INR 4102 - AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

Section: A060

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Summer 2026
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Andrew Boutton
Office Location: HPH 302

Office Hours:
By appointment
Email: andrew.boutton@ucf.edu

Course Description

INR 4102 COS-POL SCI 3(3,0)American Foreign Policy: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Development of American foreign policy, with emphasis on the role and policies of the United States in the contemporary world. Fall, Spr

This course will cover the theory and practice of American foreign policy, with a particular focus on the post-1945 period. The goal is to provide students with a framework to which they can refer in order to understand past, ongoing, and future US foreign policy issues. The course will be organized both substantively and chronologically from the beginning of the Cold War to the present, examining how the US domestic political system and features of the international system interact to shape the decisions and incentives of US foreign policy makers. Are strategies and policies formulated with the sole aim of advancing US national interests? What other influences might factor into foreign policy decisions?

While students are encouraged to make use of my office hours, this class will take place entirely online, with no scheduled face-to-face meetings. This format works well for some people, but you should seriously reconsider taking this class in this format if you a) are not comfortable reading, communicating, or otherwise working online; or b) will not have unlimited access to high-speed internet between May 13 and June 26.

Student Learning Outcomes

This is not a history class, or even one about current events. The overarching goal of this class is to develop broad knowledge about general themes and trends in US foreign policy, and then be able to apply them to specific cases. Specifically, by the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the primary foreign policy issues that have faced the United States since the end of World War II
2. Apply general concepts learned in class to explain various US foreign policy crises and their outcomes
3. Draw upon historical examples in order to gain insight into current and future foreign policy issues (where possible and appropriate)
4. Evaluate policy alternatives using logic and evidence

Required Course Materials and Resources

The Politics of United States Foreign Policy
Authors: James M. Scott & Jerel Rosati

Publication Date: 2023
Edition: 8th
Notes: Available as an e-Book or paperback
Online Access: https://collegepublishing.sagepub.com/products/the-politics-of-united-states-foreign-policy-8-283480

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

This course consists of 300 possible points, which means that your final grade will be based on how many of the 300 points you earn. Let's say that at the end of the semester, the points you earn on each of the assignments add up to 257. You can calculate your final grade by dividing 257/300 = 0.8567, which works out to 85.67, or a solid B (see letter grade table below) The point breakdown for each assignment category can be found below.

Discussion posts: 50 points (5 @ 10 points each)

There will be five (5) discussion posts throughout the class based on discussion prompts provided by the instructor. Students will need to make two (2) kinds of online posts: an initial post responding directly to the prompt, and then a follow-up post replying to one of your classmates' posts. Initial posts are worth 5 points and follow-up posts are worth up to an additional 5, depending on quality. These will be graded according the rubric criteria, which can be found here. Please read the rubric carefully.

Quizzes: 150 points (5 @ 30 points each)

There will be five (5) quizzes of equal value throughout this course. These will be based directly on the assigned reading for that module. The quizzes will vary in format and will typically consist of a mix of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions.

Final exam: 100 points

The final exam will be cumulative, which means that all material assigned throughout the class will be covered on the exam. Format will be the same as for quizzes, with the only difference being that the final exam will be more extensive.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Communication Expectations

If you have any questions about readings, specific assignments, or anything else that is not answered in the syllabus, please either email me (andrew.boutton@ucf.edu) or get in touch via the email feature in Webcourses. This is the best way to contact me. The TAs for the course will also be able to answer questions that pertain specifically to grading. I will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. I will post important class announcements and reminders via the webcourses inbox, so be sure to check your email multiple times per week.

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

All assignments are due at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on the date indicated on the course schedule and syllabus. As a general rule, you will not be able to go back and complete missed assignments, quizzes, or exams. It is your responsibility to keep up with the pace of the course.

Students with an university-approved excuse (hospitalization, jury duty, family emergency) may be asked to provide documentation in order to make up graded assignments. Students with an approved excuse must also contact me **before** the assignment in question is due, otherwise no accommodations will be made. In addition, as a general rule, you must make up any quizzes or exams within 5 days

of the original due date. All other make-up work is at the discretion of the instructor.

Make-up Assignments for Authorized University Event or Co-curricular Activities

Students who represent the university an an authorized event or activity (for example, student athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied if the student gives advance notice and communicates with the instructor following UCF policy. In the case of an authorized university activity, it is your responsibility to show the instructor a signed copy of the Program Verification Form for which you will be absent, prior to the class in which the absence occurs or due date you need extended. For more information, see UCF Policy 4-401.

Make-up Assignments for Religious Observances

A student who desires to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith must notify their instructor as soon as practicable prior to the observance. Students who are absent because of religious observances will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to complete any missed work. For more information, see UCF Regulation 5-020.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is prohibited. Use of GenAI tools via website, app, or any other access, is not permitted in this class. All components of assignments in this course must be independently and originally completed by the student. Representing work created by GenAI as your own work will be treated as plagiarism.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More information can be found on the UCF Student Accessibility Services website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion and specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. **Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:**

plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. **Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.**

c. **Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.**

d. **Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).**

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating

rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- **Title IX – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & askanadvocate@ucf.edu**
- **Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu**
- **Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)**
- **UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu**
- **The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.**

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- **In an emergency, always dial 911.**
- **Every UCF classroom has an Emergency Procedure Guide posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.**
- **In the event of an active threat, remember AVOID, DENY, DEFEND. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.**
    - **AVOID. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.**
    - **DENY. When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.**
    - **DEFEND. When you are unable to put distance between**

yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.

- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete this activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Class Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assigned Reading(s)
1	The role of the United States in the world	Scott & Rosati Ch 1 & 2
2	The president & congress	Scott & Rosati Ch 3 & 9
3	The foreign policy bureaucracy, part I: Dept. of State & Defense	Scott & Rosati, Ch 4-5
4	The foreign policy bureaucracy, part II: NSC & intelligence community	Scott & Rosati, Ch 6-7
5	Public opinion & the media	Scott & Rosati, Ch 11 & 13
6	Interest groups	Scott & Rosati, Ch 12