

D. United States Foreign Policy*Daniel Krcmaric, Associate Professor, Political Science***Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Norris University Center**

This class covers contemporary American foreign policy. Over the course of the quarter, we will discuss American power, the goals for which this power is employed, and the United States' effectiveness at achieving these goals. Specifically, we will explore how academic research can help us understand important foreign policy issues such as democracy promotion, the spread of nuclear weapons, economic sanctions, terrorism, alliances and burden sharing, Russia's war in Ukraine, and the rise of China, among others.

Sep. 18 American Power

It is common to hear that the US is the strongest country in the modern world, perhaps even the strongest political entity since the Roman empire. But what, exactly, are the sources of America's power? And how does the US compare to the rest of the world? We'll discuss these issues in terms of military power, economic power, and soft power.

Sep. 25 Who Makes American Foreign Policy?

It is impossible to understand American foreign policy without referencing the individual who occupies the White House. While the president often defines foreign policy, there are a host of other actors that matter too. We'll discuss the role of Congress, the media, and average citizens in the process of making American foreign policy.

Oct. 2 NO CLASS - YOM KIPPUR**Oct. 9 America's Alliances**

To what extent should the US engage with the rest of the world? We'll answer that question by examining the politics of America's alliances, a topic of renewed interest given the current administration's skepticism of many traditional US allies.

Oct. 16 Spreading Democracy

The US has a long history of attempting to remake the world in its image by spreading democracy abroad. America's track record is mixed: it has both undeniable successes such as Germany and Japan and obvious failures such as Iraq and Afghanistan. We'll delve into this history and consider whether democracy promotion still has a place in US foreign policy.

Oct. 23 Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are the most powerful weapons ever invented. Their spread around the world is often considered a grave threat to humanity. Many scholars, however, think that nuclear weapons might also be a great force for peace because they make war too costly to contemplate. We'll take a deep dive into the role of nuclear weapons in American foreign policy.

Oct. 30 Economic Sanctions

The US uses economic sanctions against almost every adversary possible: geopolitical rivals, rogue states, human rights abusers, terrorists, drug cartels, and so on. But do they actually help the US realize its goals? We'll address debates about the effectiveness of economic sanctions as a tool of American foreign policy.

Nov. 6 Terrorism

Since the 9/11 attacks, terrorism has occupied a central place in American foreign policy. We'll analyze what terrorists hope to gain when they perpetrate terrorist attacks as well as how the US can respond most effectively to such attacks. We'll zero in on the pros and the cons of a counterterrorism tool that enjoys broad bipartisan support in Washington: drone strikes.

Nov. 13 The US-Russia Relationship

Over the past century, Russia has been the most important foreign policy relationship for the US. We'll discuss the many twists-and-turns in the relationship between these two countries. We'll also address one of the most hotly debated issues in contemporary foreign policy: Who is to blame for Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

Nov. 20 The Rise of China

As we enter the "Pacific Century," worries about a potential US-China conflict loom large. Will the US and China find a way to live together peacefully? We'll analyze both the sources of tension in the US-China relationship as well as the opportunities for cooperation.