

INR 4102: American Foreign Policy

Spring 2022

Class Meeting: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:20 AM – 10:10 AM
(BEL 0004)

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Office Hours: by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

I have set aside weekly office hours for this course. Please go to <https://houser-inr-4102.youcanbook.me> [Links to an external site.](#) to schedule an appointment with me. Appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. If you cannot meet me during the available time slots, please contact me via email. As a general rule, I am unavailable for most morning appointments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the role of the U.S. President, State Department, Congress, Central Intelligence Agency, and Defense Department in making foreign policy. Examines the decision-making process and domestic sources of foreign policy, such as the electorate, public opinion, interest groups, and the media. Looks at the past and the future of American foreign policy with an emphasis on current issues.

REQUIRED BOOK

US Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power, Author: Hook, Publisher: C.Q. Press, Edition: 5th

(The 5th edition is significantly cheaper than the 6th edition – feel free to purchase it instead of the newest edition)

We will be using Canvas extensively in this course. There you will find and complete your assignments, view grades, and receive announcements from your professor: <https://canvas.fsu.edu/>. It is your responsibility to have access to Canvas and to link it to your email address. Check your Canvas notification settings to avoid missing announcements.

Recommended resources for additional exploration: The *U.S. Foreign Policy* student companion website: <http://edge.sagepub.com/hook6e> [Links to an external site.](#)

CURRENT EVENTS

In addition, to the required readings you should make a habit of reading at least one reputable newspaper or periodical —such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, or Economist. You can access these news sources free of charge through the library. Lectures will frequently reference current international events, and **exams will reference current events**. Being conversant with what is going on in the United States and the world will be important to contribute to discussions and do well on assignments.

EARNING YOUR GRADE

Please read this section carefully. Registration in this course implies that you agree with all elements of evaluation herein described. Though I reserve the right to modify this syllabus with advance notice to students, I will not do so with respect to the parameters of student evaluation. To accomplish the course goals and ensure your success in the course, I strongly encourage you to do the following (at a minimum):

Complete all reading in advance of the exam and attend all lectures. These reading assignments are required, not optional. I will not necessarily cover all the reading in my lectures, so it is imperative that you complete the assigned readings in advance of the exams. Complete the practice material for the exams; Contact your professor early and often if you have questions or concerns about course materials, course expectations, or your grade.

You will be evaluated based on your performance on the following assignments:

- **Participation:** 5%
- **Assignments:** 15%.
- **Exam 1:** 25%
- **Exam 2:** 25%
- **Policy Memorandum:** 30%

Participation: Active participation in our discussions is an important and required element of the course and will be critical to successfully learning the material. Hence, you should be prepared to answer questions that are posed, ask questions about concepts that are not clear, challenge viewpoints expressed in the reading or class discussion, and be involved in classroom conversations. These discussions must always be conducted with an air of respect for differing viewpoints and the people who present them, and with an open mind (e.g., arguing for positions even if you are not yet certain of them, and being willing to consider new arguments or information). **Participation grades will be based not just on attendance but on the quality and quantity of your active involvement.** I reserve the right to deduct points for disrespectful behavior and to dismiss anyone from the classroom who continuously disrupts the learning environment.

Assignments: There will be periodic activities and online quizzes. These assignments will make up 15% of your final grade. All assignments will be announced well in advance.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams each accounting for 25% of your final grade. These two exams will make up 50% of your final grade. The exams will test your recollection of facts from the readings, videos, and lecture materials. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.

Policy Memorandum Presentation Assignment: The policy memorandum accounts for 30% of your final grade. You and your group will present a 12–15-minute PowerPoint presentation to the class during the last two weeks of the semester. Further instructions on the memorandum can be found below.

Final grades: Please note that the “Total” column that is automatically calculated on Canvas is NOT an accurate reflection of your grade. You will likely need to do some additional calculations to get a correctly weighted estimate of your grade. Finally, note that I adhere to the

number-to-letter grade conversion chart below for your final grades. Final grades ending in .5 or higher are rounded up to the nearest whole percentage point.

