Course Description: The first three years of the new millennium gave rise to dramatic events that have transformed the foggily congenial, but erratic, "post-Cold War" foreign policy of the United States. The hopes for a "new world order" and internationalized "humanitarian intervention" have given way to uncertainty and anxiety over a "new world disorder" and the meaning of the American role in it. What remains continuous with the politics of the 1990s is the reexamination of concepts, values, interests, policies, institutions, and human relationships that comprise the substance of American "foreign policy". This course presents an analytical approach to the foreign policy of the United States that emphasizes normative, historical, and state-society policymaking considerations; it will also examine current arguments about American power and purposes as reflected in several issues engaging American elites and the public--particularly the notion of "empire" as a recurring theme in the debates about the meaning of American foreign policy.

Students who complete the course should have an enhanced understanding of the policymaking process, and of how that process reflects American political values and domestic political competition, in the context of an international environment characterized by both continuity and change, and by the ambiguous dynamics of "globalization that have produced by economic progress and menacing new security challenges.

Instructor's Office, Hours, and Phone/Email Numbers:
Office: 429 DeBartolo Hall (Sociology & Anthro Suite)
Office Hours: MWF, 11:00 to 11:50 AM; MW only 1:00 to 1:50 PM; T/Th, 12:30 to 1:30 PM
All other times by appointment; leave messages with Mrs. Babinec in the Political Science office, on my voicemail, or email if I am not available so that I can get in contact with you.
Phone Numbers: Lepak office, 330-942-3436; Political Science office, 330-941-3437;
Lepak email, kileDak@~su.edu; Lepak Home phone, 724-346-5409.

Required Books (VSU Bookstore or Campus Book & Supply):
3) Jerel A. Rosati. The Politics of United States Foreign Policy. 3rd Ed. Wadsworth, 2004

Additional readings may be made available in class, at the library, or at the reading room (428 DeBartolo Hall). Students should be reading a major newspaper/online news service in regard to current events; The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com/) and The New York Times (www.newyorktimes.com/) are strongly recommended, especially the former. NPR's "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" (morning and afternoon broadcasts on WYSU 88.5) are useful for foreign policy commentary, and "The Newshour" with Jim Lehrer on Channel 45/49 (7:00 PM) is highly recommended. If you find a short article or commentary that you consider insightful, provocative, or useful to the purposes of the course, please bring it to my attention and I will make it available to the class. Recent issues of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and The National Interest are also available in the Department's Reading Room (DeBartolo Hall 428).
Class Format and Grades:
Class will be conducted via lecture and discussion on most days; several days of the term will be devoted to the viewing of Great Decisions videos and follow-up discussion. My lecture style is "open"—questions, observations, and arguments are welcome at any time subject only to the time management concerns of the instructor. Students are responsible for all (and that means ALL) readings, and individual students may be called upon from time to time to prepare short oral summaries of assigned readings and to assist in the discussion of the same.

Grades will be determined on the basis of:
1) 5-week examination (Tuesday 28 September): 15%
2) 10-week examination (Tuesday 2 November): 20%
3) 12-15 page review of Rise of the Vulcans (due by Friday 19 November): 25%
4) 15-week final examination (Tuesday 7 December at 10:30 AM): 25%
5) Attendance and participation: 15%

Exams consist of short- and long-answer essays questions, and involve a fair degree of choice; the final examination is cumulative. The numeric scale for final grades is A (92 to 100); B (82 to 91); C (72 to 81); D (61 to 71); and F (below 61). Your review of Rise of the Vulcans must demonstrate an ability to cover and react to the structural content of the book, and to engage other critical reviews of Mann's writing; a handout with guidelines for the review assignment will be made available in a timely manner. Your regular attendance is vital to your final grade; please inform me when you are unable to attend class. If you must request an Incomplete grade for the course, remember that you need to have completed at least one graded assignment/exam, and be prepared to complete any remaining work in a timely manner; I's are inconvenient—avoid them.

Classroom Etiquette:
Turn off any beepers or cell phones; if you have to take a call during class, please sit near the door and exit to the hallway before speaking. You may bring something to drink during class, but no food. Be considerate of your fellow students and work to maintain an environment conducive to appropriate attention and collective learning. Thanks.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1-2: 24 August to 2 September
Introductory Questions: What is the United States? What is Foreign Policy?

Topics: Time and "change" in international relations/global politics
        Nation, state, and "empire" as categories in U.S. "foreign policy"
        Domestic politics and complexity in foreign policy

READ: Rosati, chapter 1, 2, 3, and 18
       Great Decision, "Introduction"
       Mann, Intra and Chapter One
Week 3-4: 7 to 16 September
What is "American" about U.S. foreign policy?

Topics: The Society, its elites, and public attitudes
The Character of American "nationalism"

READ: Rosati, chapters 13 and 16
Great Decisions, chapters 2 (Philippines) and 6 (Latin America)--videos
Mann, chapters Two, Three, and Four

Week 5: 21 to 23 September
The Presidency and the Policymaking Process

READ: Rosati, chapters 4 and 10
Mann, chapters Five, Six, and Seven

>>>>FIRST EXAMINATION ON TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Week 6-7: 30 September to 12 October
(REST OF COURSE SCHEDULE TBA)

Week 8-9: 14 to 21 October

Week 10-11: 26 October to 4 November

>>>>10-WEEK (2ND) EXAMINATION ON TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Week 12-14: 9 to 23 November

>>>>MANN REVIEW DUE IN BY FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Week 15: 30 November to 2 December

>>>>FINAL (3RD) EXAMINATION ON TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER, 10:30 AM IN CLASSROOM