

COURSE INFORMATION FORM	
Faculty / Institute	Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences
Department	Political Science and International Relations
Course Code	Contemporary Issues in American Politics
Course title	SUI 345
Instructional Language	Turkish
Programs that can take the course	Departmental elective course for Department of Political Science and International Relations students. Students from other departments can take as an elective course
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Undergraduate
ECTS Credit	6
Prerequisites	None
Course Content	<p>Understanding American foreign policy and the links between foreign policy making and social and political structure in the US closely is crucial for the students of political science and international relations. This course is divided into two main sections: a) American political system and b) American foreign policy. The aim of the first section of this course is to provide students with background information on the general functioning of the American system. This section will first provide the students with information about the basic values of American society and the major constituents of American political culture. Then, students will learn about the basic institutions of the American governmental system and its mechanisms.</p> <p>The second part of the course will be devoted to an in-depth analysis of American foreign policy. In this section, firstly, the conceptual basis of American foreign policy will be discussed. Then, the evolution of American foreign policy in different historical periods as well as the fundamental debates shaping American foreign policy in each period will be discussed in a chronological order. Thus, how the US power's potential, its role in world politics, and its priorities changed over two hundred years will be examined. The information obtained about the history of American foreign policy will facilitate students understanding of today's debates from a broader perspective. At the end of the course, by focusing on the post-Cold War period, the main issues defining the agenda of American foreign policy in this period will be discussed. In addition to analyzing the issues facing the United States, the methods that different administrations follow in coping with these problems will also be discussed. Furthermore, the institutions involved in the construction of American foreign policy and the impact of public opinion, interest groups and lobbies in this process will be discussed.</p>
The Aim of the Course	The main objective of this senior undergraduate course is to provide students with expertise in American foreign policy as well as American political and social dynamics.
Course Outcomes	<p>At the end of the course, the students are expected to have a general idea on the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American values; • An outline of the mechanism of the American governmental system; • Basic principles of American foreign policy; • Main turning points and discussions of American foreign policy in its historical evolution; • Controversies in American foreign policy after the Cold War era; • Foreign policy-making processes and key actors in the United States.
Textbook and / or References	<p>C. Jillson. American Government: Political Change and Institutional Development. 4th edition Routledge, 2008.</p> <p>B.W. Jentleson. American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century. 4th edition W.W. Norton, 2010.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Percentage
Attendance	10
Lab	None
Application	None
Field Study	None
Homework	10
Presentations	None

Projects	None
Seminar	None
Midterm Exams	25
Quiz	15
Final	40
Total	100
Course Plan	Subjects to Be Discussed
1. Week	Introduction
2. Week	Political Culture of American Society
3. Week	Roots of American Political System: A Look into the American Revolution and Constitution
4. Week	Structure of US Government
5. Week	Conceptual Foundations of American Foreign Policy: American Foreign Policy Culture
6. Week	American Foreign Policy: Until the World War II
7. Week	American Foreign Policy: Until the World War II
8. Week	American Foreign Policy: Cold War Period
9. Week	American Foreign Policy: Post-Cold War Era
10. Week	Unipolarity and Hegemony Debate
11. Week	Neo-conservatism in US Foreign Policy
12. Week	Foreign Policy Making Process and Actors: Interest Groups and Lobbies