

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEWARK CAMPUS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**21:790:202:02**  
**SPRING 2018**

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT**

Instructor	Dr. Mita Saksena
Office Hours	Tuesdays, 2.00 to 3.45 and by appointment, Room 718, Hill Hall
E-mail	msaksena@newark.rutgers.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Course Name	America and the World
Course ID & Section	21:790:202:02
Course Time	Tuesday /Thursday 4.00 to 5.20

Semester/Year	SPRING 2018
Location	Bradley 313

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

What is the role of America in a dynamic and changing world? What kind of historical events, domestic factors, and international influences have shaped its present foreign relations with the world? What are the transnational threats and challenges in the world it needs to address? The course on America and the World will cover the history and evolution of American foreign relations from the nation's early years as a new republic through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, exploring factors that have shaped its foreign policy and relationship with the world, ways in which America has influenced the world- culturally, socially, economically and how different world events, rise of identity politics, globalization, transnational networks, and international organizations have in turn shaped its policies and perception of the world. The course is divided into three parts.

The first part deals with theoretical approaches, the historical context and key debates in the evolution of American foreign relations. We seek to ask the question if United States was an isolationist power or was it an empire in the making pursuing its power, profit, prestige and principles. The second part of the course discusses American foreign relations in the post Cold War era. It focuses on US pursuit of a policy of liberal hegemony and assesses failures and successes of American foreign relations. The third part of the course deals with US foreign relations since September 2001 and the major transnational threats it is faced with.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- **Student Specific:** The course will help students focus and direct their efforts in examining history and evolution of American foreign relations since it attained its independence
- **Student Centered:** Students are expected to complete all weekly readings and assignments to critically evaluate America's role in the world
- **Observation and actionable:** Students will be able to master and explore diverse streams of thought and economic and strategic interests that have shaped its foreign policy and relationship with the world and exploring and assessing international influences and actors that in turn impact American foreign relations
- **Developmental:** the students will be able to comprehend and evaluate theoretical approaches to American foreign relations and apply them to current concerns and be able to create their own arguments and policy options when making sense of America's contemporary policies and transnational security threats. Students will develop "critical-thinking and writing skills required for civic engagement in a democratic society and enables them to pursue careers in the public, non-profit, and private sectors or to pursue further study in political science, law, public service and administration, criminal justice, non-profit administration, global politics, and international relations." (Rutgers Political Science Website)

## COURSE REQUIREMENT, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- **All assignments-** group projects, weekly readings, slides and videos, research paper, mid-term and final exams are aligned to the course learning objectives and make the expected learning outcomes measurable
- **Attendance and Participation:** Regular attendance and participation is required for all scheduled classes. Students must do the assigned readings and come to class with questions, and contribute to classroom discussions. Absence from classes will affect your grade.
- **Group Projects:** Students will work in groups they will be assigned to . For more details, check blackboard.
- **Research Paper:** This course requires you to write a short 5-page research paper. Very broadly the paper asks you to identify a region or a country, assess and analyze US foreign policy towards the country or region. The final paper is due for submission in blackboard on 04/26/18 by 11.59P.M. Late papers will not be accepted. A one paragraph written statement about the topic you

wish to pursue is due by 02/ 20/18 in blackboard. All students must complete the first draft of their research paper by 03/27/18. Students will also do a peer review of each other's work in class on 03/27/18. Peer review sheet is posted in blackboard.

- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be administered during the time listed on the official Rutgers University final exam grid. The test will comprise of multiple choice questions, and short answers. The final exam is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2018 at 11.45 and will comprise of 100 multiple choice questions including short answer questions. We will review for the final exam in class on 04/30/18
- **The grading scale is displayed in the following table**

Attendance	10 %
Group Projects	20%
Individual Research Paper 1	25 %
Participation	15%
Final Exam	30%

Letter Grade	Points
A	90 – 100 points
B+	86 – 89 points
B	80 – 85 points
C+	76 – 79 points
C	70 – 75 points
D	60 – 69 points
F	59 and below

## COURSE POLICIES

- **Absence Policy:** In accordance with University policy, students are expected to attend class every day with all relevant required course materials and work. If you are absent from class, contact me as soon as possible, preferably before the next class meeting. Students remain responsible for any missed work, for work completed in class, and for work due, and must arrange for that work to be delivered to the faculty on time. Per the university policy, absences are excused only in the case of illness, death in the family, religious observance, or official college business. These instances must be documented and approved in advance when the instance was foreseeable. Note: having an airline ticket to travel (unless it is for one of the documented reasons listed above) is not grounds for an excused absence.
- **Blackboard:** Please check the blackboard for readings and announcements.
- **Completion of Requirements:** You should complete ALL the requirements of the course. If you do not submit an assignment or appear for your presentation, you will automatically fail the course. If you foresee any problems with the timely submission of assignments and/or appearing for your presentations, you must notify me immediately. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class meeting.

