

– Seminar Description –



**CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN STUDIES**  
**INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY**  
**FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WÜRZBURG**  
**WINTER SEMESTER 2022/2023**

**U.S. Foreign Policy: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives,  
Actors, Processes, Policy Areas, and World Regions**

Temporary Lecturer in Political Science/International Relations:

*Dr. Sascha Arnautović*



▪ Online Course Schedule:

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 18/10/2022 – 07/02/2023 (Exceptions:  
01/11/2022, 27/12/2022, 03/01/2023)

▪ Office Hours:

Tuesday 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

▪ Seminar Description:

The seminar provides a basic introduction to U.S. foreign policy. A historical perspective provides an overview of the development of U.S. foreign policy from the end of World War II to the present day. A theoretical perspective also provides general access to foreign policy analysis. This is followed by an actor-specific view, with the focus being on the foreign policy process. An additional perspective focuses on selected policy areas of American foreign policy. The focus here is on foreign policy action. At the end of the seminar, a regional perspective provides insight into the interactions of U.S. foreign policy in different spatial and cultural contexts.

The seminar (online event) is divided into five thematic blocks:

- 1. Fundamentals of American Foreign Policy: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives**
- 2. Actor-Specific Views of U.S. Foreign Policy and the Foreign Policy Process**
- 3. Relevant Policy Areas of U.S. Foreign Policy and Foreign Policy Action**
- 4. Interactions Between American Foreign Policy and Different World Regions**
- 5. The Future of U.S. Foreign Policy: America as a “Weary Titan” or Still the World’s Dominant Power?**

▪ Seminar Program:

- **1st Session, 18/10/2022 – Introductory Event:**
  - Welcome and opening of the seminar
  - Brief introduction of the lecturer
  - Introduction of the participants as well as a survey of expectations
  - Useful information for the students in connection with the seminar
  - Answering questions from students
  - Thematic introduction and problem definition
  - Clarification of central terms (foreign policy, foreign policy analysis, foreign policy process, and foreign policy action)
  - Outlook on the next meeting and the end of the meeting
- **2nd Session, 25/10/2022 – Historical Perspectives (Part 1):**
  - U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War, 1945-1991
  - The United States in search of a new world order, 1991-2001
  - 9/11 and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), 2001-2009
- **3rd Session, 08/11/2022 – Historical Perspectives (Part 2):**
  - Obama’s “smart power” foreign policy, 2009-2017
  - Trump’s “America first” doctrine, 2017-2021
  - Restoring America’s standing in the world under Biden: A new beginning?

- **4th Session, 15/11/2022 – Theoretical Perspectives (Part 1):**
  - American Exceptionalism: Isolationism vs. Interventionism
  - America’s civil religion and political culture
  - Neoconservatism as an integral part of America’s self-image
- **5th Session, 22/11/2022 – Theoretical Perspectives (Part 2):**
  - The importance of theory for the analysis of U.S. foreign policy
  - Structure-oriented analysis models of Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA): Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism
  - Actor-specific analysis models of FPA: rational choice approaches, psychological and cognitive approaches, and the bureaucratic politics approach
- **6th Session, 29/11/2022 – Actors (Part 1):**
  - The Legislative Branch: The United States Congress
  - The Executive Branch: The President, the Vice President, and the Cabinet
  - U.S. federal government departments and agencies
- **7th Session, 06/12/2022 – Actors (Part 2):**
  - The National Security Council (NSC)
  - Think tanks and interest groups
  - Mass media and public opinion
- **8th Session, 13/12/2022 – Processes (Part 1):**
  - U.S. intelligence agencies and their involvement in the foreign policy process
  - Joint reading and discussion of the text (see: <https://tinyurl.com/r8sauahzy>)
- **9th Session, 20/12/2022 – Processes (Part 2):**
  - U.S. armed forces and their role in shaping security and defense policy
  - Joint reading and discussion of the text (see: <https://tinyurl.com/4sxhumxm>)
- **10th Session, 10/01/2023 – Policy Areas (Part 1):**
  - U.S. counterterrorism and “national security”
  - Promotion of democracy and human rights
- **11th Session, 17/01/2023 – Policy Areas (Part 2):**
  - Arms control and nuclear nonproliferation
  - Public and cultural diplomacy
- **12th Session, 24/01/2023 – World Regions (Part 1):**
  - The Asia-Pacific region: The new world political center in the 21st century
  - Europe and Russia: The U.S. withdrawal from the European continent
- **13th Session, 31/01/2023 – World Regions (Part 2):**
  - The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and America’s lost credibility
  - Latin America and the declining importance of the U.S.A.