Final letter grades will be assigned that corresponds to the following numeric scale:

A 93-100	A- 90-92	
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 63-66	D- 60-62
F below 59		

*An A is the highest grade you can earn in this class.

EMAIL POLICY

Though I strive to give all students my personal attention, I am responsible for many of you each semester. As such, it is much easier for me to help you if you include the course number (INR 4102) and a short description of your question in the subject line of your email. When I receive your email, I will make every effort to respond in a timely manner, usually within 48 hours, except for weekends and holidays. Though you may receive a reply sooner than that, you should not expect an immediate response. Finally, I will contact you via your FSU email address via Canvas, so please see to it that your account is set up such that you are able to receive these communications.

COURSE PROTOCOL

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form and will pursue the full penalties for violations thereof. For your reference, the University Academic Honor Policy is listed below. **All assignments will be run through Turnitin.com.** Do not copy your classmates' answers or plagiarize online resources – it's not worth it and you will be caught.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Honor Policy: The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University."

See <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.

University Attendance Policy: Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Success: Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Office of Accessibility Services 874 Traditions Way 108 Student Services Building Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD) oas@fsu.edu <https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

Confidential campus resources: Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

- Victim Advocate Program University Center A, Room 4100, (850) 644-7161, Available 24/7/365, Office Hours: M-F 8-5 <https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>
- Counseling & Psychological Services Askew Student Life Center, 2ndFloor, 942 Learning Way (850) 644-8255 <https://counseling.fsu.edu/> University
- Health Services Health and Wellness Center (850) 644-6230 <https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect parameters of evaluation, including grading and the scheduling of the last exam, this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. I will provide you with advance notice in class and via your university-registered email contact.

POLICY MEMORANDUM ASSIGNMENT

Policy Memorandum

President Biden has asked you to analyze an issue in American foreign policy and to recommend a specific course of action. You must use either a liberal, a realist, or a rational political ambition theory (RPAT) understanding of international politics as a basis for your recommendation. You must also explain which actors will be involved in executing your recommended course of action.

This memo will involve substantial research and careful thought. You must use a minimum of 15 references. You must first master the details of a specific policy problem, then think theoretically about how realists, liberals, or RPAT would approach it, and finally, you must think about the actors that will be involved in achieving your proposed solution.

The memo has four purposes. First, it provides an opportunity to apply your understanding of theory to an important issue in U.S. foreign policy. Second, it provides an opportunity to apply your understanding of the foreign policy process to a current foreign policy issue. Third, it allows you to dive into a foreign policy issue that interests you! Fourth, it allows you to apply everything you learn in a creative way while also improving your research and writing skills.

Memo Outline

A policy memo is a practical, professionally written document that provides analysis and recommendations for a particular audience regarding a particular situation or problem.

Your memo will include the following parts:

- **INTRO** - BLUF Statement or Bottom-Line Up-Front explanation of the problem or issue.
 - States the problem in terms specific to the goal of the decision-maker. **Directly addresses the decision maker's needs in the opening lines.**
 - Tells the decision-maker why a policy change is needed.
 - Briefly details the problem. Be careful to focus on the problem, not the background.
- **Current US policy/ background information** - Explanation of the pros and cons of policy areas or issues leading up to your recommendations.
 - Review the Current Policy - What is America's current policy, and why is it done this way?
 - Assess briefly how well it is or is not working.
 - Provide any other background information that is needed to understand your recommendation.
 - Statement on the Necessity for Change- What circumstances (e.g., changes in government, leadership, stability, etc.) have changed that make a new approach advisable or necessary?
 - *If nothing has changed, then explain why the President should make your policy recommendation a priority!
- Explanation of your **Recommendation**
 - What is your recommendation?
 - Layout the argument for why your recommendation is better than the status quo.
 - But also recognize that every policy has disadvantages (explain those).
 - Describe the pros and cons of your policy recommendation.
 - Explain why a realist/liberal/ or RPAT would recommend this policy given their assumptions about international politics. Be sure to link your theoretical discussion to the policy you are recommending.
 - This is the logic you will use to tell the decision-maker why a policy change is needed.
- **Implementation/ Actors** - This section should be dedicated to the mechanics of implementation
 - What actors will be involved, and what will their role be in implementing your recommendation? Be specific!
 - What role do the **President** and **Congress** have?
 - What **bureaucracies** will be involved?
 - Which **special interests** will support your plan, and which will oppose it?
 - Does one interest group have more influence than others?
 - What role will the **media** and **public opinion** play?
 - Provide justifications for your claims. Rely on the constitution, federal laws, and historical precedence.

- Conclusion
 - Return to the big picture or the motive of your policy:
 - What is the goal of the policy recommendation?
 - What will happen if the decision-maker does not implement the recommendation?
 - What will happen if she does?
 - This is your opportunity to remind your audience of the urgency of your recommendation.

The objective of your policy memo is to provide President Biden with the rationale for choosing a particular policy. In this sense, you are advocating for a specific policy. But there are always value trade-offs. **Do not treat your memo as if it were a lawyer's brief:** Recognize the complexity and competing interests in the design of U.S. foreign policy by discussing the benefits and the costs of your favored policy.

Sometimes the realist, liberal and RPAT position on a particular issue is straightforward but oftentimes realists, liberals, and RPAT disagree amongst themselves. Your job is not to recommend the “correct” realists, liberals, or RPAT positions (as often there is not one). Instead, it is to propose and defend a particular policy in realist, liberal, or RPAT terms. Some realists, liberals, or RPAT might view the issue differently and that's OK. I will assess your memo based on how well you develop a (not the) realists, liberals, and RPAT perspective and how well you explain and justify the role of different actors in the foreign policy process.

INR 4102, Spring 2022

Course Calendar

PART I. THE SETTING OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY & THE GOVERNMENT SOURCES OF FOREIGN POLICY

Week 1: Intro Week

Wednesday, January 5th

- FDOC - No readings

Friday, January 7th

- Chapter 1. The United States in a Turbulent World
- How Geography Explains the United States (PDF - 4 pg)

Week 2: Theory

Monday, January 10th:

- Theory in Action: Realism (Video)
- Theory in Action: Liberalism (Video)
- Theory in Action: Constructivism (Video)
- *Ray, J. L. (2013). American foreign policy and political ambition. C.Q. Press. Chapter 2*

Wednesday, January 12th

- Ray, J. L. (2013). *American foreign policy and political ambition*. C.Q. Press. **Chapter 2**

Friday, January 14th

- Ray, J. L. (2013). *American foreign policy and political ambition*. C.Q. Press. **Chapter 2**

Week 3: American Foreign Policy History

Monday, January 17th

- **NO CLASS - MLK Day**

Wednesday, January 19th

- Chapter 3. Dynamics of Decision Making

Friday, January 21st

- Chapter 2. The Expansion of U.S. Power
- How America became a superpower (Video)

Week 4: President and Congress

Monday, January 24th

- What Was the Iran-Contra Affair? (Video)

Wednesday, January 26th

- Chapter 4. Presidential Power

Friday, January 28th

- Chapter 5. Congress Beyond the “Water’s Edge”

Week 5: Bureaucracy

Monday, January 31st

- War Powers Resolution (Video)

Wednesday, February 2nd

- Chapter 6. The Foreign Policy Bureaucracy

Friday, February 4th

- CIA The Cold War Crimes of The CIA | Secrets Of War | Timeline <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XPtO2WDhik&t=1137s> Links to an external site.

Week 6: Exam Week

Monday, February 7th

- Daalder, I. H., & Destler, I. M. (2009). In the Shadow of the Oval Office: The Next National Security Adviser. *Foreign Affairs*, 114-129.

