INR 4102.0001 American Foreign Policy
Spring 2015 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III
Office	305D Howard Philips Hall
Office Hours	Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 AM & Noon -1:00 PM Wednesdays 1:00-4:00 PM Thursdays 10:00-11:00 AM, Noon-1:00, 3:15-4:15 PM & by appointment
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Course Information

Course Name	American Foreign Policy
Course ID & Section	INR 4102.0001
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Class time & location	Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-2:45 PM in Classroom Building 1, Room 120
Semester/Year	Spring 2015

Course Description: America's foreign policy influences many aspects of our everyday life. Most visibly, it has implication for people who work in the country's military and foreign policy sectors, but it also has many other implications for us. Where can we travel overseas? Who can travel to the U.S? What foreign companies can do business within the United States and under what terms? How stable are many of the country's chief energy producing partners overseas? Can American firms sell goods freely and fairly in the markets of other countries? Can Washington inhibit the flow into the country of illegal drugs and other goods? All of these questions and many more are affected in by the nature of American foreign policy. In this course, we will attempt to understand the primary factors that contribute to the formation of American foreign policy. Prerequisite: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives: In terms of substance, this course is designed to give students a better understanding of: 1) the history of American foreign policy and 2) the role played by major bureaucratic and social institutions in the foreign policy process with respect to insights from political science. With regard to skill development, students will have the opportunity to 3) to improve their ability to write, think critically, and apply what they have learned.

Required Text and Materials

- Steven W. Hook. 2011. *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*. 4th edition. Sage/CQ Press.

Recommended Text

- If you find yourself wanting to upgrade your knowledge and understanding of the history of U.S. foreign policy, you might want to take a look at a work such as one of the more recent editions of Steven W. Hook and John Spanier's *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*. Since this text is not required, I have not asked the bookstore to purchase copies of it.

******Important Advice:** You should attend class each day to internalize lecture material and participate in other classroom activities as they come along. As you attempt to internalize the course content, you should come to class having read the material assigned for that day. You should be prepared to be quizzed over any course readings by the day for which that material is assigned. Doing so will set you up to succeed on quizzes and exams. **Read this syllabus and assignments carefully to put yourself in position to succeed.**

Course Requirements

A	B	C	D	E
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment average (add grades for each row & ÷ by the # of grades for this task)**	**Assignment Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes	10			To be announced
Midterm Exam	30			Thurs., Feb. 26
Writing Improvement Exercise and bibliography	10			Tues., March 31
Course paper	15			Tues., April 21
Final Exam	35			Tues., May 5 1:00-3:50 PM
Total	100%	**Add Column D to estimate grade →**		

Very Important Note: Because Canvas' gradebook is incapable of doing the kind of sophisticated weighting scheme I am using, you **should not** rely on gradebook in Canvas for what it reports as your final course grade. Instead you should take the grades for particular assignments and plug them into the grade table on the previous page and do the calculations accordingly. If assignments are not yet completed and you are trying to estimate your current course grade during the semester, divide your total for column D by the percentage of the final grade that has been completed. For example, if you have done everything except the final exam, divide your total for column D by 70 since you have only completed the assignments equal to 70% of your course grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes may cover any material from the lecture, readings or other assignments that are made during the course of the semester. Some quizzes will be announced in advance and other evaluations will be pop quizzes. In addition to traditional, individually taken quizzes, some quizzes will be taken in teams of roughly five students to allow for collaboration and discussion. These team quizzes will include questions with more than one correct answer for a question or questions, and you will be graded on your ability to identify all of the correct answers on those quizzes. On these team quizzes you will be aided by knowing the total number of correct

answers for the assignment. The lowest quiz grade for each student will be dropped when calculating final course grades.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: These will be multiple choice exams with each question having only one correct answer. However, only the final exam will be cumulative, as it will cover material covered on the first two exams, as well as the material covered after Exam 2. Warning: Do not assume that these exams will be easy simply because they will take the form of a multiple choice exam. Students who arrive late to an exam will not be allowed to take that version of the exam if another student has already completed the exam and left the room. In such cases, a make-up exam will need to be taken with a 10 point penalty assessed.

Writing Improvement Exercise: After covering some issues regarding writing in class, you will review and correct a piece of very poor, error-filled writing.
Bibliography: This is simply a bibliography of 10 items (5 articles and 5 books) that you would use if you had to write a long research paper on a subject that relates to relations between countries or other important nonstate actors. Five of your sources should be books and five should be articles with at least one of the five articles coming from JSTOR, EBSCO, Project Muse, and LexisNexis. At the end of each entry for journals or periodicals, please note which of these four databases was used. Online sources such as Wikipedia cannot count as one of your 10 citations.

Course paper: You will write a research paper that explains a particular event in American foreign policy with reference to a theory presented in class and in the readings (or in conversation with the instructor). Your account should consider historical factors, assesses the political nature of the event, and explain why another theoretical explanation is not as effective. Papers should be between 5 and 6 pages in length and use three academic sources other than the textbook (some combination of academic articles and books are fine). Include your references and title page as additional pages. Papers should use 12-point font, double-spacing and 1 inch margins. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment.

This assignment will be graded in accord with the following distribution of credit.

