

**AMERICA & THE WORLD**  
**Spring 2022 Course Syllabus**

Course Number: 21:790:202:62  
Instructor: Dr. James Amemasor  
Class Hours: Monday 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Classroom Location: Conklin Hall 203  
Email: jamemas@newark.rutgers.edu  
Office Hour: By appointment

**Course Description & Objectives**

We are in the midst of an intense societal and political discussion about United States’ “role” in a more open and complex world. This course offers an introduction to the politics of the United States foreign policy in that increasingly changing international political environment. The course presents an overview of the global and historical context as a factor of the nation’s foreign policy over time and in the contemporary setting. Attention will be given to how politics “inside” the United States and politics “outside” the United States feed into each other to produce and shape the country’s foreign policy contents and approaches. We will explore the role of the administrative organizations that are responsible for carrying out the foreign policy of the United States and integrate theories that inform the country’s policy choices. Students are expected to keep abreast of current global political events to better understand the information presented in class.

**Learning Goals**

This course is designed to help students:

Objective	Assessment
A. Demonstrate understanding of the history of American foreign policy from the founding of the country through the contemporary era.	Class discussion and written assignments
B. Integrate theory in discussions to make sense of foreign policy choices and to help formulate questions of “how” and “why”?	Course Term Paper and class discussions
C. Reflect on the ways in which American foreign policy approaches and constraints serve the country well or poorly.	Mid-term, Final, and Term Paper, Quizzes
D. Familiarize themselves with American foreign policy institutions and actors and their sources of power and authority.	Class Discussions
E. Demonstrate understanding of the evolving relations among U.S. foreign policy institutions and the processes that shape their relations.	Class Discussions, written assignments
F. Demonstrate understanding of the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development in United States foreign policy approaches.	Class Discussion, written Term Paper

**Required Texts**

James M. Scott and Jerel A. Rosati, *The Politics of the United States Foreign Policy*, 7th edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2020).

**Supplementary Readings**

In addition to the texts selected for this course, students will be required to examine book chapters as well as journal articles and newspaper clippings provided as supplementary readings for a broader understanding and integration of the topics and themes discussed in class. Most of these materials are available in electronic format in the course's Canvas page; others are available online. They are taken

from magazines, newspapers, scholarly presentations, and scholarly journals, including *American Foreign Policy Interests*, *American Foreign Policy Newsletter*, *Security Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Financial Times*, *The Atlantic*, *New York Times*, and *Journal of International Affairs*.

### **Course Requirements and Grades**

- 1) Readings are assigned for each class session. All readings will provide background information on the topics and themes presented in the course. It is *imperative*, therefore, that students complete all required readings on time in order to be able to participate actively in class discussions. *Class discussions are an important part of the learning process.*
- 2) As part of your class participation, students are encouraged to read reputable magazine and/or newspaper (e.g., *New York Times*) articles that reflect the trends and developments of United States' role in the world. The instructor expects you to utilize the contents of such articles in your discussions by relating them to the history and trends of United States' foreign policy.
- 3) Regular and punctual attendance is a course requirement. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class session. Please note that more than two unexcused absences will draw a penalty on the participation portion of your grade. Attendance is, however, meaningful if you are involved in class discussions.
- 4) Starting from the second week, a team of 2 students will open class sessions with a 20–25 minute oral presentation based on assigned readings. The presenters will be required to survey what they think are the most significant dimensions of the readings and to present the class with a series of points for discussion.
- 5) Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be held on *Monday, March 7*. Please note that materials from assigned readings along with information presented in class lectures and discussions will be the subject of the midterm exam. The nature and format of the exam will be discussed in detail later in the semester.
- 6) Term Paper: The due date for the term paper (no more than 10 double-spaced typed pages, not including the bibliography) is *Monday, May 9*. Students are required to submit a preliminary one-page proposal on a topic of their choice within the realm of United States foreign policy, which must be approved by the instructor. The proposal is due on *Monday, March 28 in class*. It will not be graded, but rather returned with comments. The term paper must have a cover page, title, and abstract.
- 7) All written assignments for this class are to be in Times New Roman, 12-point font with one-inch margins. No space is to be left between paragraphs, which are to be indented on the first line. Details of the term paper assignment will be available on the course's Canvas page.
- 8) Papers should utilize one of the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation formats. The guidelines for these formats are on the course's Canvas page.

The final grade earned in this course will be based on student performance in the following areas:

- a.) Class Participation - 15%
- b.) Class Presentation - 15%
- c.) Quizzes (5) – 20%
- c.) Midterm Exam - 20%
- d.) Term Paper - 30%

Please note that make-ups for assignments and extensions will only be granted with a valid and documented excuse, subject to the instructor's approval.

### **Course Format**

Class meetings are divided into lectures, student presentations, and class discussions. These formats are intended to complement one another and are integral parts of the course. The lectures provide context to historical themes, events, and global trends and processes. As such, they will provide context for students' consideration. Class discussions are designed to support the lectures. Thus, students should attend classes and actively participate in the learning process.

### **Academic Integrity**

As scholars of Rutgers-Newark, all students are held to the university's Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Codes as well as to their instructor's expectations, which include NO engaging in obscene or offensive behavior and NO utilizing inappropriate language or profanity. As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers-Newark is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. Academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism on term papers and exams will not be tolerated and may result in an immediate and final course grade of "F." Please note that such cases will be reported to the Chair of the Department of Political Science, and may result in possible academic probation and/or suspension from the University. See Academic Integrity Policy at Rutgers University at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>.

