

## POLS 315 INTRO TO WORLD POLITICS

MW 9:00 – 10:45pm GAR 101

Instructor: Kate Xiao Zhou, Office Phone 956-8777; **Office: Saunders 609; Office Hour:** Office Hour: M. 10:45-11:45am

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**Course Objective:** The purpose of this course is to understand political power as exercised in world politics since 1945. Since this understanding requires a deep knowledge of the role of the United States, the major player in the post-war period to this day, we focus on United States foreign policy and America's interactions with the world. We trace the several strands of policy as they develop and as they are applied to the changing environments of the post WWII world, and we consider the theoretical contexts in which they operate. We challenge students as citizens to decide how the United States should engage the world in their future.

The textbook for this course is American Foreign Policy Since World War II, Nineteenth Edition, by Steven W. Hook and John Spanier. Readings in the syllabus will be designated: AFP with page numbers shown. There are also 17 assigned articles, and these may be found posted on laulima in the resources section. The syllabus specifies when each article should be read.

**Course Grading:** Grades will be based on your performance in the following areas:

**Class Presentation:** It will be worth up to 40 points on your final grade. It will be based on the readings.

**LAULIMA REFLECTIONS POSTINGS:** Each student is responsible for twenty-five postings on laulima, reflecting his/her opinion on the material presented in the readings or discussions for a given class (which can include reactions to opinions about the class posted by classmates). This will begin with the August 21. **DEADLINE FOR POSTING WILL BE ONE WEEK AFTER THE GIVEN CLASS!!** Each quality post will be worth two points on your final grade, to a maximum of 50 points. A discussion thread will be established for each class date.

**ATTENDANCE:** It is important that you attend class to benefit from the discussions of the material. Each student is responsible for signing the class sign up sheet before leaving each class.

Good attendance is worth 10 points on your final grade. One point will be subtracted for every absence beyond three.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** We want to know what you think about the materials assigned, and see some debate among your classmates. Speaking up regularly in class can earn you up to 5 points on your final grade.

“Easy” Points:

extra Points

Along with the 100.0 maximum points above, there will also be extra-credit opportunities announced by Professor Zhou over the course of the semester.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Course Introduction\* Theories of International Relations# (1/07-09)

Guest Speaker: **Ph.D candidate, Steve Zierak**; American Foreign Relations: Founding & Progressive Ideological Strands

Walt: International Relations: One World, Many Theories Founding Principles in Foreign Relations# (1/14-16)

AFP pgs 10-13 Washington: Farewell Address

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcGlx1hAq7w>

Monroe: Monroe Doctrine Progressive Imperialism & Mission# (1/24-26)

AFP pgs 14-20

Beveridge: Speech on Philippines Wilson: Declaration of War (Make World Safe for Democracy)

**Video: Commanding Heights Episode 1- Battle of Ideas,**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoWbm8zUG6Y>

Conclusion of WWII: Yalta & Soviet Expansion\* (2/4-6)

AFP pgs 21-33

Containment, Truman Doctrine, and Opening of Cold War#

U.S. Founding vs. Progressivism/Modern Liberalism (Steve) 02/11-13

Guest Speaker: **Ph.D candidate, Steve Zierak**; Opening of the Cold War: Containment and the Truman Doctrine

AFP pgs 34-43

Kennan: The Sources of Soviet Conduct

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivSHkj3Vxbc>

Truman: Speech to Congress (Truman Doctrine)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LMXGFhfbCs>

Jr./ Jim Chapman 2/1 Institution Building\* (2/20-25)

Guest Speaker: **Ph.D candidate, Steve Zierak; Vietnam War**

AFP pgs 44-56

Trouble in East Asia: Revolution&War in China&Korea, US Response (Truman, Eisenhower)\*  
**Policy (2/27-3/4)**

AFP pgs 57-70 Kennedy, Cuba, & Russia: Bay of Pigs/Berlin Wall/Missile Crisis\* (3/11-13)

AFP pgs 71-87

Steve Zierak: Notes on Terms&Timelines (Based on Morgenson&Rosner's  
Reckless Endangerment)

AFP pgs 88-100

Major Events of the Vietnam War Nixon, Kissinger, and the Policy of Détente (3/25)

**Video: Commanding Heights Episode 1- Battle of Ideas,**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoWbm8zUG6Y>

The War in Vietnam (Steve)

AFP pgs 101-109 Carter's Failed Idealism (3/27)

AFP pgs 110-126 Reagan Realism: Peace Through (U.S.) Strength# 4/1

**Margaret Thatcher, Speech to Supreme Soviet of the USSR**

AFP pgs 127-150 1985 State of Union (Reagan Doctrine) 1983 Remarks to Evangelicals (Evil  
Empire Speech) 1987 Brandenburg Gate Speech (Tear Down This Wall) 1983 "Star Wars"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MDFX-dNtsM>

Life in a “Captive Nation” During the Cold War Guest Speaker, Zsuzsa Rastegar, a former resident in Eastern Europe (4/3)

Speech Kautman: The First Principles of Ronald Reagan’s Foreign Policy

End of Cold War: GHW Bush Manages Collapse of Soviet Union (4/8)

AFP pgs 151-173

The European Miracles & National Sovereignty Issues# AFP pgs 226-233

Sovereignty and the EU

Life in a “Captive Nation” During the Cold War Guest Speaker, Zsuzsa Rastegar, a former resident in Eastern Europe 4/10

Woods: Globalization and Sovereignty: A Short History of the Bricker Amendment America’s Foreign Policy Choices & Failing States in Clinton’s Unipolar World

AFP pgs 174-225, 234-251

Guest Lecturer: Arguments on Both Sides of The Jones Act (4/15)

Jones Act

<https://www.cato.org/multimedia/cato-daily-podcast/jones-act-burden-america-can-no-longer-bear>

<https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/jones-act-burden-america-can-no-longer-bear>

AFP pgs 252-266 9/11 and the Bush Doctrine# (4/17)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGH\\_V7IDoqg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGH_V7IDoqg)

AFP pgs 267-281

Bush’s National Security Strategy War in Afghanistan (4/22)

AFP pgs 282-289

AFP pgs 309-317 An Obama Doctrine? And Brexit (4/24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT-gnEkJq9k>

AFP pgs 318-330

Krayewski: What the Syria Crisis Tells Us About the Obama Doctrine or Lack Thereof

[Brexit and European Union primer \(video\) | Khan Academy](#)

▶ 9:34

<https://www.khanacademy.org/.../brexit-and-european-union-prim...>

17. US Trade Wars with China (4/30)

*The Department of Commerce. "China is a non-market economy".*

<https://posts.careerengine.us/p/5b5bbd27092df932ef4b9ec5>

China vs the World, <https://china-mes.metalminer.com/>

[Bob Bryan](#), "China just slammed massive tariffs on \$34 billion worth of US goods — here's what will get hit."

<https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-china-trade-war-items-2018-7#vehicles-13>

Wrap-Up 12/6

Film: How North Korea Is Using Smartphones as Weapons of Mass Surveillance

<http://www.wsj.com/video/how-north-korea-is-using-smartphones-as-weapons-of-mass-surveillance/C42C27C0-4310-4916-AECC-22885A24D414.html>