



Course No.: 017

Course Name: US Foreign Policy

Course Name in Hebrew: מדיניות החוץ של ארצות הברית

Academic Year: 2023-2024

Lecturer: Mr. Robert Silverman

Program: Strategy, Diplomacy, and War

Format: Lecture

Course Duration 2nd Semester, 4 academic hours/week

Credits: 4

Pre-Requirements: מבוא לאסכולות החשיבה ביחסים הבינלאומיים; אסטרטגיות-על בעידן המודרני

Lecturer's Contact Information: silverrj99@hotmail.com

Course Objectives:

The primary objective is to achieve an understanding of the ideas, history and social context of US foreign policy decision-making, and then apply this understanding to selected current issues of US foreign policy. A secondary objective is to deepen the students' ability to do research and express themselves in English, through assignment of readings and classes conducted in English.

Course Description:

This course has three parts. First, it surveys the history of US foreign policy, focusing on recurring themes of ideology and interests and conflicting trends of isolationism and internationalism. Second, it delves into selected current issues in which these

themes and trends play out. Third, it introduces key players who conceive and implement foreign policy.

The assigned reading (about 30 pages per week) includes primary source texts, from John Winthrop's City Upon a Hill sermon and Washington's Farewell Address to Kennan's Sources of Soviet Conduct and recent State Department testimony to Congress. Some of these documents will be familiar to students from other classes but will be read here through the lens of their place in the formation and evolution of US foreign policy. Students will read from both realist and idealist schools as we examine specific issues, and both approaches will receive scrutiny and appreciation.

Students will give 10-minute oral presentations from a list of suggested topics. There will be a short mid-term quiz to test comprehension of core themes and factual information. Students will write a final paper (in either Hebrew or English) in form of a memorandum recommending a change in policy.

Requirements:

Class Presentation: 20%

Midterm Quiz: 30%

Final Policy Paper (3-4 pages): 50%

Passing Grade: 60

Subjects and Required Reading per Lesson:

Week 1: Introduction to the Key Players in US Policy

Session 1: Overview of Course; Plenary Power of the President in Conduct of Foreign Relations, Roles of Congress and the Judiciary

Required Reading:

1. The US Constitution, Article II.

2. Charlie Savage, "Trump had Power to Attack Syria without Congress, Justice Dept Memo Says," *New York Times*, June 18, 2018: <https://nyti.ms/2TaE8oI>

Session 2: The Other Players: Civil Servants, Diplomats, Intelligence Analysts, Development Experts, Congressional Aides, Academics and Think Tankers

Required Reading:

David Halberstam, *The Best and Brightest* (New York: Ballantine, 1972), ch. 8: pp. 151-180.

Recommended Reading:

Shawn Dorman (ed.), *Inside a US Embassy: Diplomacy at Work*, (Washington, DC: American Foreign Service Assoc., 2011 [3rd. edition]).

Module 1: History of US Foreign Policy

Week 2: "To Begin the World Again" – Independence and Early Republic

Session 3: Enduring Self Images

Required Reading:

1. John Winthrop Sermon, "We Shall Be as a City Upon a Hill, the Eyes of All People Are Upon Us" (1630): <http://bit.ly/32B673E>
2. Thomas Paine, "Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs," *Common Sense* (New York: Coventry House, 1776).

Session 4: Washington's Legacy

Required Reading:

George Washington, "Farewell Address" (1796).

Robert Kagan, *Dangerous Nation* (New York: Knopf, 2006), pp 104-129.

Recommended Reading:

Felix Gilbert, *To the Farewell Address, Ideas of Early American Foreign Policy* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1961).

Week 3: "Empire of Liberty"

Session 5: Ideologies of Expansion

Required Reading:

1. Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, "Empire for Liberty," 27 April 1809:
<http://bit.ly/3ctE4la>
2. Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, "on the Monroe Doctrine," 24 October 1823:
<http://bit.ly/389bAA6>

Session 6: Influence of America in 19th Century Latin America and Europe

Required Reading:

Robert Kagan, *Dangerous Nation* (New York: Knopf, 2006), pp. 157-180.