- **14th Session, 07/02/2023 – Summary and Conclusion:**

- Results and discussion
- Lessons learned and unanswered questions
- Seminar evaluation

**The Look Ahead: Thoughts on the Future of American Foreign Policy:**

- Introduction: Foreign policy perspectives and visions for America's future – Why are they needed?
- Six competing visions as options for future U.S. foreign policy (basic text: Glenn P. Hastedt, *American Foreign Policy*, 8th ed., Boston: Longman-Pearson, 2011, pp. 361-372)
- Summary of the results and accompanying discussion
- Farewell and end of seminar

- Requirements for Seminar Participation:

Basic knowledge of the United States and U.S. foreign policy would be an advantage but is not required.

- Recommended Reading/Literature (a Selection):

- Ronald D. Gerste, *Amerika verstehen: Geschichte, Politik und Kultur der USA* (Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta, 2017).
- Stephan Bierling, *Geschichte der amerikanischen Außenpolitik: Von 1917 bis zur Gegenwart* (München: Verlag C.H. Beck, 2003).
- Glenn P. Hastedt, *American Foreign Policy*, 8th ed. (Boston: Longman-Pearson, 2011).
- Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, *US Foreign Policy*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).
- Steve Smith, Amelia Hadfield, and Tim Dunne (eds.), *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).
- Valerie M. Hudson, *Foreign Policy Analysis: Classic and Contemporary Theory* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2007).
- Klaus Brummer and Kai Oppermann, *Außenpolitikanalyse*, 2nd ed. (Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2018).
- Christian Lammert, Markus B. Siewert, and Boris Vormann (eds.), *Handbuch Politik USA* (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2016).
- Christoph M. Haas, Simon Koschut, and Christian Lammert, *Politik in den USA: Institutionen – Akteure – Themen* (Stuttgart: Verlag W. Kohlhammer, 2018).

- Simon Koschut and Magnus-Sebastian Kutz (eds.), *Die Außenpolitik der USA: Theorie – Prozess – Politikfelder – Regionen* (Opladen & Toronto: Verlag Barbara Budrich, 2012).
- Thomas Jäger (ed.), *Die Außenpolitik der USA: Eine Einführung* (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2017).
- Hans-Jürgen Puhle, Söhnke, Schreyer, and Jürgen Wilzewski (eds.), *Supermacht im Wandel: Die USA von Clinton zu Bush* (Frankfurt/Main: Campus Verlag, 2004).
- Jochen Hils, Jürgen Wilzewski, and Reinhard Wolf (eds.), *Assertive Multilateralism and Preventive War: Die Außen- und Weltordnungspolitik der USA von Clinton zu Obama aus theoretischer Sicht* (Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 2012).
- Ivo H. Daalder and James M. Lindsay, *America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy* (Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005).
- Jochen Hils and Jürgen Wilzewski (eds.), *Defekte Demokratie – Crusader State? Die Weltpolitik der USA in der Ära Bush* (Trier: WVT Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2006).
- Peter Rudolf, *Imperiale Illusionen: Amerikanische Außenpolitik unter Präsident George W. Bush* (Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 2007).
- David B. MacDonald, Dirk Nabers, and Robert G. Patman (eds.), *The Bush Leadership, the Power of Ideas, and the War on Terror* (Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2012).
- Till Karmann et al. (eds.), *Zeitenwende 9/11: Eine transatlantische Bilanz* (Opladen et al.: Verlag Barbara Budrich, 2016).
- Reinhard C. Meier-Walser (ed.), *Die Außenpolitik der USA: Präsident Obamas neuer Kurs und die Zukunft der transatlantischen Beziehungen* (München: Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, 2009).
- Peter Rudolf, *Das „neue“ Amerika: Außenpolitik unter Barack Obama* (Berlin: Suhrkamp Verlag, 2010).
- Winand Gellner and Patrick Horst (eds.), *Die USA am Ende der Präsidentschaft Barack Obamas: Eine erste Bilanz* (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2016).
- Tobias Endler and Martin Thunert, *Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama* (Opladen et al.: Verlag Barbara Budrich, 2016).
- Stephan Bierling, *America First: Donald Trump im Weißen Haus. Eine Bilanz* (München: Verlag C.H. Beck, 2020).
- Florian Böller et al. (eds.), *Donald Trump und die Politik in den USA: Eine Zwischenbilanz* (Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 2020).

- Joseph R. Biden, Jr., “Why America Must Lead Again: Rescuing U.S. Foreign Policy After Trump,” *Foreign Affairs*, 99 (March/April 2020), 64-76, <https://tinyurl.com/2t6s4k3r>.

- Recommendations for Further Reading:

- Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2005).

- David A. Welch, *Painful Choices: A Theory of Foreign Policy Change* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2005).

- Alex Mintz and Karl DeRouen Jr., *Understanding Foreign Policy Decision Making* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

- Paul A. Sabatier and Christopher M. Weible (eds.), *Theories of the Policy Process*, 3rd ed. (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2014).