Course requirements include the following:

- Chapter/Article summaries 20%
- Policy memo or paper 20%
- Mid-term exam 30%
- Final exam 30%


The article summaries are due every other Wednesday, beginning October 4.
The mid-term exam will be on October 25.
The policy memo or paper is due November 20.
The final exam will be on December 5.

Please notify me in the first week of class if you have any alternative needs as a result of a disability.

**Week 1**
- **Sept. 25** Introduction to American Foreign Policy
- **Sept. 27** Competing Currents in U.S Foreign Policy

**Week 2**
- **Oct. 2** In-class film
- **Oct. 4** Competing Currents in U.S Foreign Policy

**Week 3**
- **Oct. 9** The Soviet Union and Anti-Communism in American Foreign Policy
  - Stephen Ambrose, *Rise to Globalism*, Chapters 4-10
Oct. 11  
The Soviet Union and Anti-Communism: Vietnam and Détente  
Ambrose, Chapter 11-14.  
Jimmy Carter, Commencement Address at the University of Notre Dame, May 1977.  

Week 4  
Oct. 16  
The End of the Cold War  
Ambrose, Chapter 15-16.  

Oct. 18  
The Monroe Doctrine and the Latin American Left  

Week 5  
Oct. 23  
Making Foreign Policy  
James Lindsay, “Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy,” Presidential Studies Quarterly, September 2003  

Oct. 25  
Mid-term exam

Week 6  
Oct. 30  
Terrorism  

Nov. 1  
Democracy Promotion  
Ambrose, Chapters 17-18.  

Week 7  
Nov. 6  
War in Iraq  

Nov. 8  
War in Iraq  

Week 8  
Nov. 13  
Iran and Nuclear Proliferation  
Nov. 15  International Trade and Finance

Week 9

Nov. 20  America and The World (Paper Due)

Nov. 22  Holiday

Week 10

Nov. 27  America and The World (Continued)

Fareed Zakaria, “How to Escape the Oil Trap,” *Newsweek*, August 29, 2005

Final Exam:  Tuesday, December 5, Noon

---

**ARTICLE SUMMARIES**

Your assignment is to complete a summary of the assigned articles and book chapters. You do not have to submit a summary of every article and book chapter, only two for each day that readings are assigned. You may choose which articles to summarize. Also, you should not complete summaries for Stephen Ambrose, *Rise to Globalism*.

The idea is for you to gain an understanding of the arguments and main ideas of each and to be able to explain how the authors support their arguments.

You may structure your summaries however you like, but be certain that each answers the following:

- What are the author’s main arguments?
- What are the points (or subpoints) the author uses to make these arguments?
- How are these points and the main arguments supported? (What is discussed? What is offered as evidence?)

Each summary should be about a paragraph in length, and **you should be able to get 2 summaries to a page – single-spaced.**

The summaries are due in class every other Wednesday, beginning on October 4.

---

**MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS**

Each exam will consist of short answer questions, identification/explanation of terms, short essays, and/or a long essay. The final exam is not cumulative.
POLICY DECISION MEMO OR PAPER

Policy Decision Memo

Your job for this assignment is to take the role of a policy advisor in the United States government. Each group will write a decision memo advising the President or Secretary of State on a matter of foreign policy. The topics will be chosen by you and approved by the instructor. The format of the memo is specified below.

MEMORANDUM TO …..  
FROM ….
DATE: ….  
SUBJECT: …..

Background
In this section you will identify and introduce your topic, explain what the problem or issue is, and identify the decision that needs to be made. After this, you also need to provide some background information to enhance the reader’s understanding of the issue at hand. Explain the issue and provide context—how did the situation arise, who has done what to date, what has been the response of the interested parties? (There is no need to state the obvious in your background, e.g., “There is a war going on in Vietnam.” You can assume that the President or other high-ranking official knows the basics, and then some.)

Options
In this section you must identify at least three options on how to respond or proceed. Each must include an in-depth analysis of the advantages and drawbacks of the policy choice. What would be the effect of the actions (or inaction)? Get into some depth here. Don’t simply offer a cursory analysis.

Recommendation
Select one of the options and explain why this one is preferable to the others.

Paper

Your will select a topic of your choosing involving U.S. foreign policy. (The topic must be cleared by the instructor.) Your assignment is to write a paper that offers a thesis and develops an argument to support that thesis. The paper cannot simply be a history or description of an issue or event. It must be an analysis.

For Both Assignments

Due Date – November 20.

Sources – You are required to use at least four sources outside of the class readings, and to provide a bibliography. (Feel free to use as many course readings as you want; be certain to include them in the bibliography.) Sources can include books, journals, newspapers, etc. Material from the internet can be cited as a source only if it is legitimate source, such as an electronic version of a published work (e.g. Foreign Affairs, The Economist), or a reputable source that only publishes online. (As we all know, there are a number of dubious sources on the internet. Don’t rely on them.) With online sources, provide author, title, and publication just like you would with any other source, and also provide the URL.

Citations – You must provide documentary citations, in the form of in-text notes, when appropriate. Include the author and the year. Example: “Iran is estimated to spend approximately $2 billion per year on weapons development” (Jones, 2002).