American Foreign Policy Learning Goals

The following represent the overall goals for student learning in the American Foreign Policy concentration at SAIS. Attainment of those objectives will be ascertained by student performance in courses and by formal and informal consultation with students, both during and after their years at SAIS.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will gain an understanding of the history of American foreign policy, starting with the founding of the country, but with special emphasis on the decades since World War II;
2. Familiarize themselves with American foreign policy toward at least one other area of the world, and preferably two or three;
3. Gain an understanding of how the American government—including the Executive Branch and the Congress—makes and carries out foreign policy;
4. Know the major current issues confronting the United States, including those involving economics and those having to do with security; and
5. Through the department-wide writing requirement as well as the writing requirements of particular courses, students should be able to express themselves in writing clearly, concisely, and persuasively.