

**MEREDITH COLLEGE**  
**History/Political Science 330: The US & the World in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**  
Spring 2011

Instructor: Jeffrey D. Martinson  
Office: Joyner 220  
Office Hours: M-Th 1-2 PM  
F by Appointment

Office Phone: 760- 2349  
Home Phone: 327-4729 (Before 9 pm)  
Email: martinso@meredith.edu

**Course Description and Goals:**

A study of global issues involving the United States vis-a-vis Europe, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, Africa, Middle East, and Asia. May be taken for credit in political science or history..

**Educational Outcomes:**

By semester-end, students will

- 1) know basic theoretical frameworks within the field of American Foreign Policy;
- 2) explain the primary research methods of the field;
- 3) connect primary supporting research with a particular theoretical position in the field;
- 4) apply theoretically-based explanations and solutions to individual behavior or societal phenomena;
- 5) solve problems by analyzing data, thinking critically, and selecting optimal results.
- 6) analyze at least one global issue with current implications using a variety of perspectives and methods.
- 7) compare how different world cultures respond to at least one global issue.
- 8) express their knowledge of the global issue through written work, presentation, or artistic production.

The underlying motivation for the course content and these objectives is to equip students not only for further study in political science and in other fields of social science but also in order to become better students of the world more generally.

**Texts**

There are no required texts for this course. All materials will be available online or otherwise supplied by the instructor.

**Requirements**

The course is centered on a number of short written and audiovisual sources which investigate the history, forms and functions of US foreign policy during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Daily assignments are short *but* dense, therefore requiring careful consideration. Students are expected to have finished all assigned readings or viewings prior to class in order to participate in discussion. In

addition, each student will complete two exams (one midterms and one final) and ten exercises. Each of these requirements is elaborated in detail below.

The grading weights and the dates when requirements are due are as follows:

Participation	Daily	10%
Exercises (10)	Various	4% each
Midterm Exam	3/2	20%
Final Exam	5/4 (1PM)	30%

Detailed descriptions of each of these requirements are provided below:

*Participation:*

Students are expected to come to class prepared. This includes having read or viewed the material, having formulated opinions on the material and/or having generated questions regarding unclear aspects of the material. Students are encouraged to share their thoughts during regular class discussions moderated by the instructor. Attendance is important and every three unexcused absences will result in a letter grade reduction. In general, however, participation is *based on intellectual engagement, not physical presence*. Students are encouraged to check with the instructor regularly in order to learn their current participation score and (if necessary) ways to improve it. We will follow the college policy on inclement weather.

*Exams:*

Exams will test the student's comprehensive learning at the two points during the semester. They will include multiple choice and short essay questions. Study guides and sample questions will be circulated well in advance of exams. Each exam is cumulative in that it covers all material between exam day and the start of class (i.e., not just the material between exams.) Finally, excused absences from examinations can only be obtained in advance or for medical or other emergencies. Such emergencies must be documented to the satisfaction of the instructor. An unexcused absence from an examination will result in a grade of zero for that examination. There are no make-ups.

*Exercises*

The exercises enable students to demonstrate their learning at various points throughout the semester in brief assignments directly related to the most recent readings. Exercises will not exceed 5 pages in submitted length. Email submissions will not be accepted, and late submissions will be penalized 10% per day. There are no make-ups.

## **Final Letter Grades**

Final scores are determined using the weights mentioned above and according to the breakdowns listed below:

A: 90-100      B: 80-89      C: 70-79      D: 60-69      F: 0-59

## **Meredith Code of Honor**

We, the Meredith Community, are committed to developing and affirming in each student a sense of personal honor and responsibility. Uncompromising honesty and forthrightness are essential elements of this commitment. The Honor System is a method by which individual honors are protected and maintained. Any dishonorable action will be regarded as a violation of this commitment, and corrective action will be taken. If I am in violation of the Honor Code, to prevent jeopardizing the Honor System or weakening our system of self-government, I have an obligation to report myself to the proper authorities. If I am aware of a violation of the Honor System by another student, I shall call this matter to the attention of that student as a violation of responsibility to the community. In choosing Meredith College, I am accepting the Honor System as a way of life. As a Meredith student, I am responsible for insuring that the Honor System is at all times carried out.

## **Technology Use Policy**

We will follow the tech use policy as stated on the course (Blackboard) webpage.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Counseling Center/Disability Services Office. Disability Services is located in 106 Carroll Hall and can be reached at 760-8427 or [disabilityservices@meredith.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@meredith.edu). For additional information see the website at <http://www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/disability>.

## **Course Timeline**

The following lists the tentative assignments for the semester. All materials are posted on Blackboard. Exercises are due the last day of the week they are assigned.

### Week One

1/10, 12 & 14 – Introduction/ American Foreign Policy Adolescence

### Week Two

1/19 & 20 – U.S. and Them  
Exercise # 1 Due

### Week Three

1/24, 26 & 28 – FDR & The Modern American Presidency  
Exercise # 2 Due

Week Four

1/31, 2/2 & 4 – American Super Power

Week Five

2/7, 9 & 11 – Truman and the Start of the Cold War  
Exercise # 3 Due

Week Six

2/14, 16 & 18 – The General in Charge  
Exercise # 4 Due

Week Seven

2/21, 23 & 25 – Kennedy & Johnson: The First 20<sup>th</sup> Century Presidents

Week Eight

2/28 – Quagmire  
3/2 – MIDTERM EXAM

Week Nine

3/14, 16 & 18 – Nixon & Ford: Peace with Honor?  
Exercise # 5 Due

Week Ten

3/21, 23 & 25 – Carter: Moral Equivalent  
Exercise # 6 Due

Week Eleven

3/28, 30 & 4/1 – Reagan: Evil Empires  
Exercise # 7 Due

Week Twelve

4/4, 6 & 8 – Bush: The End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)  
Exercise # 8 Due

Week Thirteen

4/11, 13 & 15 – Clinton: Hope & Dismay  
Exercise # 9 Due

Week Fourteen

4/18 & 20 – Ringing in the New Millennium: Change & Continuity  
Exercise # 10 Due

Week Fifteen

4/25 & 27 – Review

Week Sixteen

5/4 – FINAL EXAM, 1 PM