CLASS TOPICS

I. THEORIES AND STRATEGIES

Sept. 6: Introduction.
No readings assigned.

Sept. 11: Overview of American Foreign Policy Since 1914.

H 1. Tables from Paul Kennedy, *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, and Kenneth Oye, ed., *Eagle in a New World*. Class discussion will focus on tables 6, 17, 18, 31, 35, 4-1, and chart 2 on pages 3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 19, and 20 (handwritten numeration), so study these seven with more care; the rest can be skimmed.

Sept. 13, 18, 20: Theories of American Foreign Policy.

CN 1. Stephen Van Evera, "Offense, Defense and the Causes of War," manuscript, pp. 1-36. Your instructor's summary of the argument, made famous by Robert Jervis, that war is more likely when conquest is easy. A key related argument: international conflict arises largely from the "security dilemma"--the tendency of states to threaten others' security by their efforts to secure themselves.

Can the U.S. prevent war by making conquest hard in world trouble-spots? Have America's past conflict with others arisen from the security dilemma?

CN 2. Stephen Walt, *The Origins of Alliances*, chapter 2 ("Explaining Alliance Formation"), pp. 17-49. Walt presents competing hypotheses on how states choose their friends. Which hypotheses are valid? Do your answers matter for the kind of foreign policy you would recommend?

CN 3. Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton U. Press, 1976), pp. 58-84. Some ("spiral model" advocates) say international conflict is best resolved by the carrot, while using the stick merely provokes; others ("deterrence" advocates) would use the stick, warning that offering carrots ("appeasement") leads others to make more demands. Who's right? Probably both--but under what circumstances? And how can you tell which circumstances you face?

CN 4. Walter Isaacson and Evan Thomas, *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986), pp. 171-173, 731-733. Does the American foreign policy elite share America's wider democratic values? We learn here that George Kennan thought women, blacks, and immigrants should be denied the vote; Kennan and Dean Acheson saw little wrong with the white minority governments in Rhodesia and South Africa; and John McCloy adopted the cause of Iran's Pahlevi family. Not your typical League of Women Voters views.
II. AMERICA'S MAJOR WARS: WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, COLD WAR, & KOREA

Oct. 4, 11, 16, 18: World War I and World War II.


Oct. 23, 25: Cold War Origins & Conduct; the Korean War.
A. Cold War origins and conduct:


B. Korea:

B 1. Paterson, Clifford and Hagan, American Foreign Policy, pp. 266-275.

III. INTERLUDE: U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY; U.S. FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY


Nov. 6, 8: American Foreign Economic Policy, 1945-1999.

CN 1. "World Trade: Jousting for Advantage," The Economist, September 22, 1990, pp. 5-25; and "World Trade: All Free Traders Now?", The Economist, December 7, 1996, pp. 21-23. The first item is a pro-free-trade survey of the basic questions in trade, and a preview of the now-passed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT), Uruguay Round. Focus on pp. 12-19, "The Economics of Free Trade," which explicates David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage; you can skim the rest. The second item surveys later trade issues.


CN 5. Review again Samuel Huntington, "America's Changed Strategic Interests," assigned above for Sept. 26--see his remarks on the importance of economic primacy.

IV. COLD WAR CRISES: BERLIN, TAIWAN STRAITS, AND CUBA 1962
Nov. 13, 15: The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis; other Cold War Crises.


CN 3. Fred Kaplan, "Kennedy and Cuba at 35," Boston Sunday Globe, October 12, 1997, pp. D1-D3. Later revelations about the Cuban Missile Crisis. JFK was the most dovish official in the government. He secretly traded the U.S. Jupiter missiles in Turkey for the Soviet missiles in Cuba. He was willing to give even further if needed. What if someone else had been president?

For more on the Cuban Missile Crisis you can visit an excellent website on the crisis put together by the National Security Archive at www.nsarchive.org/nsa/cuba_mis_cri. Documents can be seen, tapes can be listened to, and intelligence photos can be viewed at this site. And for more sources on the crisis see a website from Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, www.cubanmissilecrisis.org.

V. AMERICAN INTERVENTIONS IN THE THIRD WORLD


B 2. Herring, America's Longest War, chapters 4 and 7 (pp. 121-157, 242-283). A more detailed account, from a middle-of-the-road perspective, of the key decisions to escalate and de-escalate the war. Herring's book is the most prominent general history of the war.


CN 4. Sol W. Sanders & William Henderson, "The Consequences of 'Vietnam'," Orbis, vol. 21, no. 1 (Spring 1977), pp. 61-76. The authors re-evaluate the propositions at issue in the debate over the war, concluding that postwar events show that the hawks were right and the doves wrong.


B 1. Paterson, Clifford and Hagan, American Foreign Policy, pp. 32-


VI. THE ROAD AHEAD: CURRENT CRISES AND FUTURE POLICIES

December 6, 11: The Cold War's demise; current crises; the future of American foreign policy.


CN 4. Chas. W. Freeman, Jr., "Preventing War in the Taiwan Strait," Foreign Affairs, Vol. 77, No. 4 (July/August 1998), pp. 6-11. Taiwan could suck the U.S. into a Taiwan-PRC conflict unless the U.S. restrains Taiwan now.

CN 5. "Tables by Hannes Adomeit." Some alarming demographic data on the former USSR.

