

COURSE SYLLABUS



American Foreign Policy in Film

IRS 364
Summer 2016

Lecturer: G. Hays II
Lecturer contact: george.hays@aauni.edu
Office hours: Immediately before and after class and by appointment

Semester Credits	3	Language of Instruction	English
ECTS	6	Level	Upper Bachelor's
Length	6 weeks	Pre-requisites	none
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	Elective

1. Course Description

This course analyzes American identity creation through popular film. The course is concerned with the changing of American identity through the portrayal of events from the beginning of the Cold War to the present. While the main focus of the course is on film and the portrayal of important events and identificational concepts (existential fears) through film, the course also utilizes texts on theory and history to provide a contrasting influence to better understand the message and political impacts of the films.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Comprehend and have a clear understanding of identity theory and its application to film
- Understand and analyze the expressions of these identity processes as portrayed in film
- Utilize the theories and methods provided to conduct their own analyses of identity creation
- Understand the role identity and portrayals of identity have in politics

3. Reading Material

Required Materials (Available in the Library or to Download)

- Allison, Graham. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *War*. Paul F. Diehl. Sage. 2005.
- Campbell, David. *Writing Security: United States Foreign Policy and the Politics of Identity: Revised Edition*. University of Minnesota Press, 1998.
- Clausewitz, Carl von. "What is War?" *War*. Paul F. Diehl. Sage. 2005.

- Hays, George, II. "Three Incarnations of *The Quiet American*: Applying Campbell's 'foreign policy' to Sub-Elite Identifiers." *Perspectives* Vol. 20 (1). Institute of International Relations, Prague. 2012.
- *Black Hawk Down* 2001
- *Body of Lies* 2008
- *Charlie Wilson's War* 2007
- *Dr. Strangelove* 1964
- *Platoon* 1986
- *Rambo III* 1988
- *Rules of Engagement* 2000
- *The Siege* 1998
- *Thirteen Days* 2000
- *We Were Soldiers* 2002

Recommended Materials (Available in the Library or via Interlibrary Loan)

<http://allmovie.com/>

www.imdb.com

<http://www.rottentomatoes.com/>

4. Teaching methodology

By the end of the course, the student should be able to recognize and understand the important and complex role popular film has on identity creation, and the political impacts this has. This ability will be both taught and practiced throughout the course by analyzing the various films and contrasting the film with the various supporting texts. The main points of analysis throughout the class will be determining who or what the audience is supposed to identify with in the film, who or what "America" is proposed to be in the film, who or what is proposed to be the "good" side and the "bad" side of the conflict in the film, and how these parts interact. By determining these components and the characteristics attributed to them, the student will be able to see the changes occurring in both identity and the identified group.

5. Course Schedule

6/21 Class 1

Introduction to the course:

Review of the syllabus, description of methodology, writing instructions handout, question and answer session

Film and discussion: *The Siege* 1998

6/23 Class 2

Continuation of Theory and Methodology

Nuclear Fears

Film and discussion: *Dr. Strangelove* 1964

REQUIRED READING Assignment:

Campbell- *Writing Security*, Introduction, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2

Hays- "Three Incarnations of *The Quiet American*"

HW: Notes

6/28 Class 3

Cold War Showdown

Film and discussion: *Thirteen Days* 2000

Recommended Reading Assignment:

Allison- "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis"

HW: Notes

6/30 Class 4

Vietnam, the Beginning

Film and discussion: *We Were Soldiers* 2002

HW: Notes

7/7 Class 5

Vietnam, the Never Ending

Film and discussion: *Platoon* 1986

Recommended Reading Assignment:

Clausewitz- *On War*, Chapter 1.

