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 2020, 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/). 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.

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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.

**Writing assignment:** 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. **The paper is due by midnight on the day of your presentation.**

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](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter)

The presentation and discussion paper **SHOULD NOT** be a summary of reading materials. Instead, students are expected to 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? 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
- Climate Change and US Foreign Policy
- US and Russia Relations
- US and China Relations
- US and Latin America
- US and Iran
- US Diplomacy: building and maintaining alliances

Spring 2020
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 of which you will choose some to answer. Answers are to be 3-5 pages in length each. This is a take home exam and you will have one week to complete it. There will be no class presentation on the day the mid-terms are due and there might be a guest lecture.

**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 on the Wednesday of the University Final's Schedule.

**Class Attendance and Late Policies**
If you will 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 without a valid reason 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.

**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).”

**Academic Integrity**
As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University 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. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy). Please note that plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment, and possibly for the semester.

**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.

**Counseling Services**
The university provides counseling services. You can access via Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or [http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu](http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu).
### Weekly Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Key Themes</th>
<th>Assigned Reading (from Perspectives in International Relations unless noted otherwise)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>Semester begins</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>International relations perspectives and levels of analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Thinking about international relations: realist, liberal, identity and critical theory perspectives</td>
<td>Chapter 1: 42 - 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/05</td>
<td>World War I</td>
<td>Chapter 2: 91 – 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>Chapter 3: 122 – 158</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Cold War (possible guest lecture)</td>
<td>Chapter 4: 161 – 208</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>Realist perspectives on today: power transition and power balancing realists</td>
<td>Chapter 5: 213 – 252</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>Identity perspectives on today: Arab Spring, Iraq and Afghanistan interventions; <strong>Midterm assigned</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 7: 310 – 352</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>3/18</strong></td>
<td>SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS</td>
<td>Chapter 8: 357 – 409</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Midterm Due, Possible Guest Lecture</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>4/01</td>
<td>Critical theory perspective on globalization: colonization and imperialism, global inequality</td>
<td>Chapter 10: 477 – 500</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>4/08</td>
<td>Possible guest lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Possible guest lecture</td>
<td>Reading: TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Tying it all together; Final exam assigned</td>
<td>Conclusion: 501 – 512</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>Final exam due (via Blackboard)</td>
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*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

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