

## **US Foreign Policy**

### **Course Syllabus**

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#### **Overview:**

This course attempts to delineate an overview on theoretical and conceptual understanding related to US foreign policy. In it, it will initially try to explore key conceptual issues surrounding such intricate and controversial concept related to foreign policy, foreign policy making and mechanism. In the same vein, the course shall subsequently focus on the empirical dimension of the US foreign policy globally with special reference to Middle East. The course will give a special attention to US foreign policy towards current political developments taking place in the region especially as far as "Arab Spring" is concerned.

#### **Required Readings:**

Martin Needler (1966), Understanding Foreign Policy, NY: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

Stephan E. Ambrose and Douglas G. Brinkly (1997), Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938, NY: Penguin Books.

A collection of various articles and materials related to US foreign policy

#### **Module aims**

- To identify the distinguishing characteristics of foreign policy.
- To provide a framework designed to show how foreign policy is made.
- To account for the political and academic debates about the formation of

foreign policy.

- To examine US foreign policy and its implications on inter-state relations – with special reference to the Middle East.
- To introduce and explore the main theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of US foreign policy;
- To offer an understanding of the origins, development, and global significance of the of US foreign policy;
- To discuss a series of policy-relevant questions associated with these studies;
- To assess contemporary debates about the future of US foreign policy.
- To develop students' skills in the effective collection and interpretation of information.
- To develop students' abilities to argue cogently, concisely and critically.

### **Format**

There will be one three-hour seminar each week. The seminar will consist of a small group presentation and a group discussion. All students are required to come prepared for the topic under discussion.

### **Grades:**

Mid-term examination (30%)

Presentation (10%)

Research Paper (30%)

Final Exam (30%)

**Structure of the Course:**

**Part One: Theoretical and Conceptual Section**

- Realism
- Liberalism
- Constructivism

**The foundation of foreign policy:**

- The national interest - in principle and practice
- Foreign policy in a democratic society
- Machinery for policy making

**The Structure of International System:**

- The World of sovereign states
- Why a Foreign Policy
- What constitute power
- The regulation of power
- The Economy of power
- The nature of challenge and counterchallenge: Isolation, domination, coalition.

**Part Two: Case Studies**

US Foreign Policy towards:

Arab-Israeli Conflict

War on Terror

Arab "Spring"

Iran

The Role of US Financial Assistance in promoting its Foreign Policy Objectives

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