

Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 360: American Foreign Policy

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Analysis of U.S. foreign policy, with an emphasis on decision making and the policy process.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1995 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Organization of U.S. foreign policy---presidential preeminence, congressional relationship with the executive, role of political parties, interest groups, public opinion
2. Instruments of U.S. foreign policy---economic sanctions, use of military force
3. Decision making processes employed in U.S. foreign policy---rational approaches, organizational approaches, bureaucratic and cognitive approaches
4. Role of the bureaucracy in U.S. foreign policy---State Department vs. Defense Department
5. Issues in contemporary U.S. foreign policy

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students shall appreciate the roles of different branches and agencies of the U.S. federal government in the creation, application and evaluation of U.S. foreign policy.
2. Students shall understand the theoretical approaches to the foreign policy decision making process.
3. Students will learn the special roles afforded the Cabinet departments of State and Defense in foreign policy implementation.
4. Students shall be able to categorize contemporary U.S. foreign policy actions and pronouncements in light of theoretical and practical concerns.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted