



Eesti Diplomaatide Kool  
Estonian School of Diplomacy

## US Foreign Policy

**Course dates:** 15.01.2017-18.01.2019

**Course instructor:** Matthew Crandall, associate professor of International Relations Tallinn University

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### Course overview:

This course would provide both an overview and an analytical understanding of US foreign policy. The overview of US foreign policy would be from 1796 to 2018. The analytical aspect would be looking at the inputs involved in forming US foreign policy and the grand strategies available to the US at the end of the cold war.

### Course schedule and readings:

- January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Topic: Exceptionalism and expansion in US foreign policy 1776-1945
  - Reading:
    - Restad. 2012. Old Paradigms in History Die Hard in Political Science: US Foreign Policy and American Exceptionalism
  - Optional reading:
    - McCormick, James. 2014. American Foreign Policy & Process. Ch. 1 “America’s Traditions in Foreign Policy”
    - LaFeber, Walter. 2008. Ch. 3 “The US Rise to World Power 1776-1945” in Cox and Stokes (ed.) US Foreign Policy (2012).
- January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Topic: Institutions and US foreign policy making: The presidency, bureaucracies, and Congress
  - Readings:
    - McCormick, James. 2014. American Foreign Policy & Process. Ch. 7 “The President and the Making of Foreign Policy”
    - McCormick, James. 2014. American Foreign Policy & Process. Ch. 8 “Congressional Perogatives and the making of foreign policy”
- January 17<sup>th</sup>
  - The Cold War era, grand strategy and US foreign policy.

- Readings:
  - McCormick, James. 2014. American Foreign Policy & Process. Ch. 2 “America’s Global Involvement and the Emergence of the Cold War”
  - Brooks, Ikenberry, Wohlforth. 2012. Don’t Come Home: The Case against Retrenchment. International Security. Vol. 37, nr. 3, pp. 7-51
- January 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Topic: The foreign policies of George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump.
  - Readings:
    - Rose, Gideon. 2015. What Obama got right. *Foreign Affairs*.
    - Zenko and Lissner. 2017. Trump is going to Regret not having a Grand Strategy. Foreign Policy.
    - Schweller. 2018. Three Cheers for Trumps Foreign Policy What the Establishment Misses. Foreign Affairs.pdf
  - Optional reading:
    - Jervis, Robert. 2004. Understanding The Bush Doctrine. Political Science Quarterly. Vol. 118 nr. 3, pp. 365-388.

### Course requirements:

- **Exam: 80%**

The exam will be worth 80 points, and consist of 9 questions, all open ended. 8 questions will be short answer (one to three paragraphs) and the last question will be a short essay (one page). The topics will be based on the reading and lecture materials. The final essay will be to critique and propose a foreign policy grand strategy for the USA. The bulk of the paper should be focused on the proposal with the critique used as a means to justify the proposal

The exam will be given on February 4<sup>th</sup> from 17:00-19:30

- **Textual analysis: 12%**

The textual analysis will be worth 12 points. **Due January 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 23:55**, upload on Moodle. It will be 2-3 pages. Choose **one** of the readings (chapters) that is covered in class and provide a brief summary of the key findings or arguments of the author and then provide your own thoughts, opinions, analysis and comments about those arguments and findings. Your own reflection and analysis should make up a majority of the document.

- **Attendance: 8%**

Lecture attendance will be worth 8 points. There will be four lecturers. Every lecture you attend will get you two points to get full points you will need to come to all four lectures. If you plan on missing any lectures and want the points you can submit a reading summary from the reading material on the class day you missed. Lectures will be interactive and will demand participation on the part of students. Group discussions, class discussions, and other activities are planned. Students are expected to have done all the reading prior to coming to class so they are able to get more from the lectures.