PSCI 490: Post-Cold War U.S. Foreign Policy
Spring 2019
Location: Hagey Hall (HH) 344, Thursdays, 2:30-5:20 pm

Instructor: Dr. Roy Norton

Email Address: rnorton@balsillieschool.ca; rnorton@uwaterloo.ca

Office Location: Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA), 67 Erb St. W, #308

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment

***Reading list begins on page 5***

Contact Policy:
The best way to communicate with me is by email at the address listed above. I do my best to answer all queries within 24 hours. When you send an email please observe some common-sense rules of email etiquette. Always include “PSCI 490” in the subject line; begin the message with a greeting and sign off with your own name. Use your uwaterloo email address to prevent your message from going to the junk folder. I am in most office most days (Mon-Thurs) – meaning you’re free to drop by in the hope of catching me. My formal office hours are on Wednesday afternoons. Be advised that I share my office with a very friendly Golden Retriever. So if you’re allergic, afraid, or can’t stand the breed, let me know in advance – and we’ll find another place to meet in BSIA.

Course Description:
This course takes a critical look at US foreign policy in the post-Cold War era. From the vantage point of 2019, many seem prone to declare American foreign policy a failure. But foreign policy analysis is always more complicated than first impressions. In PSCI 490, we will analyze and evaluate the successes and failures of US foreign policy since the end of the Cold War and assess what might come next. The course is organized around recently-published work on US foreign policy. In class, we will discuss these recent contributions with the aim of explaining the state of US foreign policy today.

Pre-Requisites:
4A strongly recommended; PSCI 281 World Politics is strongly recommended. Since this is a fourth-year seminar course, I assume that you are familiar with the basics of International Relations theory and its major concepts. Though you will not be evaluated on your knowledge of IR theory, it is advisable to be conversant in this language.
**Expectations:**
(1) Come to class: A university education is a privilege and seminar discussions can be illuminating. More instrumentally, the world is run by those who show up. Wise students will attend all seminars and use the discussions to develop ideas for the final term paper. I expect everyone to attend each seminar. It’s as simple as that.

(2) Keep up with your work: I expect you to attend class having read the assigned material. Assignments must be submitted by the time and date indicated. As always, late penalties will apply. Key dates are listed under ‘Commentaries’ and ‘Research Paper’ on page 3 of this syllabus.

**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**
By the end of this twelve-week course, students will be able to:

(1) Identify trends in US foreign policy in the post-Cold War era;

(2) Explain how US foreign policy has evolved over time;

(3) Speak clearly about the theoretical and empirical aspects of US foreign policy (during the first half of each class students will be asked to share their perceptions of the week’s readings, situating – where possible – their observations in the context of readings/learnings from previous weeks). [see also ‘Class Participation’, Page 4, below] Feedback will be offered ‘on the spot’ and, if students avail themselves of the opportunity, during office hours appointments.

(4) Write analytically/critically about the complexities of US foreign policy and IR theory (as demonstrated by the eight ‘commentaries’ and the research paper that you will produce – see elaboration beginning on page 3, below).

**Required Texts**
We will read the following books in their entirety. Both are required to complete the course. All other materials are available online or will be distributed in advance.


The texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore. Kindle versions are available online at a bit of a discount.

**Course Requirements**

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Page Commentaries</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Eight of eleven weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>August 9</td>
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40% Single-Page Commentaries (8 x 1 page each)

You will write eight (8) single-page commentaries in response to the required readings. Each commentary will be graded out of 10. The total score (/80) will be divided in half which will be your score on this portion of the coursework. Commentaries should be no longer than 1 page single-spaced. There is no need to provide citations or a bibliography. If you cannot resist the urge to cite, refer to the author of the article in parenthesis and I will assume that it corresponds to the syllabus.

Commentaries may address any component of the readings that piques your interest. Treat the commentaries as editorial reflections on the material at hand. This may include specific objections to the literature, broad commentaries, issues you would like to explore, et cetera. Though the direction is up to you, the compositions should avoid trivial concerns or simply summarizing/describing the reading you have chosen to write about.

Commentaries will be graded on the basis of substance and style. I want to see interesting and substantive insights into the content, and clear writing.

