

Descriptif d'enseignement / *Course descriptions*

2ème année / 2nd year

Semestre 2

Titre du cours - *Course title*

Making America Great Again: Trump, America, and the World

Type de cours : Séminaire d'ouverture - Seminar

Langue du cours/Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) – *Professor(s)*

Jeffrey Hawkins

Retired Diplomat

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Résumé du cours – **Objectifs** - *Course description – Targets*

Donald Trump has promised to “Make America Great Again.” Has he? This course begins with a review of the classic underpinnings of American politics and foreign policymaking. It then turns to the potentially irreversible “new normal” Trump has introduced into American life and foreign relations. It reviews the ways that longer term social and economic forces and the new American president’s unique personality and approach have overturned longstanding norms and relationships. In effect, domestic politics – and in particular the views of Trump’s base – currently appear to drive our international relations in a way seldom seem before in the modern era. Taught by a foreign policy practitioner, rather than an academic, this class will focus more on discussion and exploration than rote lectures or lengthy readings. Students themselves will help shape the dialog.

At the close of the course, students will have a good understanding of basic American institutions, recent political changes, and the impact those changes have on the way the United States interacts with the world.

Evaluation - *Assessment*

Students will prepare a graded group oral presentation. Students will take a final exam in the form of three short essay questions. Critical thinking and interpretation will be emphasized over memorization.

Plan – **Séances** - *Course outline*

Session One: What it Used to Be

Basic American political structures and norms

How foreign policy is (or was) made

The basic contours of post-war policy

Session Two: Tectonic Changes Bring Us to Election Day

Economic and social transformation in America

The fourth estate: from Investigative Journalism to “Fake News”

Session Three: Presenting Donald Trump

Who is Donald Trump and what does he believe?

The “deplorables” and the 2016 election.

Student Case Study: Is Trump crazy or crazy like a fox?

Session Four: Trump overturns the foreign policy establishment

Foreign policy during the campaign: “bad deals,” and “bad hombres”

The generals take over.

The end of the State Department?

Student Case Study: Are the President’s tweets the policy of the United States?

Session Five: MAGA diplomacy Reflects the World View of Trump’s Base (I)

Extreme vetting, building walls, and “Muslim ban”

Climate change: America stands alone

Student Case Study: Renegotiating NAFTA

Session Six: MAGA diplomacy Reflects the World View of Trump’s Base (II)

North Korea: “Liddle Rocket Man vs. the Dotard”

Dare we even discuss... Russia

Counter example: establishment fights back on Afghanistan

Student Case Study: Does the Transatlantic Alliance Still Exist?

Bibliographie - *Bibliography* :

Will be provided on the first day of class.