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

Course Title:
The Making of American Foreign Policy

Course Number:
PSC 5123-490

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, 19th Edition*. Our reading of this book will be augmented by articles and documents posted in the content area of D2L.

Course Dates:
January 8-February 19, 2014
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 10, 2013

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, (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 OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at [www.oklahoma.bkstr.com](http://www.oklahoma.bkstr.com). Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Representatives are available by phone at (405) 325-3511 or (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or E-mail at 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). (Text prices are available online.)


2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](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: Follett 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 Follett.

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 9/11 era with emphasis on the George W. Bush and Barak Obama administrations.

Course Outline:
I. Week 1: January 8-14. Containment and the Cold War.
   a. Readings:
      i. Hook and Spanier, Chapters 1-3.
      ii. Articles in “Week 1” folder in D2L content area
II. Week 2: January 15-21. Vietnam and Detente
    a. Readings:
       i. Hook and Spanier, Chapters 4-5
       ii. Articles in “Week 2” folder in D2L content area
III. Week 3: January 22-28. The Reagan Doctrine and the End of the Cold War
     a. Readings:
        i. Hook and Spanier, Chapters 6-7
        ii. Articles in “Week 3” folder in D2L content area
IV. Week 4: January 29-February 4. The Post-Cold War Order
    a. Readings:
       i. Hook and Spanier, Chapters 8-10
       ii. Articles in “Week 4” folder in D2L content area.
V. Week 5: February 5-11. 9-11 and the Bush Doctrine
   a. Readings:
      i. Hook and Spanier, Chapters 11-13
      ii. Articles in “Week 5” folder in D2L content area.
VI. Week 6: February 12-19. The Obama Foreign Policy
     a. Readings:
        i. Hook and Spanier, Chapter 14
        ii. Articles in “Week 6” folder in D2L content area

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

Participation Requirement:
Participation in discussion boards is of critical importance in an on line course. Otherwise, it becomes a correspondence course. I will post on the D2L Discussion Board three discussion questions during each week of class. You are required to participate in 4 of these 6 weekly discussions. If you choose to participate in 5 or 6 weekly discussions, I will count your four highest grades. Your participation in these discussions is important and will comprise one-half 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 [This is important]
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. In addition, please go into your D2L personal settings and post a full-face photo of yourself. This is important, as this photo will appear with all of your discussion board posts thus making it easier to follow the threads.

Writing Requirement:
The writing component for this class is a paper of between 5000 and 6000 words. It will be more fully described in a separate document posted in the content area of D2L, administration folder. In writing this paper you will draw on the Hook and Spanier text, on material posted on D2L, and on other respectable sources you may identify as appropriate. Here are some possible topics.

1. Analyze and assess George Kennan’s concept of containment as he conceived of it and as it was implemented by various presidential administrations during the Cold War. Your paper should explain any evolution in Kennan’s own views. Be precise in considering and explaining why presidential administrations took varying approaches to containment.

2. Analyze and assess President Nixon’s strategy of détente. How did the opening to China relate to détente with the Soviet Union? Should we think of détente as a variation on containment?

3. Why did the USSR collapse? To what extent was this due to US foreign policy initiatives as opposed to factors indigenous to the Soviet Union? In particular, why did Gorbachev pursue perestroika and glasnost, and what were the consequences?

4. Analyze and assess the Bush Doctrine as a basis for American foreign policy, as it was articulated and implemented by President Bush, and in light of subsequent developments. You should explain the Bush Doctrine and assess the commentary on it. Did the Bush Doctrine end with the Bush administration?

5. Does President Obama have a coherent foreign policy? If so, what is it? If not, why not? Analyze and assess the Obama foreign policy record by drawing on his statements and actions and on the expert commentary about it.

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

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of course grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
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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 the professor regarding his/her policy for 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 and 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](http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/public/students/orientation.htm)
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.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. 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.

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local 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