Due dates: Eight times throughout the eleven substantive weeks of class – the first of which is due either in Week 2 or Week 3. Put differently, if you were to hand in your first commentary in Week 2, you would be required to hand-in a commentary at the outset of 7 or the remaining 10 weeks. If your first commentary was submitted in Week 3, you would have to produce commentaries during 7 of the remaining 9 weeks. You pick which weeks you want to do them. Only one commentary can be submitted per class (they are due at the beginning of the class at which the reading you have selected will be discussed). Only eight will be accepted during the semester. I prefer that you submit the paper during the relevant session in hard copy but will accept e-mailed versions no later than noon on the day the reading will be discussed in class. You cannot bundle them together and submit them as a package later in the term.

45% Research Paper (3000-3500 words)

You will write a research paper on a topic of your choice. The essay may cover any issue relating to US foreign policy in the post-Cold War period. This is your opportunity to explore an issue that interests you. Topics may flow from classroom conversations or from weekly reflection papers. Students may also select a topic that is not covered on the syllabus, provided it relates to the course’s theme. You must discuss with me during office hours your proposed topic and how you intend to address it.

Your research should be framed by a question. A good research question allows you to offer an answer – also known as your thesis or argument. Your paper must make an argument about its subject matter. This means that you must advance a normative, theoretical or an empirical claim in response to your research question. Papers that only describe a situation will not suffice.
Your essay must have a bibliography and use a proper citation style.

Due date: Friday, August 9 at 5:00 pm

15% Class Attendance and participation

This is a seminar course and you are expected to participate regularly and vigorously. Accordingly, a healthy percentage of the overall grade is apportioned to in-class performance. I will assess your participation on three general criteria: demonstrated grasp of the arguments/nuances presented in the weeks’ readings; insights you share/questions you raise that demonstrate growing appreciation, as the course progresses, of the complexities of U.S. Post-Cold War Foreign Policy; the clarity with which you make your interventions.

Late Policy:
Single-page commentaries must be submitted in hard copy and are due at the beginning of the class. Late papers will not be accepted.

Term paper is due Friday, August 9 at 5:00pm on LEARN or via email. Papers submitted after the deadline will be assessed -1% per day off the final grade. Extensions may be granted only with justifiable reason. Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason.

Style Guidelines:
Please submit all of your written work with the following specifications.

Font – Times New Roman (it’s way easier for me to read the papers if they’re all in the same font).

Font size – 12-point font (thank you)

Margins – 2.54 cm / 1 inch margins

Page numbers – beginning on the first page of text, not the title page

Citation style – I prefer any style that involves embedded citations. This means citations in the text that look like this: (Author last name, year: page #). A bibliography at the end of the paper connects the in-text citation to the full source information. Footnotes are allowable for explanatory digressions or notes of clarification. If you have any concerns about how use this style, please refer to the reading list for examples of how to do it right.

Headings – Yes, you can use headings and subheadings in your submitted work.

Grade Scale

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<th>Letter</th>
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<th>Letter</th>
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<tr>
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<td>73-76</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>F+</td>
<td>42-49</td>
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Schedule of Topics:

Week 1 – Thursday, May 9: Introductions

Week 2 – Thursday, May 16: Original Sins and Good Intentions (132 pages)

Week 3 – Thursday, May 23: Forever War (111 pages)
Mandelbaum. Ch. 3: “The War on Terror and Afghanistan”, and Ch. 4: “Iraq”. Pp. 133-244

Week 4 – Thursday, May 30: Mission Failure (136 pages)

Week 5 – Thursday, June 6: Misperception (108 pages)

Week 6 – Thursday, June 13: Monsters to Destroy (69 pages)

Week 7 - Thursday, June 20: US and the Muslim World (55 pages)

Week 8 – Thursday, June 27: The U.S.-Canada Relationship (64 pages)


Additional material to be distributed

**Week 9 – Thursday, July 4: Judging Obama ++ (102 pages)**


**Week 10 – Thursday, July 11: Trump, so far (74 pages)**


Foreign Affairs: 20-27.

Week 11 – Thursday, July 18: Fixing Foreign Policy (110 pages)

Week 12 – Thursday, July 25: What’s Next? (84 pages)
University Regulations

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, Policy 72 http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Turnitin.com (plagiarism detection software – to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented).

Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students’ submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time
assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

See Academic Integrity https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/guidelines-instructors for more information.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you need to request special accommodation, please communicate with me as soon as possible. This way we can arrange for the proper arrangements with little disruption.