HW: Notes

7/12 Class 6

Soviets and Americans in Afghanistan

Film and discussion: *Rambo III* 1988

HW: Notes

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Essay topics and films must be approved !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

7/14 Class 7

Soviets and Americans in Afghanistan, looking back

Film and discussion: *Charlie Wilson's War* 2007

HW: Notes

7/19 Class 8

Peacekeeping, Elite-level

Film and discussion: *Rules of Engagement* 2000

HW: Notes

7/21 Class 9

Peacekeeping, Ground-level

Black Hawk Down 2001

HW: Notes

7/26 Class 10

The War on Terrorism
Film and discussion: *Body of Lies* 2008

HW: Notes

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Essays due !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

7/28 Class 11: Final Exam

In place of a final exam, there will be a joint discussion of the students' essays.

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Student Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes
Attendance and Participation	50 hours	25%	Development of ability with using the theory and methodology of the course through discussion with peers and lecturer	
Weekly Homework Notes	50 hours	20%	Development of ability with using the theory and methodology of the course on one's own, development of analysis skills and process of analysis skills to be used in the final essay	
Final Essay	30 hours	35%	Utilization of the theory and methodology of the course on one's own, ability to analyze and assess identity creation and the forms it takes. Writing skills, analytical skills	Critical Thinking
Discussion of Final Essay	20 hours	20%	Presentation skills, development and delivery of logical argument, ability to explain and defend one's own analysis	Communication
TOTAL	150 hours	100%		

7. Detailed description of the assignments

- Attendance and Participation

Attendance of every class and participation in every class is strongly encouraged. Students are expected to have already watched each film at least once before class and prepared themselves to discuss the films competently in class. It is strongly recommended that students whose first language is not English watch each film more than once so they are sure they understand the language of the films.

Attending and participating in class is one of the best ways to gain an understanding of the course topic and material. Participation is premised on having done the assignments for that particular day and actively engaging in the class discussion. Participation does not mean speaking for the sake of speaking, asking questions that are off-topic, criticizing another person for not understanding something, carrying on a private conversation with another student. Participation does mean contributing thoughtfully to the conversation or debate, asking questions if something is not understood, honestly attempting to answer a question even if you are not sure you are correct.

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. More than two unexcused absences results in failure of the course. Note that the two unexcused absences only apply to attendance. The two unexcused absences do not apply to participation points or assignments. Failure to attend for an unexcused reason results in forfeiture of participation and assignment points.

The student's grade will depend on the quantity and quality of their participation.

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
Technical: 1. being present	20%
Substantive: 1. engaging in the class discussion 2. attempting to answer questions 3. asking questions when something is not understood 4. refraining from talking off topic 5. refraining from talking with individual students outside the bounds of the class discussion 6. refraining from using phones 7. refraining from using computers	80%

- Weekly Homework Notes

The student is required to take hand-written notes for each film to be discussed in class. The notes are to be submitted upon entering class the day that film is being discussed. They will be immediately checked and returned to the student in time for the class discussion. A packet for the Homework Notes will be distributed at the first class. Only these filled templates will be accepted for the homework assignments.

Students must be present to submit their homework and have their homework be counted. Late assignments will not be accepted. Emailed or typed assignments will not be accepted. The Homework notes are graded pass/fail.

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
Technical: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. providing a proper bibliography 2. following the page/word limit and other technical guidelines/instructions, etc. 3. having a properly structured paper 4. writing on the required topic 5. submitting the paper on time and in the required medium 6. putting your name on your work 	50%
Substantive: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the quality of the accounts/arguments in your paper (logical flow, connections between parts, staying on topic, etc) 2. your ability to integrate the sources with your own ideas (not just repeating others' work) 3. the degree to which you convey an accurate understanding of the materials/sources you are using and how they impact your topic 	50%

- Final Essay

The final essay must be 3000-3500 words long and submitted via NEO on the day it is due. It should explore one of the themes of the course, or a separate theme proposed by the student and approved by the lecturer. The essay should analyze no less than two films (preferably three or four). The essay should be geared towards exploring and analyzing the identification process. Proposals for the final essay (including the films to be used) must be announced to and approved by the lecturer by the day indicated. The student may use films shown in class (but no more than 1), films in the library, or films they own or can find outside of the university. If the student uses films from outside the university, they must make legal copies of these films available to the lecturer when handing in their essay.