Week 4: Prelude to World Power

Session 7: The Second American Revolution

Required Reading:

1. Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address" (1863).
2. Robert Kagan, *Dangerous Nation* (New York: Knopf, 2006), pp. 246-264.

Recommended Reading:

George C. Herring, "Last Best Hope: The Union, Confederacy and Civil War Diplomacy, 1861-1877," *From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations Since 1776* (New York: Oxford UP, 2009), pp. 224-264.

Session 8: Secretary of State Seward's and Senator Sumner's Vision

Required Reading:

Charles Sumner, "Speech on the Cession of Russian America to the United States" (Argument for the Purchase of Alaska) (Washington, DC: Congressional Office, 1867).
<http://bit.ly/2Tb7Cm6>

Week 5: Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism

Session 9: The Open Door

Required Reading:

1. Secretary of State John Hay, "Open Door Note," September 6, 1899:
<http://bit.ly/2VxsXb1>
2. Alfred Thayer Mahan, "The United States," *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1890), pp. 83-89

Recommended Reading:

John Taliaferro, *All the Great Prizes: The Life of John Hay, from Lincoln to Roosevelt* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014).

Session 10: Reactions to America's New Empire

Required Reading:

1. Rudyard Kipling, "White Man's Burden" (1899)
2. William Jennings Bryan, "Imperialism" (Speech), August 8, 1900:
<http://bit.ly/2IcMK7z>
3. Mark Twain, "To the Person Sitting in Darkness," *North American Review*, 1901,
<http://bit.ly/38aCasv>

Recommended Reading:

William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (New York: Norton, 2009 [revised edition]).

Week 6: Internationalism and Isolationism

Session 11: The Wilsonian Moment – The 14 Points

Required Reading:

1. Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points" (1918).
2. Jeremy Adelman, "We're Having the Wrong Debate about Woodrow Wilson," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 4, 2015, <http://bit.ly/2vjIzFE>

Recommended Reading:

George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy, 1900-1950* (Chicago: Chicago UP, 1951).

Session 12: From Isolationism to Victory in World War 2

Required Reading:

1. Charles Lindbergh, Des Moines Speech, September 11, 1941: <http://www.charleslindbergh.com/americanfirst/speech.asp>
2. Elizabeth Borgwardt, "Forging a New American Multilateralism," *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2007) pp. 46-70.

Recommended Reading:

1. Dean Acheson, *Present at the Creation: My Years at the State Department* (New York: Norton, 1969).
2. Sarah Churchwell, *Behold, America: The Entangled History of America First and the American Dream* (New York: Basic Books, 2018).

Week 7: Cold War America

Session 13: Containing the Soviet Union

Required Reading:

1. X [George F. Kennan], "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947 <https://fam.ag/2vr7CFz>
2. George C. Marshall, Harvard Commencement Address, 1947 (The Marshall Plan Speech): <http://bit.ly/3cjDfl3>

Recommended Reading:

Walt Whitman Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1960).

Recommended Viewing:

Stanley Kubrick (dir.), *Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964).

Session 14: Covert Ops and Competition in the Third World

Required Reading:

1. Miles Copeland, "The Emergence of Nasser, our 'Independent Ally'," *The Game of Nations: The Amoral of Power Politics* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1970), pp. 61-75.
2. Kermit Roosevelt, *Counter Coup: The Struggle for the Control of Iran* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979), pp. 1-19.

Recommended Reading:

1. Henry Kissinger, *Years of Upheaval* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1982).
2. Henry Kissinger, *Years of Renewal* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999).

Week 8: New World Orders

Session 15: From Unipolar to a Multipolar World

Required Reading:

1. Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment," *Foreign Affairs* (Winter 1990/1991): <https://fam.ag/2Ta9VWF>
2. Brett McGurk, "Hard Truths in Syria," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2019): <https://fam.ag/2l8ATYc>

Session 16: Continuity and Change in Trump's Foreign Policy

Required Reading:

1. Max Boot, "Trump's 'America First' is the Twilight of American Exceptionalism," *Foreign Policy*, November 20, 2016: <http://bit.ly/2wjAslc>
2. Bob Silverman, "Obama Also Got it Wrong in the Middle East," *The National Interest*, January 29, 2020: <http://bit.ly/2RDnr4k>.

