which the student is interacting in discourse with other students
5. Civility.

I have set up a separate discussion topic in which you are asked to introduce yourself and post a photo of yourself. Please be sure and do this so that we can get to know each other.

Exam:

The exam will be comprised of two essay questions. Given that this is a take-home exam and that you are given a full week to work on it, the expectations are substantial and acceptable exam responses are in the range of 2000-2500 words for each question. The specific questions will be made known to you on February 6, 2012 and the exam will be due in the D2L drop box by the end of the day on February 12, 2012.

Comparative Book Review:

You are asked to write an extended comparative review of the Kagan, Zakaria, and Nye books. I will post this assignment immediately after the exam is submitted and so you will have the last four weeks of the class to work on it. This review is due on March 13, 2012, the last day of class.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Discussion Boards - one-third of course grade
Exam - one-third of course grade
Book Review - one-third course grade

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Policy for Late Work:

Please contact professor for his/her policy on late work.

Attendance Policy:

In addition to interaction via Desire2Learn and E-mail contact, students are required to contact the instructor via E-mail or telephone BEFORE the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Desire2Learn, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, e-mail, or fax as needed.

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.
Technical Support Information:
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: http://webapps.ou.edu/it/ or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

Procedures for Completion of Course Evaluation:
Upon completion of the course students should go to the Advanced Programs Distance Learning webpage, http://www.goou.ou.edu/distance_learn.html. Students should click on the applicable semester link under “Course Evaluations” which will direct them to the evaluation. The evaluation will take approximately five minutes to complete. Completion of the online evaluation is an important tool allowing Advanced Programs to gain information and student feedback for improvement of courses.

Your responses will be kept confidential. They will be reviewed by the department and only supplied to the professor once grades for the course have been submitted.

Important information you should know about online courses:
• To sign on to Desire2Learn (D2L), log in using your 4+4 and your OU network password (note that this is the same 4+4 and password that you use to access your OU email). Once you are logged in, please look for “My Courses,” locate your course and click on it. Remember to check your course site on D2L every day.

• Students enrolled in online courses may be required to take the CAS student orientation in Desire 2 Learn. To take the orientation, sign-on to D2L and then click on “Self Registration” at the top left corner of the page. Information about and instructions for the orientation can be found at http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/public/students/orientation.htm

• If the course is using a course website, you will find a link for the website on the first page of this syllabus. Please click on this link to start your course.

• Course Materials are available at Follett/AP Bookstore. On this syllabus you will find a link to the Follett Bookstore.

• If you need to drop or withdraw from a course, please contact your Site Director. You can drop a course without a penalty up to the add/drop date. You can drop a course after the add/drop date through the first day of class with a penalty. There will be a 25% penalty if you drop 16-29 days before the start of class, 50% penalty if you drop between 15 days before and the start of the class, or 100% penalty if you drop on the first day of class or later.

• After the class has started, you can only withdraw from the course with the professor’s permission; you will not receive a refund for your tuition. You can only drop without a penalty after the add/drop date by providing proper documentation and receiving approval from the Advanced Programs Theater Director. Provide this documentation to your Site Director.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Ronald M. Peters, Jr., Ph.D.

Education

1974 Ph.D. in Political Science, Indiana University

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 1975
- Regent’s Professor, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- PSC 5453 The Presidency
- PSC 5263 Congress in the Political System
- PSC 5393 Regulatory Politics
- PSC 6173 Leading Public Organizations
- PSC 5173 Bureaucracy and Politics
- PSC 5223 American Foreign Policy
- PSC 5323 Morality and Foreign Policy

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Political Theory; American Government; Congress and Congressional Leadership

Representative Publications and Presentations

- “Institutional context and leadership style: The case of Newt Gingrich,” in Nicol Rae and Colton Campbell, (Eds.), New Majority or Old Minority: The Impact of the Republicans on Congress. (Lanham, MD: Roman and Littlefield, 1999).

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- Regents’ Teaching Award in 1994
- Named Outstanding Oklahoma Political Scientist for 1995

Major Professional Affiliations

- American Political Association
- American Society for Public Administration
- Southwest Political Association
- Oklahoma Political Association