



## AMERICA & THE WORLD

Class Number:	21:790:202:62	Room:	CPS, Room 104
Lecturer:	Kehinde A. Togun	Email:	togun.kehinde@gmail.com
Class Hours:	Wednesday 6pm-9pm	Office Hours:	By appointment

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### Class Synopsis:

At various points in US history, our nation has faced what many would consider “existential threats.” Often that threat has come from the outside, and sometimes from within. In 2019, we remain in one of those moments, US leadership is in question abroad, even as we face threats from adversaries like Russia and North Korea. During this course, we will explore how the various perspectives and principles have shaped the US’s role abroad. We will begin the course by focusing on how different perspectives have shaped our outlook. We will draw on contemporary and historic examples to illuminate how the various perspectives influence policy outcomes.

The course will be a combination of lectures and group presentations. On a few occasions, we will have guest lecturers, who will shed light on topics we’re discussing. My expectation is that you will do all the required reading, engage fully, and learn from each other. To that end, I place a premium on class participation and the weekly presentations you will give.

### Learning Objectives:

- 1) Expand students’ knowledge of how principles of international relations shape US foreign policy.
- 2) Connect current international events to history to understand how the international community views the United States’ role.
- 3) Hone analytic, oral communication and writing skills through group presentations, research, and writing assignments.

### Required Text(s):

Our main text for the course is below. It will occasionally be supplemented by academic papers. Students are also encouraged to become familiar with resources such as the [US Foreign Assistance website \(http://foreignassistance.gov/\)](http://foreignassistance.gov/). Additionally, our discussions—and your ability to succeed as a political observer—would be greater if you become a frequent reader of major newspapers like the *New York Times* or *The Washington Post*.

*Perspectives on International Relations: Sixth Edition. 2018. Nau, Henry R. Sage Publications. Thousand Oaks, CA. ISBN: 978-1-5063-3223-9*

Grading:

- 20%: Class Participation and Attendance:** Class participation includes being active in class and partaking in discussions during your classmates' presentations.
- 30%: Group Presentations and Discussion Paper:** Beginning in the second week of class, students will present on a topic and facilitate a discussion among classmates. For your presentation, assume you are presenting to senior staff of the National Security Council. Focus on the most salient background information; consider if there are recommendations you'd make for action; assess what actions other administrations may have taken on this topic in the past; etc.

By the end of the first week, students should sign up for which week and topic they wish to present in groups of two or three—depending on the class size, group sizes may vary. Presentations are expected to be about 30 minutes followed by 30 minutes of facilitated discussion. All students are expected to have a speaking role in the presentation and group members must jointly facilitate the discussion.

There are also two writing assignments in this course: 1) The week of your group presentation, each presenting student is expected to submit a short **discussion paper** that analyzes the topic as well connects history and contemporary issues. The paper should be three pages and I encourage you to make linkages between your topic and the course readings.

All assignment submissions should be completed via Blackboard.

The discussion paper should be Standard 1 inch margins, 12-point font, double spaced writing, free of grammatical and spelling errors. Appropriate use of varied references is required; this includes interviews, newspaper, magazines and books (Chicago / MLA). Papers will be subject to checks for plagiarism. If you would like additional assistance with writing please stop by Rutgers University's Writing Center: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>

The presentation and discussion paper are **SHOULD NOT** be a summary of reading materials. Instead, students are expected provide perspectives that demonstrate reflection and analysis. You might consider these questions: How has policy changed depending on the party in power in the US? Who/what are the major influences driving this issue? What policy recommendations would you make if you were advising the US president or the Secretary of State? If your grandmother asked you to distill the topic into its essence, how would you describe it? Why should the average citizen care about this topic?

The topics for presentations are:

US and North Korea	US Middle East Policy
NAFTA/USMCA	US and Sub-Saharan Africa Policy
US and Paris Agreement/ Climate Change	US and Russia Relations
US and China Relations	US and Latin America

US and Iran

The War in Syria

NATO Alliance

Reproductive Rights/"Global  
Gag Rule"

These presentations and discussion papers provide an opportunity to sharpen your analytical, research, and writing skills as well as expand your presentation skills and working within a team.

