

INTL 4250: American Foreign Policy

University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs

Course Instructor: Dr. William Acosta

Contact Info: williamacosta@uga.edu

Meeting Time 61527 MWF 9:10-10:00 in Candler Hall 214

Meeting Time 61529 MWF 3:00-3:50 in Journalism 513

Office Hours by appointment in-person Candler Hall 216 or Zoom

Course Overview:

This course explores the key aspects of US foreign policy, including the institutions involved, international political economy, management of alliances, and national security. The course is divided into four sections, each focusing on a critical component of US foreign policy.

Grading

Your final course grade will be determined by the following assessments:

Exams (50%)

- There will be two exams in this course. Lectures and class discussions are intended to supplement the readings. Exams will draw primarily from the readings. The exams are not cumulative. Please note the dates of midterm and final exams. Both exams will be administered through the eLC.

Quizzes (10%)

- There will be five quizzes throughout the semester, including a syllabus quiz. These will be administered via eLC.

Participation (10%)

- Simply showing up to class is not enough to earn a high participation grade. I expect you to play an active role in class discussions. I will also take regular attendance, and I hope to learn all your names. I will also post discussion questions on eLC at the end of each week in preparation for next week. These discussion questions are intended to serve as a guide for our discussion. I encourage you to develop your own questions and post them on eLC or bring them up in class. This is a recommendation, not a requirement. If you do not feel well, do not come to class! Unfortunately, COVID is making a comeback with cases in GA higher than the national average. If you feel sick, please let me know and I will provide accommodation.

Final Project (30%)

- After the Midterm, I will provide you with a prompt for your final project. The simplest form of this project could be a 5–7 page paper, but if you would like to do something else, such as a podcast, video essay, photography project, or other creative endeavor, I will allow you to do so. If you choose an option other than a paper, your project can be collaborative, as long as the nature and necessity of the proposal are fully expressed in your proposal. For example, podcasts work better with more than one person. I will provide a document with full instructions after the Midterm.

Grade Distribution

- A+ = 97-100
- A = 90-96
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 80-86
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 70-76
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 60-66
- F = 0-59

Policies and Resources

Rules for Writing

- When writing papers for this class, you should follow these rules. Failure to do so could result in a reduction of your grade.
 - All papers should be double-spaced and in 12-point font, printed on pages with 1” margins all around.
 - Title pages, graphs, tables, figures, references, appendices, etc. do not count toward your paper’s length.
 - You are required to use the American Political Science Association (APSA) style format for your papers. The full style guide can be found on our class’s eLC page.

Cell Phones and Other Noise-Making Devices

- All cell phones and other devices that make noise must be turned off or put on silent/vibrate upon entering the classroom. Repeated unnecessary disruptions of class caused by such devices may negatively affect a student’s grade.
- Laptops and tablets used for note taking are allowed.

Academic Honesty

- As a University of Georgia student, you are expected to adhere to the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must comply with the standards outlined in “A Culture of Honesty,” which can be found at: [UGA Academic Honesty Policy](#). Ignorance of the academic honesty policy is not an acceptable excuse for violations. If you have questions related to course assignments or the academic honesty policy, please direct them to the instructor. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as mandated by university policy.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

- The use of artificial intelligence in this course is prohibited. While AI can be a useful tool, I believe you will be better off developing your own writing skills than supplementing it with artificial intelligence. Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence is a violation of UGA's Culture of Honesty.

Class Discussion and Debates

- Political debates and discussions can become heated. Passion is fine, but respect is necessary. All students are expected to be courteous and respectful to their classmates.

Communicating with Me

- My primary method of communicating with you outside of class time and office hours will be through email. Each of you has been assigned a university email address and you are responsible for regularly checking this account. Important information such as assignment changes, important dates, modifications to the class schedule, and other valuable updates will be sent to this email account throughout the semester.

Students with Disabilities

- The University of Georgia is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities, as well as reasonable modifications for students with disabilities. Students requiring academic accommodation should request these services from the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located at 114 Clark Howell Hall. For more information, visit [UGA Disability Resource Center](#).

Well-being Resources

- UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community. Anyone needing assistance is

encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit Student Care & Outreach. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program, which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

- UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help. Below are some key resources available to you:
 - Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu
 - Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
 - University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
 - Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
 - Health Promotion/Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
 - Disability Resource Center and Testing Services: drc.uga.edu
 - Additional Information: Including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting well-being.uga.edu.
 -

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time. If I do, I will inform you via eLC and email.

Section 1: Institutions of US Foreign Policy

Week 1: Introduction to US Foreign Policy (August 14-16)

- Overview of the course
- Historical context of US foreign policy

Week 2: The Executive Branch and Foreign Policy (August 19-23)

- Quiz 1
- Cameron Chapter 3
- *Bush's War* Part 1: [PBS Frontline](#)

Week 3: The State Department and Diplomacy (August 26-30)

- Vitalis, Robert. 2023. "Henry Kissinger in the Middle East." *Catalyst* (Jacobin) 6 (4): 126. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=742f00e6-4070-3538-979c-50250292c92b>.
- Ashton, Nigel. 2017. "Taking Friends for Granted: The Carter Administration, Jordan, and the Camp David Accords, 1977-1980." *Diplomatic History* 41 (3): 620-645. doi:10.1093/dh/dhw062.

Week 4: Congress and US Foreign Policy (September 2-6)

- Quiz 2
- Cameron Chapter 4 & 5
- Debusmann Jr, Bernd. 2023. "Why Are Some Republicans Opposing More Aid for Ukraine?" *BBC News*, December 7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67649497>
- Grayer, Annie, Melanie Zanona, and Manu Raju. 2024. "How Johnson Came to Embrace Ukraine Aid and Defy His Right Flank." *CNN*, April 21.