Mechanics of writing	20%
Application of concepts	40%
Clear and logical analysis (in addressing the 4 tasks of the paper)	30%
Organization of paper	10%
	100%

Please note that mechanical elements of writing including, but not limited to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. are all important components of formal writing such as a college paper. Typically most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing (grammar, punctuation, unclearly worded sentences, etc.) so minimize those kinds of flaws in your work. Poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points. Hopefully, these standards will help you to develop sound writing skills that will help you not only when applying for jobs or further educational opportunities,

but once you secure those opportunities. Also, students have a tendency to loose points for failing to use evidence to support their arguments by appropriately citing scholarly sources, so you should consult the section below on academic dishonesty for details on how to avoid plagiarism.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/No Extra Credit: Quizzes may not be made-up. However, I do drop each student's lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester. Make-up exams may be given without penalty in instances when students have a verifiable medical, funeral or official UCF excuse. When no such excuse exists students will be allowed to take exams late, but they will be penalized by 10 points "off-the-top" and 20 points for each full day that passes following the exam until the make-up is taken. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%. I do not plan to offer extra credit for this course, so please insure that you direct your energies accordingly.

Evaluation and Grading

The grading scale for this course is listed below. For more details on the evaluation criteria, see the specific tasks listed under Course Requirements.

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

Behavior

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." President Theodore Roosevelt.

Disruptions: If circumstances require you to arrive late for class, please do so in as discreet a manner as possible. Please limit distractions in class as much as possible. Such behavior bothers others who are paying good money to learn and it may be distracting to me as I attempt to do my job. Electronic devices can only be used in class with the instructor's approval.

Academic Honesty

Do not cheat as this clearly violates the UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook and violates several aspects of the UCF Creed. I strongly recommend that everyone take the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" (https://obojobo.ucf.edu/view/10384) prior to beginning the short paper, so you will be clear about my expectations of you. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, your work must be your own. Cheating can come in many forms, including plagiarism. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Use footnotes or endnotes to give credit for direct quotes, paraphrased quotes, or borrowed ideas. Feel free to discuss readings and ideas with fellow students, but if you use their ideas, please reference them accordingly. If you don't know what footnotes or endnotes are, please ask me. Do not use papers written for previous classes or large sections of such papers, as this constitutes self-plagiarism according to UCF policy. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving credit in footnotes or endnotes. Do not copy or use papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. I assume that all students in this class could write a better term paper than the junk sold on the Internet and will not resort to such dubious sources for their assignments. In the event that I suspect a paper of being plagiarized, I will use Turnitin.com to help with that determination.

If I determine that there has been an instance of unambiguous academic dishonesty in the course, I will inform you of my concern and report the violation to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. At the end of the semester, a letter grade of Z, indicating academic dishonesty, will precede the letter grade earned. For more information about the Z grades and the process for appealing such a finding, please consult the following website: http://integrity.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade. Particular assignments on which unambiguous cheating occurs will be penalized with an F (0 points).

Copyright: This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Academic Support Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) (Phillips Hall, Room 113/ (407) 823-5130): If you have trouble succeeding in this class and comprehending the material, you might benefit from contacting this office for assistance with improving your study skills.

UCF Counseling Center (Building #27/ (407) 823-2811): Students experiencing formidable mental health challenges, including, but by no means limited to stress, anxiety, or depression, that are hindering their ability to be the best they can be should contact this office for help.

Disability Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due date to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the TutorTrac scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. The main location is in Colbourn 105 with satellite locations in the Main Library, Rosen Library & Online. They can be reached at 407-823-2197 or http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/.

Important Dates:

Date	Event
Thursday, Jan. 15, 11:59 P.M.	Drop deadline
Friday, Jan. 16, 11:59 P.M.	Add deadline
Tuesday, March 24, 11:59 P.M.	Withdrawal deadline

Course Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 13 Welcome and Lecture

Thursday, Jan. 15 Lecture

Note: Drop/Swap deadline at 11:59 PM on MyUCF (Add deadline at 11:59 PM on 1/16)

Tuesday, Jan. 20 Lecture

Steven W. Hook. 2014. "The United States in a Turbulent World." Chapter 1 in *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*, 1-30 (hereafter Hook).

Thursday, Jan. 22 Lecture

Tuesday, Jan. 27 Lecture

Hook. 2014. "Chapter 2: The Expansion of U.S. Power." Chapter 2 in *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*, 31-72.

Thursday, Jan. 29 Lecture

Tuesday, Feb. 3 Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 5 Lecture

Hook, Chapter 3: Dynamics of Decision Making, 73-101.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 12 Lecture

Hook. Chapter 4: Presidential Power, 103-135.

Tuesday, Feb. 17 Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 19 Lecture

Hook. Chapter 5: Congress beyond the "Water's Edge," 137-169.

Tuesday, Feb. 24 Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 26 Midterm Exam

Tuesday, March 3 Lecture (NSC)

Hook. Chapter 6: The Foreign Policy Bureaucracy, 171-209.

Thursday, March 5 Lecture (DOS), including research lecture

March 8-14 Spring Break (Relax, have fun, & be smart)

Tuesday, March 17 **Lecture (Military)**

Thursday, March 19 **Lecture (Intelligence Community)**

Tuesday, March 24 **Lecture, including writing improvement lecture**

Thursday, March 26 **Lecture**

Hook, Chapter 7: Public Opinion at Home and Abroad, 211- 241.

Tuesday, March 31 **Lecture, Writing improvement exercise and bibliography due**

Thursday, April 2 **Lecture**

Tuesday, April 7 **Lecture**

Thursday, April 9 **Lecture**

Hook, Chapter 8: The Impact of Mass Communications, 243- 273.

Tuesday, April 14 **Lecture**

Thursday, April 16 **Lecture**

Hook, Chapter 9: Social Movements and Interest Groups, 275-308.

Tuesday, April 21	**Lecture, Course paper due**
Thursday, April 23	**Lecture**
Tuesday, April 28	**Last class day**
Tuesday, May 5	**Final Exam, 1:00-3:50 PM**