Module 2: Current Issues in US Foreign Policy

Week 9: Europe and Multilateral Institutions: Security and Economic Dimensions

Session 17: NATO

Required Reading:

1. Robin Wright, "What Does NATO Do, Anyway?," *The New Yorker*, July 22, 2016: <http://bit.ly/2PtYwPk>
2. Michael Mandelbaum, "Pay Up, Europe: What Trump Gets Right about NATO," *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 2017): <https://fam.ag/3814XiX>

Session 18: The IMF as a US Strategic Tool, Case Study of Turkey Bail-Out

Required Reading:

"Turkey in Turmoil," *The Economist*, February 25, 2001: <https://econ.st/2T21RHq>

Week 10: The Middle East and Counterterrorism

Session 19: US Interests in the Middle East

Required Reading:

David M. Satterfield, "Testimony Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa," June 13, 2018: <http://bit.ly/2HXgfdt>

Recommended Reading:

1. Warren Bass, *Support Any Friend: Kennedy's Middle East and the Making of the US-Israel Alliance* (New York: Oxford UP, 2003).
2. Michael Doran, *Ike's Gamble: America's Rise to Dominance in the Middle East* (New York: Free Press, 2016).

Session 20: US Disengagement from the Region

Required Reading:

Martin Indyk, "The Middle East Isn't Worth it Anymore," *Wall Street Journal*, January 17, 2020: <https://on.wsj.com/32uHp52>

David Rohde, "Does Trump Think the War on Terror is Over?," *The New Yorker*, December 23, 2018: <http://bit.ly/3a8rj3z>

Recommended Reading:

Daniel Yergin, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power* (New York: Free Press, 2009).

Week 11: East Asia and Economic Diplomacy

Session 21: The Ongoing Pivot Towards East Asia

Required Reading:

1. Janan Ganesh, "US Shift to East Asia is More than a Short-term Pivot," *Financial Times*, February 20, 2019: <https://on.ft.com/3aaJwxz>
2. Ryan Hass, "US-China Relations, The Search for a New Equilibrium," *Global China* (Brookings Institute, February 2020): <https://brook.gs/3cd9eU4>

Session 22: Free Trade and Tariff Wars

Required Reading:

1. Milton Ezrati, "In Defense of Free Trade," *The National Interest*, October 12, 2019: <http://bit.ly/3c9vH4e>
2. Andrew Nathan, "How China Really Sees the Trade War," *Foreign Affairs*, June 27, 2019: <https://fam.ag/2T21Kvm>

Week 12: Democracy and Human Rights Promotion, Nation Building

Session 23: Promoting Democracy and Human Rights as a Core US Interest

Required Reading:

1. Danielle Pletka, "The US Needs to Put its Values Back at the Center of its Foreign Policy," *The Atlantic*, October 24, 2018: <http://bit.ly/2wMoRBn>
2. Thomas Graham, "In Defense of a Strategic Approach to Russia," *The American Interest*, March 12, 2013: <http://bit.ly/3ccUMeM>

Session 24: The Nation Building Business.

Required Reading:

James Dobbins, "Post-9/11 Nation Building: Iraq," *After the War: Nation Building from FDR to George W. Bush* (Santa Monica, CA: Rand, 2008), pp. 104-127.

Week 13: Summing up: What's Next?

Session 25: Climate Change Diplomacy

Required Reading:

Alan Yu, "An International Climate Road Map for the Next President," *Center for American Progress*, November 1, 2019: <https://ampr.gs/2HXAUyc>

Session 26: Review of the Recurring Themes in US Foreign Policy, and Future Roles of Key Players

Required Reading:

1. George Packer, *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century* (New York: Knopf, 2019), pp. 363-386.
2. William J. Burns, "Parting Thoughts: US Foreign Policy in the Years Ahead," *The Back Channel, A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for its Renewal* (New York: Random House, 2019), pp. 430-434.

Recommended Reading:

George F. Kennan, *From Prague After Munich: Diplomatic Papers* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1968).