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/21/politics/ukraine-aid-mike-johnson-house-speaker-israel-taiwan/index.html>

Section 2: International Political Economy

Week 5: Fundamentals of International Political Economy (September 9-13)

- Cameron Chapter 7

Week 6: Trade Policy and International Agreements (September 16-20)

- "How the USMCA trade deal differs from NAFTA—and how it doesn't" [YouTube Video](#)
- PBS Frontline. 2019. *Trump's Trade War*. Directed by Michael Kirk. Aired July 23, 2019. PBS. [YouTube Video](#)
- Financial Times. 2023. *How Biden's Inflation Reduction Act Changed the World*. YouTube video posted December 6, 2023. [YouTube Video](#)

Week 7: Foreign Aid and Development Policy (September 23-27)

- Morgenstern, Emily M., and Nick M. Brown. 2022. "Foreign Assistance: An Introduction to U.S. Programs and Policy." *Congressional Research Service Report*, R40213, January 10. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R40213.pdf>.
- Sandlin, Evan. 2016. "Competing Concerns: Balancing Human Rights and National Security in US Economic Aid Allocation." *Human Rights Review* 17 (4): 439-462. doi:10.1007/s12142-016-0426-2.
- Smith, Gayle E. 2021. "Development Depends on More Than Aid: A New U.S. Agency Promises to Harness the Power of Private Investment." *Foreign Affairs*, March 1.
- O'Neil, Shannon K. 2024. "The United States' Missed Opportunity in Latin America: Economic Security Begins Closer to Home." *Foreign Affairs* 103 (2): 134-147.

Section 3: Managing Alliances and International Institutions

Week 8: Understanding Military Alliances (September 30-October 4)

- Quiz 3
- Lanoszka, Alexander. 2022. *Military Alliances in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge: Polity Press. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ugalib/detail.action?docID=6850559>.

Week 9: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (October 7-11)

- Midterm October 7th
- Anderson, Grey, ed. 2023. *Natopolitanism: The Atlantic Alliance since the Cold War*. London: Verso Books.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ugalib/detail.action?docID=7279799>.
 - Chapters 3-8

Week 10: Bilateral Relationships in East Asia (October 14-18)

- Hornung, Jeffrey W. 2024. "America's Best Friend in Asia: The Case for Elevating the U.S. Alliance With Japan." *Foreign Affairs*, April 10.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/americas-best-friend-asia>.
- Sierra, Gabrielle, host. 2023. "Taiwan, China, and the Threat of War." *Why It Matters*, July 13. Podcast, 36:09. <https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/taiwan-china-and-threat-war>.
- Caverley, Jonathan. 2024. "The Taiwan Fallacy." *Foreign Affairs*, August 7.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/taiwan/taiwan-fallacy>.
- Glaser, Bonnie S., Jessica Chen Weiss, and Thomas J. Christensen. 2024. "Taiwan and the True Sources of Deterrence: Why America Must Reassure, Not Just Threaten, China." *Foreign Affairs* 103 (1): 88-100. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/taiwan/taiwan-china-true-sources-deterrence>.

Section 4: National Security

Week 11: US National Security Strategy (October 21-25)

- Quiz 4
- Biden, Joseph R., Jr. 2021. *National Security Strategy*. Washington, DC: Government Publishing Office, December 31. <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/GOVPUB-PR-PURL-gpo187710>.
- Trump, Donald J. 2017. *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*. Washington, DC: The White House, December. <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/GOVPUB-PR-PURL-gpo187710>.

Week 12: Managing Middle Eastern Partnerships (October 28-30)

- Masters, Jonathan, and Will Merrow. 2024. "U.S. Aid to Israel in Four Charts." *CFR.org*, May 31. <https://www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts>.
- Robbins, Michael, Amaney A. Jamal, and Mark Tessler. 2024. "America Is Losing the Arab World and China Is Reaping the Benefits." *Foreign Affairs* 103 (4): 39-49.
- Maloney, Suzanne. 2024. "Iran's Order of Chaos: How the Islamic Republic Is Remaking the Middle East." *Foreign Affairs* 103 (3): 97-109.
- November 1 Fall Break

Week 13: Counterterrorism and Homeland Security (November 4-8)

- Cameron Chapter 8 & 9
- PBS Frontline. 2014. *The Rise of ISIS*. Directed by Martin Smith. Aired October 27. PBS. [YouTube Video](#).

Week 14: Climate Change and Environmental Security (November 11-15)

- Koch, Alexandra E., Nicole K. Carle, and Gregory P. Noone. 2024. "U.S. National Security and Climate Change." *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 56 (1-2): 31-59.
- Frazier, Kelsey A. 2024. "Arctic Insecurity: The Implications of Climate Change for US National Security." *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs* 7 (4): 148-161.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=95ff891a-365b-396a-8225-42671dce8e70>.
- Florini, Karen, and Alice C. Hill. 2024. "How Climate Change Threatens Democracy: Extreme Weather Now Affects Elections All Over the World." *Foreign Affairs*, June 5.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/world/climate-change-threatens-democracy-elections>.

Week 15: US and the United Nations (November 18-22)

- Quiz 5
- Mingst, Karen A., and Margaret P. Karns. 2012. *The United Nations in the 21st Century*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
 - Chapters 1-4, 8

Finals Week

Week 16: Review and Final Exam (December 2-6)

- Final Project Due December 6th
- Call Number 61527 Final Exam Monday December 9th 8:00am-11:00am
- Call Number 61529 Final Exam Wednesday December 11th 3:30pm-6:30pm