

AMERICA & THE WORLD
Fall 2021 Course Syllabus

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

Classroom Location: Hill Hall 204
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 an increasingly complex world. This course provides an introduction to the history of United States’ role in such a world. It presents an overview of the evolution of the nation’s foreign policy, focusing on the period from World War II through the contemporary era. 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. 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. Explain in a coherent manner how and why America is fundamentally different from other nations.	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 on United States foreign policy approaches.	Class Discussion, written Term Paper

Required Texts

John Kingdon, *American the Unusual* (New York: St. Martin’s/Worth, 1999).

Jeffery D. Sachs, *A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018).

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, 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 2-3 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 *Wednesday, October 6*. 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 *Wednesday, December 7*. 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 *Wednesday, November 3 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 - 20%
- b.) Class Presentation - 15%
- c.) Midterm Exam - 25%
- d.) Term Paper - 40%

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.

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: Sept. 1: Introductory Meeting/Lecture

Review of course objectives and requirements

Week 2: Sept. 8: History of American Foreign Policy

George Washington, "The United States Should Remain Aloof from Europe," in John C. Chalberg, ed., *Isolationism: Opposing Viewpoint* (San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 1995): 21-28.

Richard Onley, "Washington's Farewell Address No Longer Applies to the United States," in John C. Chalberg, ed., *Isolationism: Opposing Viewpoint*, pp. 29-39.

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

Week 3: Sept. 15: America the Unusual Nation: Foreign Policy Actors and Institutions

Kingdon, pp. ix-22.

John Brademas, "The Role of Congress in Foreign Policy," *American Foreign Policy Newsletter*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (1988).

Week 4: Sept. 22: American Ideology: Liberal Hegemony

Kingdon, pp. 23-56

Hans J. Morgenthau, "Enduring Realities and Foreign Policy," *American Foreign Policy Interests*, Vol. 37, Issue 4 (2015): 181-186.

Robert Jarvis, "Liberalism, the Blob, and American Foreign Policy: Evidence and Methodology," *Security Studies*, Vol. 29, Issue 3 (May 2020): 434-456.

Week 5: Sept. 29: American Exceptionalism

Kingdon, pp. 57-84

John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of Liberal Hegemony," Yale University Henry L. Stimson Lectures on World Affairs, November 13, 2017. Available from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESwIVY2oiml> (accessed August 26, 2021).

Week 6: Oct. 6: Midterm Exam

Midterm Exam

Week 7: Implications of American Exceptionalism

Kingdom, pp. 85-100

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

"US Testing its New Gigantic \$13 Billion Aircraft Carrier"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqxjzudGAc>

Week 8: Oct. 20: Debate about America's Role in the World

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

Joseph S. Nye, Jr., "Introduction," *The Paradox of American Power: Why the World's Only Superpower Can't Go It Alone* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

William J. Burns, "Assessing the Role of the United States in the World," Testimony: Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, February 27, 2019. Available from <https://www.state.gov/a-foreign-policy-for-the-american-people/>

Week 9: Oct. 27: American Exceptionalism in a Changing World

Sachs, pp. 1-41.

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>

Ezra Klein, "Let's Not Pretend That the Way We Withdrew From Afghanistan Was the Problem," *New York Times*, August 26, 2021.

Week 10: Nov. 3: Foreign Policy in the Era of Global Convergence & Divergence

Sachs, pp. 43-79

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 11: Nov. 10: An Overview of America's Wars and Security Strategies

Sachs, pp. 81-125.

Stephen Wertheim, "The Price of Primacy: Why America Shouldn't Dominate the World," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, Issue 2 (March/April 2020): 19-29.

"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/>

John J. Mearsheimer, "The Case for Restraint," Yale University Henry L. Stimson Lectures on World Affairs, November 17, 2017. Available from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsonzzAW3Mk>

Week 12: Nov. 17: American Economic and Statecraft in a More Open World

Sachs, pp. 127-168

Jessica T. Matthews, "Present at the Re-Creation? U.S. Foreign Policy Must Be Remade, Not Restored," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, Issue 2 (March/April 2021): 10-16.

Week 13: Nov. 26: Renewing American Diplomacy

Sachs, pp. 169-194.

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

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

Week 14: Dec. 1: Foreign Policy and Sustainable Development

Sachs, pp. 195-219.

"The Next 50 Years of Foreign Policy," *Foreign Policy*, Issue 239 (Winter 2021): 120-121.

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).

William J. Burns, "The United States Needs a New Foreign Policy," *The Atlantic*, July 14, 2020. Available from <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/07/united-states-needs-new-foreign-policy/614110/>