### **Policy on Inclusiveness**

It is the policy and practice of Rutgers-Newark to promote an inclusive learning environment. If you have a documented disability, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Please note that students are not permitted to negotiate any applicable accommodations directly with their professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Services-Newark (ODS), Robeson Campus Center, Suite 219, at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, please be sure to contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or by email at [ODS@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ODS@newark.rutgers.edu).

### **Policy on Incompletes**

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request, accompanied by an Incomplete Grade Extension Form (available from the Department of Political Science Main Office), to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the request for an incomplete is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within the new submission time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving it, or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first), automatically becomes an "F." It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the time frame allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

## **Coronavirus Safety**

In accordance with Rutgers-Newark COVID-19 safety guidelines, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: [myRutgers Portal](#).

- ◎ **This syllabus is subject to change** and such a change will be announced to students. Please note that students are responsible for keeping track of all announcements and assignments.

## **Schedule of Classes**

### **Week 1: Introductory Meeting/Lecture**

Jan. 24: Review of course objectives and requirements

### **Week 2: Understanding the Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy**

Jan. 31: Scott & Rosati, Chap. 1.

Bojang AS, "The Study of Foreign Policy in International Relations," *Journal of Political Science & Public Affairs*, Vol. 6. No. 4 (Oct. 2018).

Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998).

### **Week 3: The Global and Historical Context: Power and Politics on the World Stage**

**Feb. 7:** Scott & Rosati, Chap. 2.

Walter Russell Mead, "The American Foreign Policy Legacy," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 2002): 163-176.

### **Week 4: The President and White House Leadership**

Feb. 14: Scott & Rosati, Chap. 3.

Joseph R. Biden, Jr., "Why America Must Lead Again: Rescuing U. S. Foreign Policy After Trump," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, Issue 2 (March/April 2020): 64-76.

### **Week 5: Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: The Department of State**

**Feb. 21:** Scott & Rosati, Chap. 4.

Office of the Historian, "Henry Luce and the 20th Century U.S. Internationalism," U.S. Department of State. Available from <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/internationalism>

"A Foreign Policy for the American People," A Speech by Antony J. Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State, March 21, 2021. Available from <https://www.state.gov/a-foreign-policy-for-the-american-people/>

### **Week 6: Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: The Department of Defense**

Feb. 28: Scott & Rosati, Chap. 5.

Robert M. Gates, "The Overmilitarization of American Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, Issue 4 (July/August 2020): 121-132.

Robert Kagan, "A Superpower, Like It or Not," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, Issue 2 (March/April 2021): 28-38.

### **Week 7: Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: The Intelligence Community**

Mar. 7: Scott & Rosati, Chap. 6.

Kenneth G. Lieberthal, "The U.S. Intelligence Community and Foreign Policy: Getting Analysis Right," Brookings Institutions, September 15, 2009. Available from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-u-s-intelligence-community-and-foreign-policy-getting-analysis-right/>

**Midterm: Take Home Exam – Due Wednesday March 9**

### **Week 8: Spring Break**

Mar. 14: \*\*\* No Class \*\*\*

### **Week 9: Managing the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: The National Security Council System**

Mar. 21: Scott & Rosati, Chap. 7.

Robert Cutler, "The Development of the National Security Council," *Foreign Affairs*, April 1956.

Council on Foreign Relations, "Academic Webinar: The Role of National Security Council," March 10, 2021. Available from <https://www.cfr.org/event/academic-webinar-role-national-security-council>

### **Week 10: The Foreign Economic Bureaucracy and the National Economic Council**

Mar. 28: Scott & Rosati, Chap. 8.

Scott Bledsoe and Jeremy D. Mayer, "The National Economic Council," The White House Transition Project 1997-2021 Report 2021-5, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri. Available from <https://whitehousetransitionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WHTP2021-35-National-Economic-Council.pdf>

<b>Mon., March 28: *** Term paper proposal due ***</b>
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### **Week 11: Discussion of Term Paper Proposals**

Apr. 4: Presentation and Discussion of Term Paper proposals

We will use this meeting to discuss your term paper proposals. The goal is to create space for your peers to provide feedback on one another's proposal.

### **Week 12: Congress, Interbranch Politics, Processes of Foreign Policymaking**

Apr. 11: Scott & Rosati, Chapters 9 and 10.

**Week 13: The Public, Interest Groups, and Foreign Policy**

Apr. 18: Scott & Rosati, Chapters 11 & 12.

Emma Ashford, "Strategies of Restraint: Remaking America's Broken Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, Issue 5 (September/October 2021): 128-139.

**Week 14: The Media and Foreign Policy**

Apr. 25: Scott & Rosati, Chap. 13.

Jonathan Tepperman and Fareed Zakaria, "America and the World: How to Build Back Better," *Foreign Policy*, Issue 239 (Winter 2021): 4-14.

**Week 15: Patterns, Processes, and Foreign Policymaking**

**May 2:** Scott & Rosati, Chap. 14.

Joseph S. Nye Jr., "The American Century Will Continue But It Won't Look the Same," *Politico Magazine*, May 18, 2015. Available from <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/05/american-century-will-continue-but-it-wont-look-same-118074> (accessed April 28, 2021).