

American Foreign Policy in the Trump Era

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Semester: Fall 2020

Course type: Seminar

Hours: 18

ECTS: 5

Course description

This course will review traditional American foreign policy making processes and trends and compare them with the approaches of the Trump Administration. The course seeks to answer a number of questions. Do American foreign policy interests remain essentially unchanged since the advent of Trump or has this new kind of president redefined them? What are the Trump Administration's international objectives and are they significantly different from those of past administrations? What is the future of American leadership in the global system?

Objective

At the end of the course, students will have a general understanding of how US foreign policy is made, and how the unique political environment in the United States since the advent of President Trump has impacted that process. Students will understand traditional US foreign policy approaches to key regions and institutions and will be able to compare and contrast them with those of the current administration.

Course timeline

1. Introduction
2. American leadership; How foreign policy is made
3. Transformation of American political scene; Introducing Donald Trump
4. Major themes in US foreign policy
5. North Korea
6. Transatlantic Alliance
7. Role play
8. China
9. Middle East
10. Immigration
11. International Organizations and global leadership
12. Wrap up

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their oral participation in class, one short written assignment, one formal oral presentation, and the final exam.

Bibliography

Reading materials will consist of articles available online that support each week's lecture. Some students may opt to use a book of their choice as the basis for the oral presentation.