Prerequisites: Ideally, students enrolled in this course should have already taken Political Science 2200, as well as 3220 and/or 3250. If they have not, they should be prepared to do some extra work to familiarize themselves with some basic concepts that this course assumes students in their 4th year of political science already master.

Description and Objectives of the Course
The course examines the international and domestic variables affecting the process of foreign policy-making and it surveys the major issue-areas of US foreign policy (focusing in particular on the post-World War II and contemporary period) such as security, defence, trade, and investment. The course also surveys US interests in, and policies towards, different regions of the world (e.g. the EU, Russia and China). By the end of the course students should be able to discuss current US foreign policy issues using appropriate concepts and theoretical tools as well as be aware of the politics that have led to their adoptions.

Please note that this is not a correspondence or web-based course but a fourth year seminar. Students are therefore expected to attend classes regularly (they will sign an attendance sheet), make their presentations and participate in class discussions.

Textbook

Course Requirements
Research Paper (final version due on April 6) 60%
In class exam (10 March) 20%
Class presentations and participation 20%

Research paper: a 3500-4000 word research paper (about 12-15 double spaced paged). The order of presentation will be selected randomly before the end of January. You are strongly encouraged to submit earlier drafts for comments. The draft which will be presented in class has to be sent to the other members of the class for comments at least five days before the presentation so that they have time to read it and prepare comments. The first task is to choose a clear and limited research topic which then you discuss with me. This should be done within the first two weeks of class. You begin by submitting a one-page proposal showing the policy decision you plan to explore and the organization of the paper. I may ask you to revise your proposal before I approve it.
Please note that I will not accept papers which have not been discussed and approved. If submitted they will receive a 0. Useful guideline on how to write a paper are in P. Burnham, K. Gilland, W. Grant and Z. Laytn-Henry, Research Methods in Politics (Basingstokes: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) especially chapters 2 and 7.

**Papers will be graded as follows:**

**A:** An excellent paper that shows a thorough and superior understanding of the subject under discussion and displays significant insights. It makes precise and clear arguments and is thoroughly researched. Its organization is very logical and coherent. It makes appropriate connections to the literature and theory relevant to the main question addressed in the paper. It is written in perfect scholarly fashion, has no spelling, grammatical, or syntactic mistakes, and reads very smoothly.

**B:** A good paper that shows a good understanding of the subject under discussion and displays at least some insights. It makes fairly clear and precise arguments and is adequately researched. Its organization is, for the most part, logical and coherent. It makes at least some connections to relevant literature and theory. It is written in less than perfect scholarly fashion, has no major or consistent spelling, grammatical, or syntactic mistakes, but does not always read very smoothly.

**C:** A satisfactory paper that shows an understanding of some of the issues related to the subject under discussion but displays few insights. It attempts to make some arguments but they are not always too clear or precise and not entirely well researched. Its organization is not always logical or coherent. It makes few connections to relevant literature and theory. It is written in a rather informal manner and does not always read very smoothly. It does not, however, have any major or consistent spelling, grammatical, or syntactic mistakes.

**D:** A less than satisfactory paper that shows a poor understanding of the issues related to the subject under discussion and displays no insights. It attempts to make some arguments but they are not clear or precise and are poorly researched. Its organization lacks logic and coherence. It hardly makes any connection to relevant literature and theory. It is written in an informal manner, may not read very smoothly, and may contain major or consistent spelling, grammatical, or syntactic mistakes.

**F:** An unsatisfactory or unacceptable paper: there are no arguments or they are either unclear or very poorly developed. It is written in an informal manner and may present major or consistent spelling, grammatical, or syntactic mistakes. Also, the paper is not on the topic that was approved by the instructor.

**In class exam** (10 March): it will consist primarily of a number of identification questions.

**Class presentations and participation:** Each class will begin with a presentation prepared by one or two of the students. The presentation should provide a **concise** summary of the readings assigned for that class and serve as an introduction to the subsequent discussion. Presentations should not exceed 15-20 minutes. You might use Power Point if you wish. For some of the readings (i.e. articles and chapter in books other than the two textbooks) students who are not presenting will submit a **one-page double-spaced summary** of the reading presented on that day. Commentaries have to be handed in at the beginning of class, before the discussion begins. The mark for participation will be based also on your interventions in class and more precisely on their relevance as well as on the suggestions you will provide to the draft of papers submitted by the other students.
Jan. 6: **Introduction**

Jan. 8: **Foreign policy in a globalized world**
- TB1: Chapter 1

Jan. 13: **The Cold War**
- TB1: Chapter 2

Jan. 15: **Containment: its origins and end**

Jan. 20: **Models of foreign policy decision-making**
- TB1: Chapter 3

Jan. 22: **The President**
- TB1: Chapter 4

Jan. 27: **Executive Agencies**
- TB1: Chapter 5

Jan. 29: **Congress**
- TB1: Chapter 6

Feb. 3: **Interest groups, the public and the media**
- TB1: Chapters 7 and 8

Feb. 5: **National security policy**
- TB1: Chapter 9

Feb. 10: **Contemporary security issues I**
- TB2: Chapters 1 and 2 (Russia and China)
Feb. 12: **Contemporary security issues 2**  
- TB2: Chapters 3 and 4 (Iran and North Korea)

Feb. 19: **Contemporary security issues 3**  
- TB1: Chapter 10  
- TB2: Chapters 7 and 8 (Iraq and Afghanistan)

Feb. 24: **The politics of international trade and investment**  
- TB1: Chapter 11 and 12

Feb. 26: **The post-war Liberal Grand strategy**  

March 3: **The transatlantic relationship**  

March 5: **The US and trans-state issues**  
- TB1: Chapter 13  

March 10: **In class exam**

March 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 and April 2: Presentation and discussion of papers.