- **Make-Ups for Presentations and Examinations:** Students who miss class on the date they were scheduled to make their presentation will not be able to make it up on another date, unless the absence was documented and excused in accordance with the university policy outlined above. Students will not be allowed to make up the mid-term or final exams on another date unless the absence was documented and excused in accordance with the university policy outlined above.
- **Use of Electronic Devices:** Please turn off all cell phones and personal electronic devices when you enter the classroom. You can use laptops, but only for taking notes. Note that your class participation grade will automatically drop to an F if you use your phone or laptop for a non-classroom related activity.
- **Email Communication:** Outside of the classroom, the primary method of communication will be via emails, sent either directly or via Blackboard. It is your responsibility as a student in this course to ensure that your Rutgers email ID is operational to receive my emails to you. Contact the Technology Help Desk immediately if you experience problems in receiving emails from me.
- **Disruptive Student Behavior:** Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful behavior that results in disruption of class may be directed by the instructor to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. As a last resort, if a disruptive student refuses to leave the room, campus Public Safety will be contacted for assistance at 973-353-5581.
- **Inclement Weather Policy:** If classes are canceled due to inclement weather, students are responsible for checking their university email and/or Blackboard for information from their faculty advising them of any immediate impact on the students' preparation for the next class meeting.
- **Academic Integrity:** All students must sign an academic pledge. [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI\\_Policy\\_9\\_01\\_2011.pdf](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf). "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)." All students are expected to adhere to the university academic integrity policy. Please read [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI\\_Policy\\_2013.pdf](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_2013.pdf)

- **Syllabus and Course Requirements:** Finally, you are responsible for understanding and acting upon the contents and requirements of this syllabus. If you have any questions regarding any aspects of this syllabus, feel free to write or talk to me. Also, if you have questions or concerns regarding your performance in the course or on a project, I encourage you to schedule an appointment with me during my office hours. You can also seek academic support from the places mentioned below.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT ON CAMPUS

- **John Cotton Dana Library** (<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/dana>): Dana Library is a gateway to a variety of information resources. The home page of the library provides 24/7 access to online databases of articles, e-journal collections, e-books, and specialized information to support your coursework.
- Please find details on academic support on campus <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/oas>

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Note: For each day, complete the readings in the order listed.

### PART 1: AMERICAN ROLE IN THE WORLD IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT (1620-1989): KEY CONCEPTS, KEY EVENTS, AND THEORETICAL DEBATES

#### 01/18: INTRODUCTION, WELCOME AND COURSE OVERVIEW

- Broad Framework- Power, Prestige, Prosperity, Principles
- Stephen Walt, Making the Grade. Is There a Way to Judge Foreign Policy? (on BB)

---

#### 01/23: APPROACHING THE STUDY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS: SYSTEMIC CONTEXT

- Chapters 2 and 3 Jentleson (on BB)
- Chapter 1, Merrill and Paterson (on BB)

- John Lewis Gaddis, Two Cold War Empires: Imposition vs. Multilateralism in Merrill and Paterson(on BB)
- Gerhard Weinberg, The Global Threat and the Case for War in Merrill and Paterson (on BB)

---

**01/25: APPROACHING THE STUDY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS: SYSTEMIC CONTEXT**

- Chapters 2 and 3 Jentleson(on BB)
- Chapter 1, Merrill and Paterson (on BB)
- US entry into WW1 and WW2(on BB)
- 

---

**01/30: 1776- 1945- APPROACHING THE STUDY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS: DOMESTIC CONTEXT**

- Monroe Doctrine(BB)
- Farewell speech George Washington BB)
- Roosevelt corollary(BB)
- Woodrow Wilson The World League for Peace(BB)

---

**02/01: APPROACHING THE STUDY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS: DOMESTIC CONTEXT-ROLE OF INTEREST GROUPS, MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND MEDIA**

- Why We Fight (on BB)
- Interest Groups- American Jewish Lobby (on BB)

---

**02/06: APPROACHING THE STUDY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS: DOMESTIC CONTEXT**

- Stephen Walt Role of Think Tanks (on BB)

---

**02/08: HISTORICAL CONTEXT: ISOLATIONISM/ EMPIRE IN MAKING?**

- Age of Empires (on BB)

---

## 02/13: COLD WAR LESSONS AND LEGACIES

- Case Study Middle East

## PART 2: AMERICAN STRATEGY IN POST COLD WAR ERA (1989-2001)

---

## 02/15: UNIPOLAR WORLD? UNILATERALISM VS MULTILATERALISM-GRAND STRATEGY FOR NEW ERA

- Case study Persian Gulf War (on BB)
- Chapter 7, pages 286-300, 315-327 in Jentleson (on BB)

