This course examines U.S. foreign policy in the 20th century. It begins by considering two classical approaches to understanding the behavior of states in the international system. Realism emphasizes the inherent nature of conflict in the international system as states dispassionately pursue their interests. An alternative view suggests that international laws and organizations can constrain state behavior and reduce the likelihood of conflict. Both approaches are evident in American foreign policy. The course examines the tension between them by investigating U.S. policy during the Cold War, and then by examining a set of recent and ongoing issues in U.S. foreign policy.

Professor: Peter Hanson  
Peter.Hanson@du.edu  
Office Hours: Monday 10-12 pm; Wednesday 2-4 pm  
Class Meetings: Tues/Thurs 2:00 pm – 3:50 pm, Sturm 312

OVERVIEW

Expectations: Class sessions will meet for approximately 110 minutes twice a week. You are expected to attend all classes. All course assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

Assignments  
Class Participation 10%  
Short Paper (5-7 pages, due January 23) 20%  
Midterm (February 12) 30%  
Long Paper (7-10 pages, due March 13) 30%  
Class Debates 10%

Readings  
The Prince, Niccolo Machiavelli  
A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide, Samantha Power  
Thirteen Days, Robert Kennedy  
The Future of Power, Joseph Nye

All reading materials can be found at the campus bookstore in the Driscoll Center, online from major booksellers, and in e-book format. The Prince is public domain and you can find free versions of the e-book on Amazon.

Class Debates  
In the last three weeks of class, we will hold a total of five in-class debates that will partner a team of three students against another team of three students. The debate will
be on a proposition that I will provide in regard to a current or recent issue in U.S. foreign policy.

**Academic Honesty**
You are required to submit your own work for the course, and to ensure that it is original and properly cited. Students who are found to have plagiarized coursework will receive a failing grade for the course. For additional information, please refer to DU’s policies on student conduct at:

http://www.du.edu/studentlife/studentconduct/honorcode.html

**Students with Disabilities**
Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Please visit DU’s website on its Disabilities Service Program for additional information.

http://www.du.edu/studentlife/disability/dsp/

**Grading Scale**

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

January 6: Introduction

January 8: The Melian Dialogue

*The Peloponnesian War,* Kagan, 1-54 [Canvas]

“The Melian Dialogue,” Thucydides, 400-408 [Canvas]

Week 2

January 13: Machiavelli and the Pursuit of National Interest

*The Prince,* Machiavelli, Chapters 1-6, 15-19

January 15: Realism and its Alternatives

“The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy,” Morgenthau [Canvas]

“International Organization and World Order,” Claude [Canvas]

*A Problem from Hell,* Power, Chapter 10

Week 3

January 20: The American Foreign Policy Tradition

*Special Providence,* Mead, chapters 4-7 [Canvas]

January 22: The Cold War

“The Historical Development of the UN’s Role in International Security,” Howard [Canvas]

“The American Conception of National Security and the Beginnings of the Cold War, 1945-48,” Leffler [Canvas]

“Strategy in the Missile Age,” Brodie [Canvas]

“The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” Kennan [Canvas]
Week 4

January 27: Cuban Missile Crisis

*Thirteen Days*, Kennedy

January 29: Cuban Missile Crisis (continued)

“The Real Cuban Missile Crisis,” Schwartz [Canvas]

Afterward, *Thirteen Days*, Allison and Neustadt

Week 5

February 3

“Americanizing the Vietnam War,” Jentleson [Canvas]

“The Decision on Major U.S. Ground Forces: Phase II,” Kahin [Canvas]

February 5

Watch excerpt from *Fog of War* on Vietnam (CourseMedia)

Week 6

February 10

Midterm Review

February 12

Midterm

Week 7

February 17: American power looking forward

*The Future of Power*, Nye, Chapters 1-4

February 19: Ethnic Cleansing in the Balkans

*A Problem from Hell*, Power, Chapters 9, 11, 12, 13

* Debate 1 *
**Week 8**

February 24: America in the War on Terror

Excerpt from the “Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency’s Detention and Interrogation Program,” Senate Select Committee on Intelligence [Canvas]


* Debate 2 *

February 26: The Ukraine Crisis

Readings TBA

* Debate 3 *

**Week 9**

March 3: U.S. Relations with China

Readings TBA

* Debate 4 *

March 5: Cyberwarfare

The Future of Power, Nye, Chapter 5


* Debate 5 *

**Week 10**

March 10: Wrap up