The student's grade will be based on the quality of analysis and support from evidence both within and outside of the films as well as use of proper essay structure (citations, bibliography, writing structure, etc).

Students must use Chicago writing style, footnotes, and bibliography. See the following links for examples:

<http://citesource.trincoll.edu/chicago/>

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Plagiarism in any amount, in any form, will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes their work, they will receive an automatic failure for the assignment.

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
Technical: 1. using proper citations (citing all the information which should be cited as well as properly using footnotes) 2. providing a proper bibliography 3. following the page/word limit and other technical guidelines/instructions, etc. 4. having a well structured paper with an introduction, body, and conclusion (this does not mean that you need to actually label within your paper "introduction," etc.) 5. writing on the topic stated in the title 6. submitting the paper on time and in the required medium 7. putting your name on your work	50%
Substantive: 1. the quality of the accounts/arguments in your paper (logical flow, connections between parts, staying on topic, etc) 2. the quality of the sources used in your paper 3. your ability to integrate the sources with your own ideas (not just repeating others' work) 4. the degree to which you convey an accurate understanding of the materials/sources you are using and how they impact your topic	50%

- Discussion of Final Essay

Instead of a final exam, during that same period of time, the class will have an informal discussion about the individual students' analyses. Each student should be prepared to briefly present their topic, films, analysis, and conclusions, as well as answer questions from the class and engage in discussion with other students who may have analyzed the same films towards a different topic or the same topic via different films.

The student's grade will be based on the quality of their presentation and interaction.

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
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Technical: 1. being present 2. being prepared (having main points/argument/analysis ready to discuss)	50%
Substantive: 1. quickly and clearly presenting basic information of work and argument 2. knowledge of potential problems/omissions and clear thoughts on potential solutions or clear and specific questions regarding these areas 3. effectively asking and answering questions with clarity and precision 4. staying on topic	50%

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

Electronic communication and submission

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors take place in NEO LMS.

Each e-mail sent to an instructor that is about a new topic (meaning not a reply to an original email) shall have a new and clearly stated subject and shall have the course code in the subject, for example: "COM101-1 Mid-term Exam. Question".

All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

Attendance

Attendance is required. The university recommends, as a minimal policy, that students who are absent 35 percent of the course should be failed (or administratively withdrawn from the course if the absences are excused).

Absence excuse and make-up options

Should the student be absent from a class for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he needs to submit an Absence Excuse Form supplemented with documents proving the reasons for absence to the Assistant Dean. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if they submit an Absence Excuse Form along with the finalized add/drop form. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of absence. If possible, it is recommended to inform the instructor about the absence in advance.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean are entitled to make up exams they missed provided that the nature of the exam allows for a make-up. The students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week from the date the absence was excused, and for making arrangements with the instructor about make-up options as necessary.

Unexcused absences

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Absences above this number result in failure of the course.

Late work: No late submissions will be accepted – please follow the deadlines.

Electronic devices

Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones are forbidden from being used in class. Use of any of these devices in class will result in the student losing all participation points for the day. Repeated use will result in failure of the participation component for the semester.

Eating is not allowed during classes.

Cheating and disruptive behavior

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center

Plagiarism is “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin’s White Paper ‘The Plagiarism Spectrum’ (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another’s work, word-for-word, as one’s own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one’s own previous work without citation; To self plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The “Aggregator” includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text’s original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at: <http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A	95 - 100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 - 94	
B+	87 - 89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 - 86	
B-	80 - 82	
C+	77 - 79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 - 76	
C-	70 - 72	
D+	65 - 69	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 - 64	
F	0 - 59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

Prepared by and when: Hays 3/15/16

Approved by and when: