

American Politics and Foreign Policy

Department: Fudan International Summer Session 2026

Date: 2026.1.12

Course Code	GEIS10027						
Course Title	American Politics and Foreign Policy						
Credit	2	Experiment (including Computer) Credit		Practice Credit		Aesthetic Education Credit	
Credit Hours Per Week	36+3 tutorial hours (one credit hour is 45 minutes)	Education on The Hard- Working Spirit Credit Hours		Language of Instruction	Engl ish	Honors Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Course Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Core General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Course in General Discipline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others			2+X Major :			
				<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Core Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Advanced Course Non 2+X Major : <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Elective Course			
Course Objectives	Since the end of the Second World War, the United States has been the world's most powerful and influential country. Understanding American politics and foreign policy is therefore essential to making sense of the world we live in. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of U.S. politics and foreign policy and helps them develop a deeper understanding of the United States and its relations with the wider world, thereby broadening their international horizons.						
Course Description	It covers key aspects of U.S. politics, including American political thought, political institutions, political culture, and political processes. The course also examines how U.S. foreign policy is formulated, its strategic objectives, and the tools and approaches the United States uses to pursue them.						
Course Requirements:							
Students are expected to have a basic foundation in political science and international relations. The course will be conducted through lectures, student presentations, class discussions, and Q&A sessions. There will be							

no homework assignments. Students are also encouraged to read widely in the popular press, follow relevant developments in the real world, and apply concepts and frameworks from the course to analyze current events.

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, presentations, and group discussions

Course Director's Academic Background:

Hao Wang is a Professor at the Center for American Studies, Fudan University. He received his B.A. in Law (International Relations) from the School of International Studies, Renmin University of China, in 2011, and his Ph.D. in Law (International Relations) from the School of International Studies, Renmin University of China, in 2016. From 2014 to 2015, he was a visiting scholar in the Department of Political Science at Columbia University in New York City. He joined Fudan University as a faculty member in July 2016.

Professor Wang has received several competitive research grants, including the Shanghai Pujiang Talent Program (2017), the Ministry of Education Youth Scholar Research Fund (2019), a Major Project of the National Social Science Fund of China (2020) and a Major Research Project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (2023). From 2024 to 2026, he serves at UC San Diego as Co-Director of the Fudan–UC Center on Contemporary China.

Email: wanghaocas@fudan.edu.cn

Instructor's Academic Background: see above

Members of Teaching Team

Name	Gender	Professional Title	Department	Responsibility

Course Schedule:

- Class 1: Donald Trump, the Rise of Populism, and Changes in American Politics Over the Past Decade
- Class 2: Liberalism, Conservatism and the Mainstream American Political Ideologies
- Class 3: American Political Institutions: Separation of Powers and Federalism
- Class 4: Party System and Political Parties in the United States
- Class 5: Interest Groups and Political Elections in the United States
- Class 6: An Introduction to U.S. Foreign Policy and Grand Strategy Since 1945
- Class 7: Understanding U.S.–China Relations: Past, Present, and Future
- Class 8: The Relationship Between U.S. Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy
- Class 9: Student Presentations
- Class 10: Student Presentations

- Class 11: Student Presentations
- Class 12: Final Exam

The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:

Presentations and in-class discussions.

Tutorial hours at Office No. 416, Center for American Studies.

If you need a TA, please indicate the assignment of assistant:

Grading & Evaluation:

Grading:

Attendance	10%
In-Class Discussion	10%
Presentation	40%
Final Exam (Closed-book)	40%

Usage of Textbook: Yes (complete textbook information form below) No

Textbook Information (No more than two textbooks) :

Title	Author	ISBN	Publishing Time	Publisher	Type I	Type II
					<input type="checkbox"/> Self-compiled Textbook (Published) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mainland Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Other Textbook (Published)	<input type="checkbox"/> National Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial and Ministerial Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> School Level Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Others
					<input type="checkbox"/> Self-compiled Textbook (Published) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mainland Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Other Textbook (Published)	<input type="checkbox"/> National Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial and Ministerial Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> School Level Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Others

Teaching Materials & References (Including Author, Title, Publisher and Publishing time):

Samuel Kernell et al., *The Logic of American Politics* (11th Edition), CQ Press, 2024

Michael Roskin et al., *Political Science: An Introduction* (12th Edition), Pearson Education, 2012

Baradat Leon, *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact* (10th Edition), Pearson Education, 2009

Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, Simon and Schuster, 1994

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, W. W. Norton, 2001

Robert Art, *A Grand Strategy for America*, Cornell University Press, 2003