

GOV 388L/HIS 381/MES 384/PA 388K
Tuesdays: 9:00-12:00 noon

Spring 2012
SRH 3.124

STRATEGY, IDEAS, AND STATECRAFT: THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Prof. Jeremi Suri
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Tuesday 1:15-2:30 SRH 3.378
Wednesday 11:00-12:15 GAR 2.122

Prof. Peter Trubowitz
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Thursday 11:00-2:00 BAT 3.152

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar examines the sources, implementation, and consequences of American foreign policy strategy. Drawing on the work of historians and political scientists, we will explore how geopolitics, domestic politics, and strategic ideas have shaped America's international priorities and policy practice. To this end, the seminar will focus on several critical junctures in the American experience to consider how new understandings of the nation's international purposes arise, and the contours of debates over how best to pursue them. A portion of the course will be set aside to examine contemporary visions of the evolving geopolitical landscape and what these visions mean for U.S. statecraft in the present and near future.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

The course is run as a seminar, which makes weekly participation absolutely essential. You are required to complete all the readings before the due date, attend all seminar meetings, and actively engage in discussion. You should come to class prepared to discuss each reading on its own terms (e.g., what is the author's basic argument, how does the author develop and support his/her claims, etc.), as well as how it relates to other readings for the week and previous sessions. Class participation will count for 30 percent of your final grade.

Everyone is also required to post short response essays each week about the readings on the course website – available through UT's Blackboard (<http://courses.utexas.edu/>). The response essay must be posted by 5:00 PM on the Monday before class and should include three basic paragraphs: a short summary of the key arguments in the readings and their significance; a second paragraph analyzing how the week's readings relate to other course readings and outside texts; and a third paragraph critically examining some of the authors' claims and arguments. The weekly response essays will count for 30 percent of your final grade.

A seminar paper will count for the remaining 40 percent of your grade and can take one of two forms: a research paper (approximately 20 double-spaced pages) on some aspect of U.S. grand strategy or a critical scholarly journal-style book review analyzing three major books (approximately 20 double-spaced pages). These books must be works that do not appear on the syllabus, and approval of the titles from both instructors is required. You should choose the writing form that best serves your interests and needs. The research paper is well suited to those students interested in pursuing a larger theoretical question about U.S. foreign policy/grand strategy or tackling a historical or contemporary policy-related question. The book review is suitable for those students looking for an opportunity to hone their critical analytical skills. Students must plan to meet with the professors on Friday, February 22 (time slots TBD) to discuss their proposed topic. A one-page proposal is due

in class the following Tuesday, February 24. The final paper is due in class on April 30. Students should submit two copies of the proposal and final paper.

All of the books listed below are required and may be purchased at the University Coop. They are also available on reserve at Perry-Castañeda Library.

Aaron Friedberg, *A Contest for Supremacy* (Norton 2012)
John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment* (Oxford 2005)
G. John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan* (Princeton 2011)
Nannerl O. Keohane, *Thinking About Leadership* (Princeton 2010)
Charles Kupchan, *No One's World* (Oxford 2012)
H. R. McMaster, *Derelection of Duty* (Harper 1997)
James Mann, *Rise of the Vulcans* (Penguin 2004)
Jack F. Matlock, Jr., *Reagan and Gorbachev* (Random House 2005)
John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Norton 2001)
Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire* (Cornell 1991)
Jeremi Suri, *Henry Kissinger and the American Century* (Harvard 2007)
Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History* (Princeton 2006)
Peter Trubowitz, *Defining the National Interest* (Chicago 1998)

University Policies Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Scholastic dishonesty: University policies regarding scholastic dishonesty are strictly enforced in this class. Plagiarism is grounds for assigning an "F" as a final course grade. All incidents of plagiarism will be reported to Student Judicial Services. On what constitutes plagiarism and scholastic dishonesty, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity.html>.

Accommodations for religious holidays: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.¹

TOPICS AND READINGS

January 15: Introduction and overview

¹Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

January 22: Theory, history, and American statecraft

- Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History*

Contending theories of grand strategy

January 29: America as a traditional power

- John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*

February 5: Liberalism and American statecraft

- John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan*

February 12: Domestic ambition and American power

- Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*

Case studies in American statecraft

February 19: America's rise as a great power

- Peter Trubowitz, *Defining the National Interest*

February 26: Geopolitics, party politics, and containment

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*

March 5: Johnson, McNamara, and Vietnam

- H. R. McMaster, *Dereliction of Duty*

March 12: Spring break

March 19: Nixon, Kissinger, and retrenchment

- Jeremi Suri, *Henry Kissinger and the American Century*

March 26: The End of the Cold War

- Jack Matlock, Jr., *Reagan and Gorbachev*

April 2: Bush, the Neocons, and the pursuit of primacy

- James Mann, *Rise of the Vulcans*

The Future of U.S. grand strategy

April 9: How will the global order change?

- NIC, *Global Trends 2030* [<http://www.dni.gov/index.php/about/organization/national-intelligence-council-global-trends>]

April 16: China's emergence: How should the U.S. respond?

- Aaron Friedberg, *A Contest for Supremacy*

April 23: Can America continue to lead?

- Charles Kupchan, *No One's World*

Reconsiderations and conclusion

April 30: What is strategic leadership?

- Nannerl O. Keohane, *Thinking About Leadership*