---

## 02/20: UNIPOLAR WORLD? UNILATERALISM VS MULTILATERALISM-GRAND STRATEGY FOR NEW ERA

- The (Clinton) White House, A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement (1995)
- The (Bush) White House, The National Security Strategy of the United States of America (2002)
- The (Obama) White House, National Security Strategy (2015)
  - **One paragraph research topic due**

---

## 02/22: US LED GLOBALIZATION/ LIBERALIZATION LIBERAL ORDER IN MAKING

- D. Deudney and G. J. Ikenberry, "The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order," Review of International Studies, April 1999(on BB)
- Michael Hunt(onBB)

- BBC Report: How Bretton woods Shaped the World (on BB)

---

## **02/27: US LED GLOBALIZATION/ LIBERALIZATION LIBERAL ORDER IN MAKING**

- Peter Goodman, What Fuels Backlash Against Free Trade,” The New York Times, September 28, 2016(on BB)
- Thomas Friedman, The Lexus, and Olive Tree, online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9h02horkwc> (on BB)

---

## **03/01: RESEARCH PAPER, RESEARCHING ONLINE DATABASES, CITATION STYLES**

---

## **03/06: AMERICA AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION**

- Case Study Libya and Somalia
- Richard Betts, “The Habit of American Peace: From Cold War to Hot Peace,” Political Science Quarterly, Vol 127, 3(2012) (on BB)
- US Libya relationshiphttps online at [://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkkjJrR2Its](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkkjJrR2Its)(on BB)
- Fault lines- US Intervention in Libya online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5EeuEg349o> (on BB)
- Ignatieff- Responsibility to Protect online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3UCGqW6lus> (on BB)

---

## **03/08: AMERICA AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION: FROM HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION TO RESPONSIBILITY 2 PROTECT**

- 03/10-03/18 Spring Break

---

## **03/20: CHALLENGES TO US: GROWTH OF ECONOMIC POWER HOUSES**

- Watch Documentary- Death by China (**on BB**)
  - The Rise of China and the BRICS: A Multipolar World in the Making at <http://focusweb.org/content/rise-china-and-brics-multipolar-world-making>
  - S. Brooks and W.C. Wohlforth, "The Once and Future Superpower: Why China Won't Overtake the United States," Foreign Affairs 95, no. 3 (May/June 2016).
- 
- 

### **03/22: CHALLENGES TO UNITED STATES: GROWTH OF ECONOMIC POWER HOUSES**

- Case Study India and Brazil (on BB)
- 

### **03/27: IN CLASS PEER REVIEW- PEER REVIEW SHEET IN BLACKBOARD**

#### **PART 3: AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES 2001 -2018**

---

### **03/29: USA AND CYBERSECURITY**

---

### **04/03: BUSH NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY AND WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN**

- National Security Strategy 2003, 2006(on BB)

---

## **04/05: COUNTER TERRORISM: NATIONAL SECURITY VS. CIVIL LIBERTIES**

- Chapter 6 in Contemporary Foreign Policy by Mansbach and Taylor (on BB)

---

## **04/10: USA AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION**

- Non Proliferation Treaty (on BB)
- USA and North Korea (on BB)

---

## **04/12: USA AND IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL**

- Brookings Institute: Debating the Iran Nuclear Deal (on BB)
- Eric Lorber, "President Trump and The Iran Nuclear Deal," Foreign Policy, November 16, 2016(on BB)
- Explaining Iran Nuclear Deal in 3 minutes (on BB)

---

## **04/17: AMERICA AND GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

- [Http://kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-u-s-government-global-emerging-infectious-disease-preparedness-and-response/](http://kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-u-s-government-global-emerging-infectious-disease-preparedness-and-response/)(on BB)
- The Return of Infectious Disease- Laurie Garrett (on BB)
- Obama Declares Ebola a national security threat (on BB)

---

## **04/19: US FOREIGN POLICY AND US ROLE IN THE WORLD- ASSESSMENT: DONALD TRUMP**

- D. Trump, "Transcript to Donald Trump's 'America First' Foreign Policy Speech," April 27, 2016
- S. Sestanovich, "The Brilliant Incoherence of Trump's Foreign Policy," The Atlantic Monthly, May 2017 (on BB)

---

**04/24: US FOREIGN POLICY AND US ROLE IN THE WORLD-  
ASSESSMENT: WHAT NEXT**

- Joseph Nye, "The Future of American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 89, No. 6, pp. 2-12, 2010(**on BB**)
- Robert Kagan, "Superpowers do not get to Retire," *New Republic*, 2014(on BB)
- Ian Bremmer, Three Choices for America's Role in the World (on BB)
- Robert Kagan, *The Twilight of the Liberal World Order* (on BB)
- **Final Research Papers due for submission in blackboard by 5.00 pm.**

---

**04/26: REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM**