

INR 4102: American Foreign Policy  
Summer C  
Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday: 1:20pm-2:35pm  
Online

Zachary Houser  
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### OFFICE HOURS

I have set aside weekly office hours for this course. Please go to <https://houser-inr-4102.youcanbook.me> 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

Ray, James L. 2014. *American Foreign Policy and Political Ambition*. CQ Press. ISBN-13: 978-1608716807

We will be using Canvas extensively in this course. There you will find and complete your reading discussion questions, 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.

In addition, 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, complete discussion questions, 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 online quizzes, reading discussion questions and 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:

**Quizzes:** There will be three short quizzes every week. These quizzes will make up 40% of your final grade. **You must attempt 15 of these quizzes throughout the semester**, though there are at least 18 quiz opportunities. It is up to you which 15 quizzes you would like to complete. The remaining quizzes are essentially optional. I will grade your top 15 quiz grades. So, it would be a good idea to do all 18 quizzes, that way if you do bad on one or two it will not affect your grade.

You will only have one attempt for each quiz; however, you will have as much time as you need to finish the quiz. You will have one week to take each quiz. If you fail to finish any of the quizzes during a given week you can still take the quiz for half credit.

**Discussion Questions:** You are responsible for answering one online reading discussion question, which is worth 75 points. This accounts for 10% of your final grade. Please note that when a discussion question is closed - you cannot take it. That is, **you must complete the discussion question before it is due**. You will not be able to complete the discussion question at the end of the semester.

**Exam:** There will be one exam that is worth 150 points. This accounts for 20% of your final grade. The exam will test your recollection of facts from the readings, videos, and lecture materials. The exam will consist of two parts: multiple-choice questions and a short answer response question.

The exam will take place online. The exam will be available for four days; however, once you start the exam you will only have 75 minutes (an hour and 15 minutes) to finish. No early

examinations will be given. Please make note of the exam dates and plan accordingly. The final exam schedule is set in advance by the University and is therefore subject to change by university policy only. I will not change the date or time of the last exam, but in the event of a University-wide schedule change, it is your responsibility to check the University exam schedule.

***Policy Memorandum Paper Assignment (or Presentation):*** Your policy memorandum accounts for 30% of your final grade. You will have the option to either write a 6–10-page paper (double spaced) or upload a 6–10-minute PowerPoint presentation to Canvas. Further instructions on the memorandum can be found below.

***Missed assignments:*** Make-up exams will be considered for excused absences only. As per the Florida State 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 excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. Make-up exams will be administered during the university's scheduled time frame.

Consideration will only be given when I am contacted prior to or within two days after a missed assignment with appropriate documentation from the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students' office, where these claims may be presented, is located at Suite 4100 University Center (Stadium A). Missed examinations for which no documentation is provided will receive a score of zero. Re-grading policy: I make every effort so that your assignments are graded in a fair, transparent, and timely manner. In the unlikely event that any errors are committed during the grading process, I expect that you approach grade appeals in a courteous and professional manner. You should address your concerns directly to me, within one week of receiving the grade. When making a petition about your grade, you should substantiate any claim you make, be respectful, and avoid the frivolous pursuit of extra points. If asked to reconsider a student's grade on an exam or quiz, I reserve the right to re-grade the entire exam or quiz. The more general rule also applies for overall course grade appeals.

***Grades:*** The total number of points available in this class is 750, distributed as follows:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	40%	300 Points (20 points each)
<b>Discussion Question</b>	10%	75 Points
<b>Exam</b>	20%	150 Points
<b>Paper/ Presentation</b>	30%	225 Points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>750 Points</b>

**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 correspond 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>.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center at 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, (850) 644-9566, [sdrc@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu), <http://www.disabilitycenter.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

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 recommend course of action. You have the option to either write a paper or record a PowerPoint presentation.

