U.S. Foreign Policy in A Global Age (IGA-217/HIST-1217) – Spring 2016
Monday/Wednesday 8:45 – 10:00 a.m., Weil Town Hall (1st Floor Belfer)

Professor Fredrik Logevall
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Office Hours: Littauer 376, Wednesday 3:00–5:00 (signup via http://is.gd/logevall_officehours)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The United States is and will likely remain the most important actor on the international stage for some time. How did America come to occupy this leading position and what does it mean for our understanding world affairs today? This course explores American foreign policy from the eve of World War I to the present. Issues to be examined include the tension between isolationism and interventionism and between unilateralism and multilateralism; the emergence of the United States as a superpower; the Soviet-American confrontation; the rise of presidential power in foreign affairs; and the nature of American power in today’s world. In addition, we will endeavor to determine how historical knowledge and historical skills can be used to better understand the policymaking process and lead to more thoughtful discussion and debate about the pressing global challenges of our present moment.

READING

The readings for the course can be accessed through Canvas. The following books are useful as general overviews, and it is recommended that students read them in full:

REQUIREMENTS

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, discussion, group work, and individual writing. There will be two film screenings outside class. Students are expected to complete all of the required reading prior to each session, to arrive in class on time, and to be fully prepared to discuss the day’s assignment. Attendance and participation will be assessed and factored into final grades. Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times. There are no prerequisites for the course.

*Auditors are welcome but must appear in class regularly and are expected to do the assignments (readings and films). Auditors are not graded and are thus not expected to produce written work, but are asked to participate in group-work. Non-HKS students, at Harvard or elsewhere, may register at my discretion and will have the same requirements as HKS students.

1. **Weekly Brief.** Each week, students will submit a brief response to the assigned readings, either Monday’s or Wednesday’s. These responses should be no more than 500 words and analytical in nature. They are due, via Canvas, by 9:00 p.m. on the eve of the class in which these readings will be discussed. They will be graded “check minus,” “check,” or “check plus,” and will used to assess overall effort and help drive the in-class discussion. Each student will be allowed to take two weeks off this assignment, and there will be no assignment during the weeks of January 25 and March 7.

2. **Simulation Exercise and Memo: Recreating Lyndon Johnson’s Decision to Escalate the War in Vietnam.** Students will divide into small groups, and will discuss and debate in class how best to proceed in Vietnam, whereupon each group will produce a unified 1500-word position memo for President Johnson. The date for the simulation is March 9. More details on this exercise will be distributed at the start of the semester.

3. **Class Presentation.** A portion of several class meetings will be given over to student presentations. The purpose is not to rehash the outside readings, but to broaden and deepen the class discussion, to zero in on a particular issue in U.S. foreign policy, and to spark new insights into the subject at hand. Each group can be as small as two and as large as four, and must meet with me in advance of its presentation. More details on class presentations will be distributed at the start of the semester.

4. **Final Paper.** All students will complete a 3000-4000 word policy paper, evaluating how history can be utilized to better understand a current policy issue in American diplomacy and statecraft. This will be due, via Canvas, by Friday, May 6, at 5:00 p.m.

All written work should be double-spaced in 12-pt Times New Roman font with one-inch margin on both sides of the page. Do not justify the text; ragged right margins preferred throughout.

Students are encouraged to use office hours to discuss all aspects of the course, as well as other matters, including their future professional development. Appointments will be scheduled on other days as needed. Please arrange all appointments outside of my regular hours with my Faculty Assistant: ashley_davis@hks.harvard.edu.

The Course Assistant, Mitchell Alva, is also available, by appointment, to advise in respect of assignments and class presentations.
GRADING

Weekly Brief/Participation: 15%
Simulation Exercise/Memo: 25%
Class Presentation: 25%
Final Paper: 35%

Pursuant to HKS recommended grading practices, 10-15% of the grades will be an A, 20-25% will be an A-, 30-40% will be a B+, 20-25% will be a B, and 5-10% will be a B- or lower.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All written work for this course must be appropriately referenced. Students seeking guidance regarding proper citation and academic honesty should refer to the Harvard Kennedy School Academic Code. If you still have questions as to whether or not you have used citation properly, please speak with me before turning in your written assignment.

Important note: In order to reduce distractions and encourage vigorous discussion, the use of laptops, tablets, and smartphones in class is strongly discouraged. Laptops may be used for group preparation and presentations. In special circumstances, I allow tablets for reading and note taking. If you feel that you absolutely cannot take notes by hand, please speak with me; if you’ve been authorized to use a tablet, make sure you are disconnected from the Internet.

SCHEDULE

Week 1

January 25: Introduction


January 27: 19th Century/Free Security

- Susan A. Brewer, Why America Fights: Patriotism and War Propaganda from the Philippines to Iraq (New York, 2009), 14-45.
Week 2

February 1: **US Entry into World War I**


February 3: **Wilsonianism**


Week 3

February 8: **World War II**

- H-Diplo/ISSF Exchange on “Democracy, Deception, and Entry into War” [an H-Diplo | ISSF Roundtable].

February 10: **The Use of the Bomb Against Japan**


Week 4

February 15: **NO CLASS - PRESIDENTS’ DAY HOLIDAY**

February 17: **Superpower Confrontation**

Week 5

February 22: **Korea: The Forgotten War**


February 24: **Eisenhower and Covert Action: Iran and Guatemala**


Week 6

February 29: **The Kennedy Crises: Bay of Pigs**

- “Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs,” Kennedy School of Government Case Program (C14-80-279)

March 2: **The Kennedy Crises: Missiles in Cuba**

- Don Munton and David A. Welch, *The Cuban Missile Crisis* (New York, 2007), 84-103.

Week 7

March 7: **Vietnam: The Roots of a War**

• FILM: “The Fog of War” (details to come)

March 9: **Historical Simulation: Recreating LBJ’s Decision to Escalate the War**

**Week 8**

March 14/16: **NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK**

**Week 9**

March 21: **Nixon and Détente**


March 23: **Vietnam: The End of a War**

• Gideon Rose, *How Wars End: Why We Always Fight the Last Battle* (New York, 2010), 159-95.

**Week 10**

March 28: **Carter and the Middle East**


March 30: **Gorbachev, Reagan, and the End of the Cold War**

• Craig and Logevall, *America's Cold War*, 322-70.

**Week 11**

April 4: **The Gulf War**

• Derek Chollet and James Goldgeier, *America Between the Wars: From 11/9 to 9/11: The Misunderstood Years Between the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Start of the War on Terror* (New York, 2008), 1-28.
• Jeffrey Frank, “Twenty-five Years After Another Gulf War,” The New Yorker, July 16, 2015.

April 6: Clinton in the World: Rwanda and Bosnia

• Richard Holbrooke, To End A War (New York, 1998), 288-312.

Week 12

April 11: September 11


April 13: Afghanistan and the War on Terror

• FILM: “Restrepo” (details to come)

Week 13

April 18: Iraq 2.0


April 20: Obama’s World I

• Milne, Worldmaking, pp. 457-513.

Week 14

April 25: Obama’s World II

April 27: **The Future of U.S. Power**