



Foreign Policy in Practice, Fall 2018

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| Class Number: | 21:790:466:Q1 | Room: | Hill Hall, Room 210 |
| Lecturer: | Kehinde A. Togun | Email: | katogun@scarletmail.rutgers.edu |
| Class Hours: | Wednesday 6pm-9pm | Office Hours: | By appointment |

Class Synopsis:

The goal of this course is two-fold: 1) a hands-on exploration of how US foreign policy is made, and 2) to directly engage foreign policy professionals to learn about their work and their career trajectory.

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 2018, we have returned to another 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 various institutions and actors shape foreign policy.

The course will be a combination of guest lectures and group presentations. Each of the guest lecturers have extensive experience in various foreign policy topics and their career trajectories offer valuable insights on options you might pursue after graduation. The group presentations require you to become an “expert” on a particular topic, present cogent ideas, and facilitate discussion as you would if you were a senior government official.

My expectation is that you will do all the required reading, engage fully, and also learn from each other. To that end, I place a premium on class participation during guest lectures as well as the weekly presentations you and your peers will give.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Expand students’ knowledge of institutions and actors shape US foreign policy.
- 2) Use current international events 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):

There is no textbook for this class, instead, each week you will be assigned readings, drawn from newspaper articles, congressional testimony, think tanks, academic journals, etc. On occasion, you may be assigned a podcast or audio or video to listen to/watch.

In addition to the assigned reading, our discussions—and your ability to succeed as a political observer—would be greater if you become a avid reader of major publications such as the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, or *The Atlantic*.

Grading:

25%: Class Participation and Attendance: Class participation includes actively engaging guest lecturers and partaking in discussions during your classmates' presentations.

25%: 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 recommendations you'd make for action; assess hat 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. Following the presentation, students will complete an anonymous survey on Blackboard assessing the quality of each team member's participation.

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 (three pages) that analyzes the topic as well connects history and contemporary issues. 2) Identify one guest lecturer whose lecture you will write a feedback paper on, drawing on what about their work or experience you found most interesting, and would like to further explore.

The discussion and feedback papers 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 of 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:

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| US and North Korea | US Relationship with Latin America |
| US Trade Agreements | US Cybersecurity Protection |

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| The NATO Alliance | US and Russia Relations |
| US and China Relations | US and Turkey Relations |
| US and Iran | The War in Syria |
| Human Rights in Foreign Policy | The War in Afghanistan |

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 pre-assigned questions. Answers are to be 3-4 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 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>. **When submitting the discussion and feedback papers as well as 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)."**

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.

Weekly Class Schedule

| Week | Date | Weekly Topics and Assigned Reading |
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| | 9/4 | Semester begins |
| 1 | 9/5 | <p>Topic: State Department and interagency collaboration Presenter: Nicole Patel, Foreign Affairs Officer, State Dept. Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I told conservatives to work for Trump. One talk with his team changed my mind. 2. Honest career advice for college students who think they need a master plan for life |
| 2 | 9/12 | <p>Topic: US security assistance Presenter: Michelle Barsa, Senior Technical Manager, Equal Access Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oversight and Accountability in US Security Sector Assistance |
| 3 | 9/19 | <p>Topic: US covert operations Presenter: Jack Devine, President, The Arkin Group Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are Cold War Spy-Craft Norms Fading? 2. Haspel Is A Professional, Painted Unfairly (audio) 3. C.I.A. Torture Detailed in Newly Disclosed Documents |
| 4 | 9/26 | <p>Topic: Role of congressional oversight in US foreign policy Presenter: Lesley Anne Warner, Professional Staff, House Foreign Affairs Committee Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track 2. Congress Caves to Trump in Fight Over China's ZTE 3. Congress Mere Passenger in Trump Foreign Policy Express |
| 5 | 10/3 | <p>Topic: Foreign assistance as a US policy tool Presenter: Rose Jackson, CEO, RiseUp Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statement on U.S. Democracy Assistance 2. Ten Ways Washington Can Confront Global Corruption 3. Foreign Aid Makes America Safer |
| 6 | 10/10 | <p>Topic: Prioritizing women's rights in foreign policy Presenter: Zsuzsanna Lippai, Associate Director, Open Society Foundations' Human Rights Initiative Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention and Resolution Advances U.S. Interests |

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| 7 | 10/17 | <p>Topic: Technology and governance Presenter: Sarah Oh, Project Specialist, Facebook Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Citizen Participation and Technology (Read: Exec Summary (pgs 9-14), Experiences (pgs 27 to 57); Conclusion (pgs 59 to 63)) |
| 8 | 10/24 | <p style="text-align: center;">****Midterm Due (via email)****</p> <p>Topic: Telling and sharing stories across the globe Presenter: Michelle Moghtader, Co-Founder, Shared Studios</p> |
| 9 | 10/31 | <p>Topic: Entering bilateral and multi-lateral agreements Presenter: Desiree Pipkins, Director, Palantir Technologies Assigned Reading:</p> |
| 10 | 11/7 | <p>Topic: Russia and Europe Policy Presenter: Anna Makanju, Independent Consultant Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What Vladimir Putin Wants (Podcast) 2. Russia, Trump, and the 2016 U.S. Election 3. The US is richer because of Europe |
| 11 | 11/14 | <p>Topic: US/Sub-Saharan Africa Policy Presenter: Brionne Dawson, East and Southern Africa Director, US Chamber of Commerce Assigned Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How Africa Is Bucking the Isolationist Trend 2. U.S. Interests in Africa |
| 12 | 11/21 | Friday Schedule (No class) |
| 13 | 11/28 | <p>Topic: US and North Korea relationship Presenter: TBD Assigned Reading:</p> |
| 14 | 12/5 | <p>Topic: US-Middle East Policy Presenter: Jonathan Apikian, Director of Strategic Growth, International Rescue Committee Assigned Reading:</p> |
| 15 | 12/12 | Topic: Tying it all together |
| | 12/19 | Final due (via email) |