



# MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

School of Arts and Sciences

## COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>Course Number</b> POL 332 A	<b>Course Title</b> American Foreign Policy		
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b> x	<b>Summer Semester</b>	<b>Year</b> 2011-12
<b>Name of Instructor</b> Chad Rector			
<b>Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Tuesdays 6:30PM - 9:15PM, Gailhac, Room G114			
<b>Final Exam Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 pm, Gailhac, Room G114			
<b>Office Hours, Location, Phone</b> Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to noon, Ireton Hall G112			
<b>E-mail</b> crector@marymount.edu www.chadrector.net/m/332			

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

### Academic Integrity

By accepting this syllabus, you pledge to uphold the principles of Academic Integrity expressed by the Marymount University Community. You agree to observe these principles yourself and to defend them against abuse by others.

### Special Needs and Accommodations

Please advise the instructor of any special problems or needs at the beginning of the semester. If you seek accommodation based on disabilities, you should provide a Faculty Contact Sheet obtained through Disability Support Services located in Gerard Hall, (703) 284-1615.

### Access to Student Work

Copies of your work in this course including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will be submitted anonymously.

### Student Copyright Authorization

For the benefit of current and future students, work in this course may be used for educational critique, demonstrations, samples, presentations, and verification. Outside of these uses, work shall not be sold, copied, broadcast, or distributed for profit without student consent.

### University Policy on Snow Closings

Snow closings are generally announced on area radio stations. For bulletins concerning Marymount snow or weather closings, call (703) 526-6888. Unless otherwise advised by radio announcement or by official bulletins on the number listed above, students are expected to report for class as near normal time as possible on days when weather conditions are adverse. Decisions as to snow closing or delayed opening are not generally made before 5:00 AM of the working day. Students are expected to attend class if the University is not officially closed.

## 1. BROAD PURPOSE OF COURSE

A history of the policies of the United States toward other governments and an analysis of the principal factors to be considered in formulating the executing American foreign policy. Prerequisites: a grade of C or better in POL 220 and POL 250, or permission of instructor.

## 2. COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major causes of changes to American foreign policy over the period from 1945 to the present,
2. Critically evaluate competing theories about the consequences of different foreign policies for U.S. interests,
3. Interpret new or ongoing debates over foreign policy in light of theories of state action in international politics, and
4. Develop, research, and complete a research project that engages a contemporary or historical puzzle about American foreign policy.

## 3. TEACHING METHOD

Classes are a combination of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to read and discuss among themselves the assigned readings for the course, attend class and participate in discussions, complete two short written assignments, one longer term paper, and one final exam. Active participation in class discussions counts for 15% of the course grade, and students who demonstrate exceptional commitment to collaboration in class can earn additional extra credit.

I am available to meet with students Mondays and Thursdays in my office, Ireton Hall G112, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, with no appointment necessary. Many other times are available in my office in Ireton Hall G112, and may be booked via email.

## 4. GRADING POLICY

Final course grades will be determined on a fixed scale, not on a curve. Each assignment will receive a letter grade. Course grades will be based on a weighted average of the following:

- Final exam on Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 pm. 25%.  
The final exam will consist of one question. I will distribute a list of six questions on the first day of the semester. On the day of the final exam I will bring a fair six-sided die and ask a volunteer from the class to roll it to

determine which question will make up the final exam. Students also have the option of taking the final at one of two alternate times: Wednesday, May 9, 6:30PM - 9:15PM, Ballston Room 205, or Thursday, May 10, noon, Ballston Room 204.

- Two short writing assignments due February 14 and March 20. 10% each.  
The specific assignments will be distributed in class and posted online two weeks before each due date. Papers will be between 1000-1500 words long. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course.
- Term paper due May 1. 35%.  
The specific assignment will be distributed in class and posted online in early February. Papers will be at least 3500 words long. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course. I will read and comment on any draft or outline turned in before April 17.
- Participation. 15%.  
Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and class material and be ready to debate historical examples or current events. Quality of participation, rather than quantity, counts.
- Field trip. 5%.  
Students should participate in at least one of two site visits, scheduled outside of regular class times. We will visit the State Department on May 2 and the Pentagon sometime in late April. Both visits will include a tour and policy briefing. Students who participate in both visits will receive an additional 5% extra credit.

Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late. Students who miss final exam will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. Students will not be penalized for missing a class assignment for a recognized religious holiday. The final exam will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.

Students who miss more than 5 course meetings, unexcused, will automatically fail the course.

Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process.

## 5. CLASS SCHEDULE

Note that class will not meet on April 3 and 10, but there will be mandatory one-on-one meetings scheduled for the week of April 9. On March 27 the first half of the class will be in the library and the second half will be in Gailhac G114. Reading assignments should be completed before the lecture under which they are listed. Most readings are from the two textbooks, referred to below as *Jentlesen* and *Spanier and Hook*. "Supplementary readings" in the *Jentlesen* book refer to the short excerpts at the ends of parts 1 and 2; they are listed in the Table of Contents. Other readings are posted on Blackboard.

Jan 17 - Heritage

Reading: Jentlesen, Chapter 3  
Spanier and Hook, Chapter 1

Jan 24 - The Early Cold War

Reading: Jentlesen, Supplementary readings 1.1 and 4.3  
Spanier and Hook, Chapters 2 and 3

Jan 31 - Economic engagement and multilateralism

Reading: Jentlesen, Chapter 4, supplementary readings 1.2 and 1.3

Feb 7 - Vietnam

Reading: Jentlesen, Supplementary reading 5.1  
Spanier and Hook, Chapter 4

Feb 14 - The Late Cold War

First paper due

Reading: Jentlesen, Supplementary reading 5.2  
Spanier and Hook, Chapters 5 and 6

Feb 21 - The unipolar moment

Reading: Spanier and Hook, Chapters 7 and 8

Feb 28 - After 9/11

Reading: Spanier and Hook, Chapters 11, 12, and 14

[Spring Break]

Mar 13 - Mass Politics

Reading: Jentlesen, Chapter 6, supplementary readings 2.3 and 9.3

Mar 20 - Institutions

Second paper due

Reading: Jentlesen, Chapter 2, supplementary readings 2.1 and 2.2

Mar 27 - Ideology and values

Class meets in the library classroom today

Reading: Jentlesen, Supplementary readings 6.1-9.2 (pages 644-676)

[No class April 3 or 10]

Mandatory one-on-one meetings scheduled for the week of April 9

Apr 17 - Global Governance

Reading: Jentlesen, Chapter 10

Apr 24 - Nuclear Weapons

Reading: Spanier and Hook, Chapter 13  
Newspaper articles TBA, posted on Blackboard

May 1 - China

Reading: Jentlesen, Chapters 7 and 11  
Newspaper articles TBA, posted on Blackboard

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 pm, Gailhac, Room G114 - Final Exam

## 6. REQUIRED TEXTS

Required readings include two books available for purchase at the bookstore or any online retailer.

- Bruce W. Jentleson. American Foreign Policy. Fourth Edition. Norton Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0393933574.
- John Spanier, Steven W. Hook. American Foreign Policy Since World War II, 18th Edition. CQ Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0872899698.

## 7. REQUIRED OR SUGGESTED READINGS OR AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Other required readings are posted on Blackboard.