Spring 2016

American Grand Strategy

Sarah Bjerg Moller
Seton Hall University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi

Recommended Citation
https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/344
DIPL 6132: American Grand Strategy
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University
Spring 2016

Professor: Sara Bjerg Moller
Email: mollersb@shu.edu
Office: McQuaid Hall, 101C
Office House: M 12:30-2:00 and W 4:00-5:00 pm

Time: Th 5:00-7:10 pm
Location: Seminary Bldg, 121

Course Description
This course examines the formulation, implementation, and outcomes of American grand strategy. Because grand strategies are never constructed in isolation of past experiences, however, the first third of the course explores the ways in which other great powers have traditionally "done" grand strategy, with special attention given to the case of Great Britain. The remaining two-thirds of the course explores patterns of continuity and change in American grand strategy, from its early founding through the Cold War and containment, to the post-Cold War debates on strategies of engagement, primacy, democracy promotion, and offshore balancing. Core questions explored in this course include: How are grand strategies chosen? What constitutes a successful/failed grand strategy and how can we tell? What should be the grand strategy of the United States for the 21st century?

Prerequisites
There are no formal prerequisites. However, students are expected to be familiar with the main theories and core concepts of the international relations literature. Students who have not taken or are currently taking DIPL 6000: International Relations Theory should discuss with the instructor whether this course is appropriate.

Course Requirements

- **Attendance and Participation.** All students must attend and actively participate in class discussion.

- **Complete the Readings.** Students must complete the readings prior to the class meeting.

- **Complete all Assignments.** The major assignment for the course is a research paper. Students will pick a US administration and (1) identify the grand strategy of the administration (including alternative strategies that were not selected but may have been under consideration); (2) the principal influences on the strategy; and (3) the political and military consequences of the adopted strategy. In addition to this, students will also write two short response papers analyzing the core themes of two different weeks' readings (one each from Parts II and III).
Textbooks and Readings

There are four required textbooks for this class:


Note: Titles with an asterisk (*) can also be accessed via Blackboard.

Additional readings will be made available on the Blackboard site that has been established for this course.

Assignments and Evaluation

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

- **Class Participation** (20%) Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the weekly readings and actively participate in class discussions.

- **Response Papers** (20%) Students will write two 5-page response papers (each worth 10%) summarizing the core themes from one of the weeks in Part II and one in Part III. Students are free to choose which weeks they write on provided they choose one from each section. Papers are to be handed in at the start of the class in which the topic will be covered.

- **Research Paper** (60%) The major assignment for the course is a 25-page research paper assessing the grand strategy of any U.S. administration since 1945. NB: Students should schedule an appointment with the instructor in the first three weeks of the class to discuss their proposed topic.
  - **Proposal** (15%) A 5-page proposal detailing the presidential administration you will examine, why you chose it, the major grand strategic debates of the period, along with a bibliography of primary and secondary sources you will use in your paper. Due Feb. 11.
Final Paper (40%) A 25-page paper analyzing the failures and successes of your chosen administration's grand strategy. Due May 5.

Policies and Resources

- **Accommodations.** Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall, provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Ms. Diane Delorenzo at (973) 313-6003.

- **Counseling.** The Office of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers assistance to students in need of support. CAPS is located in Mooney Hall and can be reached at (973) 761-9500.

- **Absences.** Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in discussions. If a medical situation or other emergency arises students should inform the professor via email at the earliest possible opportunity as to the reason for their absence. Unexcused absences will bring down your participation grade.

- **Late or Incomplete Assignments.** Failure to turn in a paper on its due date will result in a grade penalty. All late papers (this includes those handed in at the end of class or emailed to me during class) will be penalized by one-third letter grade per day (i.e., an A paper turned in one day late is an A-, two days late a B+, etc.) except in cases of medical or family emergency.

Reminder: Response papers must be turned in at the start of the class in which the topic will be covered.