Wednesday, February 9th

- Exam Review

Friday, February 11th

- **Exam 1**

PART II. EXTERNAL SOURCES OF FOREIGN POLICY & POLICY DOMAINS

Week 7: Outside Groups

Monday, February 14th

- Baum, Matthew, and Philip Potter. 2008. The Relationship Between Mass Media, Public Opinion and Foreign Policy: Toward a Theoretical Synthesis. *Annual Review of Political Science*, Volume 11: 39-66.

Wednesday, February 16th

- Chapter 7. Public Opinion at Home and Abroad

Friday, February 18th

- “Conflicting Partisan Priorities for U.S. Foreign Policy.” Pew Research Center.

Week 8: Outside Groups

Monday, February 21st

- Chapter 8. The Impact of Mass Communications

Wednesday, February 23rd

- Chapter 9. Social Movements and Interest Groups

Friday, February 25th

- “Interest Groups” Continued

Week 9: Policy Domains

Monday, February 28th

- Chapter 10. National Security and Defense Policy

Wednesday, March 2nd

- Chapter 11. Economic Statecraft

Friday, March 4th

- “Economic Statecraft” lecture

Week 10: Transnational Problems

Monday, March 7th

- Chapter 12. Transnational Policy Problems

Wednesday, March 9th

- Chapter 12. Transnational Policy Problems continued
- Exam Review

Friday, March 11th

- **Exam 2**

Week 11: Spring Break

Monday, March 14th

- **NO CLASS**

Wednesday, March 16th

- **NO CLASS**

Friday, March 18th

- **NO CLASS**

PART III: US FOREIGN POLICY IN ACTION

Week 12: Human Rights

Monday, March 21st

- **Policy Memorandum workday (No Readings)**

Wednesday, March 23rd

- Moravcsik, A. (2009). The paradox of U.S. human rights policy. In American exceptionalism and human rights (pp. 147-197). Princeton University Press.

Friday, March 25th Topic: Current Human Rights Crises

- Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>Links to an external site.
- China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-repression-uyghurs-xinjiang>Links to an external site.

Week 13: Special Topics

Monday, March 28th Topic: China

- China's Massive Belt and Road Initiative (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-massive-belt-and-road-initiative>Links to an external site.
- South China Sea Tensions (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/south-china-sea-tensions>Links to an external site.
- Why China-Taiwan Relations Are So Tense (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations-tension-us-policy>Links to an external site.

Wednesday, March 30th Topic: International Organizations

- The Dollar: The World's Currency (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/dollar-worlds-currency>Links to an external site.
- OPEC in a Changing World (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/opec-changing-world>Links to an external site.
- What's the difference between the IMF and the World Bank? | CNBC Explains (Video)
 - <https://youtu.be/IN3qrFA4jXc>Links to an external site.

Friday, April 1st Topic: Israel Palestine

- What Is U.S. Policy on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict? (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-us-policy-israeli-palestinian-conflict>Links to an external site.
- The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history (video)
 - <https://youtu.be/iRYZjOuUnlU>Links to an external site.

Week 14: Limited Wars and Cyber Warfare

Monday, April 4th

- Nye Jr, J. S. (2016). Deterrence and dissuasion in cyberspace. *International Security*, 41(3), 44-71
- U.S.-Cuba Relations
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-cuba-relations>Links to an external site.

Wednesday, April 6th

- Sullivan, P. L. (2007). War aims and war outcomes: Why powerful states lose limited wars. *Journal of conflict resolution*, 51(3), 496-524.
- Middle East (video)

Friday, April 8th

- Sea Power: The U.S. Navy and Foreign Policy (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/sea-power-us-navy-and-foreign-policy>Links to an external site.
- The U.S.-Japan Security Alliance (PDF)
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/us-japan-security-alliance>Links to an external site.

Week 15: Group Presentations

Monday, April 11th

- **Groups Presentations**

Wednesday, April 13th

- **Groups Presentations**

Friday, April 15th

- **Groups Presentations**

Week 16 Group Presentations

Monday, April 18th

- **Groups Presentations**

Wednesday, April 20th

- **Groups Presentations**

Friday, April 22nd

- **Groups Presentations**