

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: American Foreign Policy in action
Status: Definitive
Code: **5113HIST** (122165)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Malcolm Craig	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 35
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 165

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Online	2
Seminar	11
Tutorial	11

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	AS1	A primary source recreation based on an aspect of the module contents. (1500 words)	30	
Essay	AS2	Assignment based on content delivered in the module. (3000 words)	70	

Aims

1. Enable students to analyse US foreign policy from the 1960s onwards keeping in mind that policymaking is contingent on ideology, and the domestic and international

political realities the administrations faced.

2. Critically examine key events in US foreign policy

3. Utilise a range of source materials to assess policymaking, with a particular focus on national security strategies and foreign policy.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify and examine how the US political infrastructure impacts the ability of the president and other branches to make foreign policy.
- 2 Critically evaluate foreign policymaking in relation to selected issues.
- 3 Present clear verbal and written scholarly opinions on key issues relating to the foreign policy of the US government.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Primary source exercise	2	3	
Essay	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Introduction

Who Makes US FP? Epochs in the History of American foreign relations

Responding to challenges part 1: The US and the Soviet challenge in the early 1960s

Responding to challenges part 2: Case Study on the Cuban Missile Crisis

Holding the line part 1: Containment and maintaining American 'credibility' as guarantor of democracy

Holding the line part 2: Case Study on the Vietnam War, 1965-1973 or Case Study:

President Carter and the Human Rights Agenda

The 1980s: the paradoxes of presidential foreign policy under Ronald Reagan; Case Study: The Reagan Doctrine

The New World Order: The US and charting a new course on the post-Cold War era;

Case Study: Going to War, Operation Desert Storm

Searching for a Mission: The US, global supremacy and the Clinton years; Case

Study: Rogue States and securing the Democratic Peace

Under Attack: 9/11 and a new American mission; Case Study: George W. Bush, Afghanistan/Iraq

Conclusions and where we are now (Obama)

Learning Activities

1. Guided reading in preparation for weekly classes
2. Preparing for and delivering group presentations

3. Case study analysis of US foreign policymaking
4. Discussion based lectures, seminars and workshops

Notes

This module examines US foreign policy from the 1960s until the present day. It starts by identifying who the players are in making foreign policy and covers some of the theories that help explore why these players act as they do. It also suggests that there are specific epochs in US foreign policy contingent on the international political realities the administrations faced. It then goes on to examine US policy during these specific periods.