- **Plagiarism, Cheating and Academic Integrity.** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:
  - [http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm](http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm)

- **Technology.** Technology can be beneficial as well as harmful to learning. Students will be allowed to use laptop computers during class sessions for the purposes of note taking only. All other activities (email, internet, Facebook, etc.) are prohibited during class. Students who violate this policy will forfeit their laptop privileges.
• **Grade Appeals.** Grades in this course are not negotiable. If you believe an error has been made in the grading of your assignment, you may make a formal appeal. All appeals should be made in writing and sent to the professor via email.

• **Email.** Before emailing the professor students should consider the following: First, always check the syllabus. Often, the answer has already been provided for you. Second, students should include the name and section number of the course in the subject line of the email, e.g., **Subject: DIPL 6132 NA: Question about Reading.** Doing so will enable me to locate your email more quickly and hence respond more promptly. Third, students should communicate professionally, avoiding informal salutations, casual language, and emoticons. Fourth, please keep your communications brief. Complicated questions or issues are best discussed in person in office hours or by appointment. Finally, please be aware that I am usually “offline” on the weekends. Emails sent after Friday, 5:00 pm will generally not be answered until the following Monday.

• **Weather/Closures.** The University may cancel class due to inclement weather. Information on University closings can be found on the University website or by listening to the message on the main University phone number, (973) 761-9000.

• **Disclaimer.** The instructor reserves the right to make changes (e.g., addition of readings) to the syllabus in the course of the semester. Students will be given ample warning of any changes.
Course Calendar
Part I: Introduction

1. Introduction and Course Overview (Jan. 14)

- Peter Feaver “What is grand strategy and why do we need it?” Foreign Policy (April 8, 2009) and Peter Feaver, “8 Myths about American grand strategy,” Foreign Policy (Nov. 23, 2011)


2. Defining Grand Strategy (Jan. 21)


Part II: Great Power Grand Strategy Through the Ages

3. The Ancients (Jan. 28)


4. Grand Strategies of the Early Modern Era (Feb. 4)


5. The Rise and Fall of Pax Britannica (Feb. 11)


Feb. 11: Proposal due at the start of class.
Part III: U.S. Grand Strategy from 1776 to 1945


- McDougall, pp. 15-76.
- Martel, pp. 167-208.

*Documents:*
- Washington’s Farewell Address: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp)
- Monroe Doctrine: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/monroe.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/monroe.asp)


- McDougall, pp. 122-146.
- Brands, pp. 17-58.

*Documents:*
Part IV: The Cold War


Documents:

- The Truman Doctrine:
  http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudocasp

- The Marshall Plan:
  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1947marshallplan1.html

- George Kennan’s Long Telegram:

- NSC 68:
  http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nsc-hst/nsc-68.htm


- Brands, pp. 59-143.

- TBD.

10. U.S. Grand Strategy after the Cold War (March 31)


Documents:

• Excerpts from the 1992 Defense Planning Guidance:

• Bush 1991 National Security Strategy:

• Clinton 1994 National Security Strategy:

• Clinton 2000 National Security Strategy:

11. U.S. Grand Strategy after 9/11 (April 7)


• Martel, pp. 330-338.

• Brands, pp. 144-189.


Documents:


12. ISIS and the Middle East-North Africa (April 14)


- Chas Freeman et al., “U.S. Grand Strategy in the Middle East: Is there one?”*Middle East Policy* vol. 20, no. 1 (Spring 2013): 1-29.


13. U.S.-China Relations (April 21)


• Martel, pp. 339-364.

May 5: Final paper due by 5:00 pm.
Papers should be emailed to mollersb@shu.edu
On January 2, 2019 Dr Bartoli met with John Kiser, a donor, in preparation of his visit. This is the receipt for the tip to the Uber driver to the location.
On January 2, 2019 Dr Bartoli met with John Kiser, a donor, in preparation of his visit. This is the receipt for the Uber to the location.