

American Foreign Policy in Europe

Course code: LUEES41E

1. Course instructor

Kenneth Forder

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Former U.S. diplomat

2. Course description

Contact hours	Credits	Term
18 hours	4 ECTS	Spring

Prerequisites

None

Objectives and skills

Students will gain a greater understanding of what drives American foreign policy, how it is made and implemented, and how American foreign policy has been applied in the European context, both pre and post-Trump. By the end of this course, students will better understand how the 'American Empire' has been administered and why it appears to be unraveling under the Trump Administration. The course should highlight the sometimes rather stark gap between traditional academic discussion of the subject matter and the realities of the conduct of diplomacy, revealing that foreign policy is quite often

'made up as you go' (or muddling through) rather than the result of the implementation of some preconceived 'grand scheme.' A more nuanced understanding of the foreign policy of what remains, for now, the world's leading power should help students find success in their post-University of Limoges careers, notwithstanding whether they enter government service or work for the private sector, international organizations, or NGOs. Anyone with an internationally focused career will have to grapple with the influence of the United States. After this course, students should be able to better understand their American interlocutors and thus hopefully leverage them to advance the agenda of future employers.

Course description:

The first section of the course will discuss the origins and history of American foreign policy. The second section will focus on the American foreign policy making process and how diplomats and embassies function as implementers of U.S. foreign policy. The third and final section will explore America's post-WWII foreign policy toward Europe, focusing on both the traditional approach shared by all Republican and Democratic presidents from 1945-2016 (i.e., the construction and maintenance of the "post-war liberal international order"), and the revolutionary and very disruptive approach adopted following the November 2016 election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. The course will emphasize the actual practice of American foreign policy rather than the theory undergirding it.

3. Course material

Reference/reading Materials:

See course structure section.

4. Course assessment

Assessment details

- 60% - 1500 word essay in 12 font, Times New Roman, due 3 April 2020
- 20% - In class presentation of assigned reading
- 20% - Class attendance and participation

ESSAY TOPICS

- Discuss the roots of the Trump Administration's "America First" foreign policy, outlining its historical and philosophical antecedents as covered in section one.
- Discuss how the Trump Administration's foreign policy-making process differs from, or is similar to, that of its predecessors, focusing on the roles of the "Actors" and "Implementers" discussed in section two.
- Discuss how the Trump Administration's foreign policy toward Europe differs from that of his predecessors, citing specific examples raised in section three.

5. Course structure

Part 1: A Background to American Foreign Policy:

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course and The Origins of American Foreign Policy (06/02)

- Kissinger, Henry, *Diplomacy*, 1994, Chapters 1-3
- McDougal, Walter, *Promised Land, Crusader State*, 1997, Introduction
- Mead, Walter Russell, *Special Providence*, 2001, Introduction and Chapters 1-3
- Brzezinski, Zbigniew, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*, 1998 Chapter 1

Lecture 2: The History of American Foreign Policy 1945-2016 (07/02)

- Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, Chapters 17-18 and 28-31
- Sestanovich, Stephen, *Maximalist*, 2014, Prologue and Chapters 1 and 10-12
- Nye, Joseph, (1990), *Soft Power, Foreign Policy* (Autumn, 1990) pp. 153-171

Part 2: The Making and Implementation of American Foreign Policy

Lecture 3: Actors: Congress, POTUS/NSC, State and Defense Departments, other ministries, intelligence community, media, business, NGOs, and the "American people" (20/02)

- McCormick, J. M., (2005), *American Foreign Policy and Process*. Thomson, Wadsworth, pp. 251-258, 362-385, and 425-449
- Johnson, Toni, *Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy*, Council on Foreign Relations, January 24, 2013

- DeYoung, Karen, *How the Obama Administration Runs Foreign Policy*, Washington Post, 4 August 2015
- Diehl, Jackson, *Trump's Foreign Policy has Devolved into Chaos*, Washington Post, 16 September 2018
- Burns, William, *The Demolition of U.S. Diplomacy, Not Since Joe McCarthy has the State Department Suffered Such a Devastating Blow*, Foreign Affairs, 14 October 2019

Lecture 4: Implementation: Embassies, Day in the Life of a Diploma (21/02)

- American Foreign Service Association, *Inside a U.S. Embassy*, 2011, 3rd Edition, Introduction and Parts I-IV
- Black, Jeremy, *A History of Diplomacy*, University of Chicago Press, 2010, Introduction
- Rousseau, Richard, *From Ancient Greek Diplomacy to Modern Summitry*, Diplomatic Courier, Fall 2011
- *Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR)*, Department of State, April 2015, 90 pages
- Department of State, *Organizational Chart: November 2016*

Part 3: American Post WWII Foreign Policy in Europe and beyond

Lecture 5: U.S. and Europe 1945-2016 – partners in maintaining the global “order” (19/03)

- Kagan, Robert, *A Jungle Grows Back*, September 2018, 192 pages
- Allison, Graham, *The Truth About the Liberal Order: Why it Didn't Make the*

Modern World, Foreign Affairs, 28 August 2018

- Mazarr, Michael, *The Real History of the Liberal Order: Neither Myth Nor Accident*, Foreign Affairs, 7 August 2018
- Friedman Lissner, Rebecca and Rapp-Hooper, Mira, *The Liberal Order is More than a Myth: But it Must Adapt to the New Balance of Power*, Foreign Affairs, 31 July 2018
- Ikenberry, John, *The Plot Against American Foreign Policy, Can the Liberal Order Survive*, Foreign Affairs, 17 April 2017
- Mearsheimer, John & Walt, Stephen, *The Case for Offshore Balancing, A Superior U.S. Grand Strategy*, Foreign Affairs, 13 June 2016
- Kendall-Taylor, Andrea and Shullman, David, *How Russia and China Undermine Democracy: Can the West Counter the Threat?* Foreign Affairs, 2 October 2018

Lecture 6: Trump Administration Policy Toward Europe (20/03)

- Mead, Walter Russell, *The Jacksonian Revolt*, Hudson Institute, January 20, 2017
- Kupchan, Charles, *NATO is Thriving in Spite of Trump, Adversity has Made the Alliance Stronger*, Foreign Affairs, 20 March 2019
- Rottgen, Nobert, *How to Save the Transatlantic Alliance, Waiting out Trump Won't be Enough*, Foreign Affairs, 17 June 2019
- Smith, Julianne and Townsend, Jim, *NATO in the Age of Trump, What it Can*

- and Can't Accomplish Absent U.S. Leadership*, Foreign Affairs, 9 July 2019
- The Economist, *On the Edge of a Precipice, Macron's Stark Warning to Europe*, 9-15 November 2019 edition, Leader on page 6, Briefing on pages 17-20, Interview via on-line edition
 - Graham, Thomas, *Let Russia be Russia, The Case for a More Pragmatic Approach to Moscow*, Foreign Affairs, 15 October 2019
 - McFaul, Michael, *Trump's Gift to Putin, The President's Privatized Foreign Policy is a Boon for Russia*, Foreign Affairs, 23 October 2019
 - Nougayrede, Nathalie, *France's Gamble, As America Retreats, Macron Steps Up*, Foreign Affairs, 15 August 2017
 - Kagan, Robert, *The New German Question, What Happens When Europe Comes Apart*, Foreign Affairs, 2 April 2019
 - Bloomfield, Steve, *The Not so Special Relationship, How Trump has Bewildered the United Kingdom*, Foreign Affairs, 9 October 2019
 - Stein, Aaron, *Why Turkey Turned its Back on the United States and Embraced Russia, A Rift that Began in Iraq and Syria Now Threatens to Divide NATO*, Foreign Affairs, 9 July 2019