

**Political Studies Program, Summer 2012  
World Order & American Foreign Policy  
Instructor: Robert Kagan  
Washington, D.C.**

What shapes the relationships among nations? How has America influenced the international order? Is American power and influence growing or declining? This seminar will address the nature of the world order and America's role in shaping it.

In addition to completing daily reading assignments, students are expected to write one 500- to 750-word essay for the course. Each day, several students will submit an essay in response to one of the discussion questions listed on the syllabus. The essays will be shared and used to begin the seminar.

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**Monday, July 2, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

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***What is World Order and Why Does It Matter?***

Reading:

- Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics* chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5 ().
- G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order After Major Wars* (chapters 1,2 and 3).

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there such a thing as "world order"? If so, what is it? If not, how should we think about the relations among states and people?
2. Is there a "world order" today? How should characterize the present international situation?

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**Tuesday, July 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

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***America and the World, Past and Present***

Reading:

- Robert Kagan, *Dangerous Nation* (Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 12)
- Stephen Sestanovich, "American Maximalism," *The National Interest*, Spring 2005.
- Melvyn P. Leffler, "The Emergence of an American Grand Strategy," in *Cambridge History of the Cold War*, v. 1 (2010) 67-89.

Discussion Questions:

1. Has the United States shaped or reshaped the international order over the past two centuries? And if so, how?

2. Is the United States a source of order or disorder?
3. Are American goals and ambitions in the world different today than in the past?

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## **Wednesday, July 4, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

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### ***China and World Order***

#### Reading:

- Aaron Friedberg, *A Contest For Supremacy: China, America, and the Struggle For Mastery in Asia* (chapters 1, 2, 6, and).
- G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," *Foreign Affairs* Jan/Feb 2008, pp. 23-37.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Is China reshaping the world order? If so, how?
2. Is a rising China a source of order or disorder in the world?
3. Can an "American order" and a "Chinese order" coexist?

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## **Thursday, July 5, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

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### ***Great Powers and Ideology***

#### Reading:

- Azer Gat, "The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2007) and responses by Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, and Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2009).
- Robert Kagan, "The End of Dreams, Return of History", *Policy Review*, No. 144 (August/September 2007).

#### Reading:

1. Does ideology still matter in international affairs? Why or why not?
2. What is the relationship between ideology and world order?

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## **Friday, July 6, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

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### ***What Comes Next?***

#### Reading:

- Robert Kagan, *The World America Made*

- G. John Ikenberry, “The Future of the Liberal World Order: Internationalism After America,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2012.
- Charles A. Kupchan, *No One’s World: The West, the Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn* (chapter 7).
- Fareed Zakaria, “The Future of American Power,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2008.

Reading:

1. What will the world order look like in 2030?
2. How should the United States attempt to shape the world order in the decades to come? Does it have the capacity to shape the world order?