**25%: Mid-Term:** The mid-term will be essay format with four to five questions pre-assigned questions of which you will choose to answer two. Answers are to be 3-5 pages in length each. This is a take home exam. You will have one week to complete it. There will be no class presentation on the day the mid-terms are due.

**25%: Final:** The final will follow the same format as the mid-term. This questions on the final will be provided on the last day of class. It is due a week later (on the Wednesday of the University Final's Schedule).

Class Attendance and Late Policies:

If you do not attend class (i.e. due to illness, religious observance, etc.), please email me as soon as you are aware of your need to be absent. Missing more than one class will impact your attendance grade.

**Assignments** and **Exams** received late will not be accepted, except in extraordinary circumstances. This policy is strictly enforced as the presentation and discussion papers are on a date of your choosing.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I will randomly check for plagiarism (you will receive a F grade) and you will be reported. There is NO excuse. Please review Rutgers University policy on academic integrity, levels of violations, sanctions and student code of conduct can be located at the following website: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

Students with Disabilities:

If you are experiencing difficulties in this course do not hesitate to consult with me. There is a significant range of services available through the University, to support your academic efforts.

**When submitting the discussion paper and both take-home exams, students are required to include the following pledge:** "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Weekly Class Schedule:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Key Themes*</b>	<b>Assigned Reading (from Perspectives in International Relations unless noted otherwise)</b>
	9/3	Semester begins	
1	9/4	International relations perspectives and levels of analysis	Intro: 1 - 28
2	9/11	Thinking about international relations: realist, liberal, identity and critical theory perspectives	Chapter 1: 41 - 83
3	9/18	World War I	Chapter 2: 87 – 117
4	9/25	World War II	Chapter 3: 118 – 154
5	10/2	Cold War (guest lecture)	Chapter 4: 155 – 202
6	10/9	Group presentation/no lecture	
7	10/16	Realist perspectives on today: power transition and power balancing realists	Chapter 5: 207 – 246
8	10/23	Liberal perspectives on today: first Persian Gulf War, Libyan intervention, Bosnia and Kosovo, European Union; Mid-term assigned	Chapter 6: 247 – 302 (skip International law and Economic institutions sections)
		MIDTERM DUE (Via Blackboard)	
9	10/30	Identity perspectives on today: Arab Spring, Iraq and Afghanistan interventions; possible guest lecture	Chapter 7: 304 – 344
10	11/6	Realist and liberal perspectives on globalization: macroeconomic policies, trade negotiations, comparative advantage	Chapter 8: 349 – 405
11	11/13	Critical theory perspective on globalization: colonization and imperialism, global inequality	Chapter 10: 475 – 500
12	11/20	Friday schedule (no class)	
13	11/27	Politics of reproductive rights	Reading: TBD
14	12/4	Identity perspective on globalization: Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia's economic miracle, resource course	Chapter 9: 407 – 469

		Possible guest lecture on US Foreign Assistance	
15	12/11	Tying it all together; Final exam assigned	Conclusion: 501 - 512
	12/20	Final due (via Blackboard)	

\*Please note that these themes are not all inclusive. There will be other topics that we discuss each week.

Technology Requirement:

Students are expected to have access to reliable computers in order to fully participate in this class. Compatibility and software issues can be addressed with campus computing. We will be using Blackboard. Please make sure you can access Blackboard through the Rutgers "Current Student" web page. You will have assignments that also require the use of Power Point or similar presentation software. Campus Computing information can be found on <http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu>

Students with Disabilities:

If you are experiencing difficulties in this course do not hesitate to consult with me. There is a significant range of services available through the University, to support your academic efforts.

Campus or Class Emergency:

Emergencies, spread of illness, weather impacts and University closures can be monitored from the following website: <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/weather-and-campus-operating-status>