

**POLS-Y 100: American Political Controversies**  
**4PM – 6PM TR WH 101**

Instructor: Timothy S. Rich  
Office: WH 329  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-2 (or by appointment)  
Email: [tsrich@indiana.edu](mailto:tsrich@indiana.edu)

**Required Text:** Kurt Campbell and Michael O’Hanlon’s *Hard Power: The New Politics of National Security*. Basic Books. 2006. ISBN: 9780465051663; ISBN-10: 0465051669

Other articles and materials will be posted on Oncourse

**Course Objective**

This course will develop critical thinking skills with regards to how the United States’ foreign policy is shaped by domestic and international factors. By analyzing the central text, Kurt Campbell and Michael O’Hanlon’s *Hard Power*, students should be able to do the following:

- (1) Understand the central argument/arguments presented in a text.
  - (a) Grasp and master the information/phenomenon provided by the author.
  - (b) Understand the assumptions that the author is making about foreign policy and domestic politics.
  - (c) Understand the factors the authors suggest as affecting the desired policy outcome.
  - (d) Understand how these factors connect to provide the policy outcome.
- (2) Be able to see the limitations of the arguments provided by the authors.

**Course Expectations**

1. Course Lectures:  
Due to the large number of students in this class, the scope for class discussion will be limited. However, you should be prepared to give oral answers in response to the instructor’s queries.
2. Attendance and Classroom Conduct:  
The instruction team will not take attendance; however, it is assumed that you will attend all the classes. Unacceptable behavior resulting in the deduction of participation grades by the instruction team includes: sleeping in class, reading newspapers and/or periodicals, and using communications devices and conducting conversations that interfere with class activities.
3. Assignments: You must do your weekly readings of the central text before class. You must appear for both the final and mid-term exams. The instruction team will not accept post-hoc postponement requests for exams. **You cannot make up a midterm or final unless this has been pre-arranged with one of the instructors. Quizzes cannot be made up. Homework assignments are due in**

**class the date listed on the syllabus. Any late homework assignment will be docked 25% per day.**

4. Current Events:

Quizzes will cover not only the assigned readings but the previous lecture and current events. Current events questions will be taken from online news reports broadly related to US foreign policy. You are expected to regularly skim the major stories of at least one of these sources.

Examples:

BBC: ([www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com))

Washington Post: ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com))

International Herald Tribune: ([www.iht.com](http://www.iht.com))

New York Times: ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

5. Academic Integrity:

“Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work, including the work of other students as one’s own” (from the IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct). This offence will result in an automatic F (or 0 points) on the particular project and the docking of a full letter grade; **it may result in the failure of the course**. Please, consult the online copy of the Indiana University Code of Student Rights for further details:

<http://campuslife.indiana.edu/Code/index.html>

### **Students with Disabilities**

Any student who needs accommodation for any disability must first register with Disability Services. They are located in Franklin Hall Room 006 and can be reached by email at [iubdss@indiana.edu](mailto:iubdss@indiana.edu). After registering there, they will provide you with a written note to give to the instructor, and, accommodations can be made.

### **Evaluation**

Homework Assignments (2x30)	60
Readings/Current Events Quizzes (6 x 40)	240
Mid-Term Exam	325
Final Exam	325
Class Participation	50
Total	1000 Points

## **Extra Credit Opportunity**

1 Page Summary/Critique: up to 25 points

Attend one lecture related to US foreign policy or international relations broadly defined during the semester and submit a one page summary and critique. Do not simply summarize the talk: include your opinion of content of the talk (i.e. what was or was not convincing). Indiana University has area studies centers that focus on India, Central Asia, The European Union, West Europe, Russia and East Europe (REEI), Latin America, Africa and East Asia. Other departments and organizations routinely bring speakers to campus from around the globe. We will post notification of upcoming talks on the ONCOURSE website and you will receive notification by e-mail. Talks are held at all times of day so finding interesting talks that fit your schedule should not be a problem unless you wait until the last minute.

## **Grading Scale**

A	949-1000
A-	900-949
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
F	0-599

## **Syllabus Structure**

A syllabus may be considered a contract between the students and the instructor. However, due to the nature of this course, which intends to develop a thought process about foreign policy making, not merely deliver information about a certain subject area, this syllabus may be changed at any time. I shall give due notification before making any major changes. Also, I shall try to make changes after discussing the matter in class. Any revision of the syllabus will be available on Oncourse under "Syllabus".

## Class Schedule

Tuesday, January 8  
Thursday, January 10  
Tuesday, January 15  
Thursday, January 17  
Tuesday, January 22  
Thursday, January 24  
Tuesday, January 29  
Thursday, January 31  
Tuesday, February 5  
Thursday, February 7  
Tuesday, February 12  
Thursday, February 14  
Tuesday, February 19  
Thursday, February 21  
Tuesday, February 26  
Thursday, February 28

## Readings and Assignments

Introductions  
Preface and Introduction,  
Read Nye “Soft Power”, pp.  
153-155, 166-167, 169-171  
Chapter 1  
News Article “Military  
Experience”  
Chapter 1  
**Homework 1 Due**  
Chapter 2  
“Body Counts and Success”,  
pp. 377-381  
Chapter 2  
Chapter 3  
Chapter 3 – Chapter 4  
Chapter 4  
**Mid-Term Exam**  
Chapter 5  
Chapter 5  
Chapter 6,  
Economist Article “The End  
of Cheap Food”  
Chapter 6  
**Homework 2 Due**  
Chapter 7,  
News Article “Number of  
Missiles”  
Chapter 7

Tuesday, March 4

Chapter 8,  
“The Perils of Proliferation”,  
pp. 66-69, 93-97, 102-103

Thursday, March 6

Chapter 8 – Conclusion

**SPRING BREAK**

Tuesday, March 18

Review  
**Extra Credit Due**

Thursday, March 20

**Final Examination**

**Homework 1: Presidential Election Survey**

Go to VoteMatch

(<http://www.speakout.com/VoteMatch/senate2006.asp?quiz=2008>)

Answer the 20 questions from “Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree”. Print out the VoteMatch results (the first page will do—and put your name on it).

**Homework 2: Oil and Democratic Freedom**

Go to page 166 in the *Hard Power* to the chart of Oil Producing Nations. Then download the Freedom in the World Excel file from Freedom House (under Resources on Oncourse). For the countries listed in *Hard Power*, examine the freedom status for each country (F =Free, PF =Partly Free, NF =Not Free) for the past 4-5 years. Are there any patterns present? Are oil producers more or less likely to be free? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs (no longer than 1 page double-spaced).