

INTA 6111

US Foreign Security Strategy

Spring 2025

T/TH 12:30-1:45pm

CONTACT INFO:

See Dr. Salomone after class or in his office, 151 Habersham. Personal email <michaeldujac@aol.com>.

Cell 678-617-0872. When you call or email, make sure that you leave a descriptive subject line so I know that the caller is a student of mine and not a telemarketer.

TEXTS:

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of Postwar American National Security Policy During the Cold War* (Second Edition – blue & white cover).

Michael Mandelbaum, *Mission Failure: America and the World in the Post-Cold War Era*

James Fallows, *Blind into Baghdad*

Readings, outlines, maps, and briefings as posted on Canvas. Films in class.

REQUIREMENTS:

Class preparation, attendance and class participation are all important. Grades for the class as a whole will be at my discretion based upon your level of preparedness, participation, and attendance. So when I ask you a question in class, it is in your enlightened self-interest to have an answer.

Grad students will be presenting in class lectures in small groups as indicated in the syllabus. Those in class presentations will be part of your grade.

OBJECTIVES:

This course has two objectives. First, we will assess post World War II U. S. foreign policy from the perspective of the containment of communism, as it was implemented by successive U.S. administrations during the period of the Cold War 1949 to 1989, as the United States and Soviet Union were locked in a global geostrategic competition. There will be special emphasis on the origins of containment policy in the late 1940's and early 1950's, the Vietnam War as the apotheosis of that policy (1956-1973), and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Second, we will assess post-Cold War international relations from the perspective of the United States as the lone superpower, and the particular perils that unipolarity presents to the hegemon. The level of inquiry in the course is the macro-strategic level, at the nexus political & economic philosophy and strategy, as the U.S. Government defined its world role and fashioned policies to promote its interests and protect its national security during the Cold War and after.

The course involves lecture and discussion. Occasionally, film will be shown to elucidate a particular point, or give some sense of context to the particular period or issue under study. If you think the films are a waste of time, you may prefer another course instead of this one.

THE COURSE

1.0) Post-War Evolution of American Foreign and National Security Policy.

1.1) ORIGINS

Gaddis, Strategies of Containment, Chapters 1, 2, 3.

ALL THE READINGS ON CANVAS FOR THIS SECTION PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO:

---Mr. "X", "Sources of Soviet Conduct" (On Canvas).

---Hans J. Morgenthau, "The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy" (On Canvas).

1.2) REARMING AMERICA: The Truman Administration and the Soviet Threat,

Gaddis, Chapter 4.

"NSC-68, A Report to the National Security Council" (On Canvas).

1.3) EISENHOWER, DULLES, AND THE NEW LOOK,

Gaddis, Chapters 5, 6.

Film: "Why We Fight"

John Foster Dulles, "The Evolution of Foreign Policy" (Online via GT Library).

The Gaither Report, "Deterrence and Survival in the Nuclear Age" (On Canvas).

1.4) KENNEDY, LBJ, AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE:

Gaddis, Chapter 7

Films: "The Fog of War" and "Dr. Strangelove".

2.0) The Vietnam Watershed

2.1) CONTAINMENT ALONG THE "NEW FRONTIER: "Vietnam as a Test Case", and the Cuban Missile Crisis:

Gaddis, Chapter 8.

Film: "Thirteen Days".

2.2) NIXON, KISSINGER, FORD, the CARTER EXPERIMENT and DETENTE:

Gaddis, Chapters 9, 10

1. Gershman, "The Rise and Fall of the New Foreign Policy Establishment"(Online via GT Library).

3.0) Ending the Cold War: Then What??

3.1) REAGAN, BUSH, and AMERICA'S WORLD ROLE at the end of the Cold War: Gaddis, Chapters 11, 12

1. Fukiyama, "The End of History" (On Canvas)

Readings on the Persian Gulf War 1990-1991.

4.0) The Post 9/11 View

4.1) The War on Terror and Afghanistan:

Jeffrey Record, "Bounding the Global War on Terrorism" (Online via GT Library).

Mandelbaum, Chapter 3 "The War on Terror and Afghanistan".

4.2) The Invasion of Iraq Film: "Bush's War":

Joseph J. Collins, "The Decision to Invade Iraq and Its Aftermath" (On Canvas)

Mandelbaum, Chapter 4 "Iraq".

Blind Into Baghdad, entire book.

4.3) The World We Live In:

Mandelbaum, Chapter 6 "Restoration" and "Conclusion".

*** Graduate presentations on US Foreign Policy re: Iran; Modern Chinese Foreign Policy Strategies and Initiatives and Balancing the US; Balkan Wars; Chinese Initiatives in the South China Sea (mapping-focused); the War on Terror and Afghanistan.**

NOTE: SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.