**This memo will involve substantial research and careful thought.** You must use at minimum 10 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:

- BLUF Statement or Bottom Line Up Front explanation of the problem or issue. (1 Page<sup>1</sup>)
  - 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.
- Explanation of the pros and cons of policy areas or issues leading up to your recommendations or the areas relevant to your findings (2-3 Pages)
  - Review the Current Policy - What is it 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 the Recommendations (2-3 Pages)
  - Lay out the argument for why your recommendation is better than the status quo. But also recognize that every policy has disadvantages (explain those). Describes 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 (2-3 Pages)
  - 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 does 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 (1 page)
  - 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

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<sup>1</sup>Double spaced; size 12 font. **If you are doing a presentation instead of a paper 1 page = around 1 minute of presenting.**

implement the recommendation? What will happen if she does? This is your opportunity to remind your reader of the urgency of your recommendation.

The objective of your policy memo is to provide President Biden 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 position (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

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## **INR 4102, Summer 2021**

### **Course Calendar**

#### **PART I: THE IMPORTANCE, THE HISTORY, AND COMPETING THEORIES OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY**

##### **Week 1: June 21– June 27**

- Ray - Chapter 1: The Impacts of American Foreign Policy
- Ray - Chapter 2: Analyzing Modern American Foreign Policy
- Miller, Aaron David. 2013. "How Geography Explains the United States." Foreign Policy.
- Theory in Action: Realism (Video)
- Theory in Action: Constructivism (Video)
- Theory in Action: Liberalism (Video)

##### **Week 2: June 28 – July 4**

Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

- Ray - Chapter 3: The Past as Prologue
- The Iran-Contra Affair (PBS Article)
- What Was the Iran-Contra Affair? (Video)
- U.S. and Iran's Rocky History (Video)

Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>

- Ray - Chapter 4: The Cold War
- How America became a superpower (Video)
- **Discussion Question (Due by July 6th)**

## **PART II: FOREIGN POLICY PROCESSES—INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT**

### **Week 3: July 5 – July 11**

Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>

- Ray - Chapter 5: The President and Congress
- Daalder, I. H., & Destler, I. M. (2009). **In the Shadow of the Oval Office: The Next National Security Adviser.** *Foreign Affairs*, 114-129.
- AUMF/ War Powers Resolution (Video)

Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>

- Ray - Chapter 7: The Impact of Extra-governmental Factors on American Foreign Politics
- “Conflicting Partisan Priorities for U.S. Foreign Policy.” Pew Research Center.
- 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.

### **Week 4: July 12 – 18**

Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

- Ray - Chapter 6: Government Agencies, Economic Issues, and Foreign Policy
- The Cold War Crimes Of The CIA | Secrets Of War | Timeline  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XPtO2WDhik&t=1137s>

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>

- Kuziemko, I., & Werker, E. (2006). How much is a seat on the Security Council worth? Foreign aid and bribery at the United Nations. *Journal of political economy*, 114(5), 905-930.
- Clark, R., & Dolan, L. R. (2021). Pleasing the principal: US influence in World Bank policymaking. *American Journal of Political Science*, 65(1), 36-51.
- **Exam (July 16 – July 19<sup>th</sup>)**

## **PART III: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY TODAY**

### **Week 5: July 19 – July 25**

#### **Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>: Israel-Palestine; Middle East Cold War; ISIS**

- Robinson (2021) What Is U.S. Policy on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict? CFR
- The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history (video)
- How Islamist militant groups are gaining strength in Africa (video)

#### **Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>: China**

- China's trillion dollar plan to dominate global trade (video)
- China's Massive Belt and Road Initiative
- Why China is building islands in the South China Sea (video)
- Brooks, S. G., & Wohlforth, W. C. (2016). The once and future superpower: Why china won't overtake the united states. *Foreign Aff.*, 95, 91

### **Week 6: July 26 – July 30**

#### **Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>: Human Rights; Dollar**

- Moravcsik, A. (2009). The paradox of US human rights policy. In *American exceptionalism and human rights*(pp. 147-197). Princeton University Press.
- The “ethnic cleansing” of Myanmar’s Rohingya Muslims, explained (Video)
- Why is the dollar so powerful? (Video)

#### **Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>: Cyberspace; NATO, Russia, Ukraine**

- Nye Jr, J. S. (2016). Deterrence and dissuasion in cyberspace. *International security*, 41(3), 44-71
- Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- **Paper or Presentation (DUE July 31<sup>st</sup>)**