American Foreign Policy
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American Foreign Policy will examine the America's role in the world beginning with the Woodrow's Wilson decision to enter in WWI. We will trace how this role has evolved over the past century, and think about how the country's past shapes its character today. We will look back at some of the most significant events and themes in America's foreign policy in the 20th and 21st centuries, and use American presidencies, from Woodrow Wilson through Barack Obama, as our signposts. In addition to America's role in WWI and Wilsonian idealism of the 1910s, we will examine American cultural diffusion, economic depression, and political isolationism of the 1920s and 30s; WWII and the U.S. rise to globalism in the 1930s and 40s; the dawn of the nuclear age, the outbreak of the Cold War, and the origins of the military industrial complex in the 1950s; the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War and its legacy in the 1960s and 70s; and the domestic and foreign policy implications of America's post-Cold War role in the world, including the effects of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In light of the current foreign policy debate over a nuclear deal with Iran, we will spend a significant amount of time reading and discussing the role and meaning of nuclear weapons in our world.
This course introduces students to the field of Policy Studies and focuses on tools, concepts and theories for analyzing policy-making processes, public policies, and their impacts. Students will evaluate the contributions and utility of various approaches and use them to analyze policy areas of interest. Readings will present the intellectual history of policy studies, overviews of a range of theoretical approaches (both empirical and normative, rationalist and interpretive), and offer examples of the use of these approaches to analyze policies in various issue areas and at various levels of government and governance. Readings will include cases of policy analysis applied at domestic, global, and cross-national levels. Students will become familiar with this field of inquiry and will take away conceptual, analytic tools to be used in further studies of public policies.

Mara Sidney
POLITICAL Science 512 is designed to provoke thoughtful reflection upon some of the difficult choices and ethical dilemmas which may arise in politics, governance, and policymaking. Such ethical dilemmas arise in both global and domestic politics (this semester focuses on Ethics and Global Politics). A variety of source materials will be used: these include classical treatises in Western political thought; case studies; essays in philosophy, history, and the humanistic social sciences; movies and plays; monographs and journal articles. Some of this will focus on just war theory and asymmetric warfare such as the recent Israeli-Hamas conflict in the Middle East. We shall consider ethical aspects of the current global migration crisis—the movement of people fleeing persecution and war across national borders in search of asylum, refuge, security, and a better way of life. We will also examine the proverbial “clash of civilizations” between the West and Islam. Both the 2005 Danish cartoon controversy and the 2015 Charlie Hebdo assassinations challenge Western liberal values by pitting free speech against religious liberty, the right to offend against the duty to respect (or at least tolerate). Finally, we will consider issues of character and integrity in the lives of exemplary public servants.

REQUIRED READINGS: Available at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Bradley Hall.


