

INTA 3110-A: U.S. Foreign Policy (Spring 2014)

Instructor:	Esther Skelley Jordan, Ph.D.
Instructor Email:	estherjordan@gatech.edu
Class time:	MWF, 9:05 – 9:55 a.m.
Class location:	423 Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons
Office Hours:	Wednesday, 10:00 -11:00 a.m. and by appointment
Office Location:	Clough #457N

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to U.S. foreign policy. As we examine the evolution of foreign policy over time, we will get to know the key players and the challenges they have faced in making and implementing policy. We will practice gleaning lessons learned from past efforts and we will use those to formulate policy recommendations of our own.

This course is organized in five parts:

- 1) an orientation to theory and institutions,
- 2) a chronological overview of the history of U.S. foreign policy,
- 3) an examination of contemporary issues in security and economic policy,
- 4) a comparative analysis of policy across regions (Asia, the Mid East, Europe, Eurasia, and the Americas), and
- 5) team projects which will provide practice in policy analysis, making policy recommendations, and presenting those recommendations in written and oral form.

On a daily basis, students will work together in groups in class to examine history and/or current policy issues to identify patterns, critical debates, bureaucratic challenges and outcomes – and report orally on findings.

The aim of this course is to prepare students for more advanced study of related topics and careers in the policy arena. It seeks to do so by equipping students with foundational historical and theoretical knowledge, critical analysis techniques, communication skills, and opportunities for professional development.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term, students will be able to...

- 1) describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior,
- 2) describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system,
- 3) recall major events and actors in the history of U.S. foreign policy,
- 4) identify patterns, critical debates, and bureaucratic challenges in the formulation and implementation of policy throughout history,
- 5) critically assess policy options for major contemporary problems in US Foreign Policy, in the context of history,
- 6) formulate policy recommendations and communicate them persuasively in formats used commonly in policy careers: policy briefs, policy papers, oral briefings, and formal oral presentations,

Required Reading

- 1) Bruce W. Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*. Fifth Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company 2014.
- 2) George C. Herring, *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776*. First Edition. New York: Oxford University Press 2008.
- 3) Supplemental reading will also be assigned that will be free and accessible via the Internet.

Note: Both textbooks are available as eBooks, at a significant discount.

Assessment

Class Work (20%)

Students are expected to participate in class on a daily basis. Credit will be given in two categories: Group Work and Oral Communication.

Group Work (5%): The grade for group work in class will be based on the quality and consistency of contributions each student makes to class discussion and in-class group activities. High quality contributions include **prepared and informed** comments and questions which demonstrate critical thinking regarding assignments and lectures. Students must demonstrate that they have thought critically about each reading assignment, and about the comments made by their peers and instructor. Comments which stimulate an engaging and respectful debate are particularly appreciated, as are contributions which help peers better understand the material. Peer assessment will inform this grade.

Oral Communication (15%): Each student will present their research twice formally during the semester. The first will be an individual one-minute presentation on a reading assignment (2%). The purpose of this is to get immediate feedback on areas to focus on improving prior to the final group project presentation at the end of the term (8%). In addition, students will be called on regularly to report out orally on their individual findings and the findings from their in-class group work. The quality of ongoing oral communication in class will comprise 5% of the course grade.

Quizzes & Final Exam (30%) There will be daily quizzes (on the days when a reading assignment is due). These will be short multiple choice quizzes to assess if students did the reading. There will be approximately 26 quizzes. The top 20 grades will be counted in the overall quiz grade (10%). In addition, there will be a final exam (20%). The final exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions that seek to test recall of foundational knowledge learned throughout the term. The final exam will be very similar to the quizzes, but comprehensive.

Policy Briefs & Papers (50%) Students will submit seven papers for a grade. They will write six policy briefs (two-page, double spaced). The top five grades will be counted in the overall policy brief grade (25%). Students will also submit one team project Policy Paper (25%) at the end of the term. Students will submit ungraded drafts for peer feedback several times at the end of the term. I am also happy to review earnest drafts of sections of your work, so long as you do not submit them to me at the last minute.

Grading Scale Grades for each of the above assignments will be calculated on a percent of total basis, as follows:

A= 90.0-100%, B = 80.0-89.99%, C = 70.0-79.99%, D = 60.0-69.99%,
F = 0-59.99%

Rubrics All grades will be based on rubrics, which will be provided with the instructions for each assignment.

Late Work Penalty-free extensions will only be offered in cases of officially-verified medical emergencies or official university excuses (the Dean of Students provides this verification to me directly, upon request by students) . Students must bring any such case to the instructor's attention as soon as they become aware of it.

Any assignments that are otherwise completed late will be deducted by one letter grade for each day past the due date. Missed quizzes may not be made up and the 20/26 quiz grade policy allows students to miss several quizzes without penalty.

**Disability or Health
Related Issues**

Students with a disability or a health related issue who need a class accommodation or are concerned about class performance should **make an appointment to speak with me during the first week of class or as soon as the health concern arises.**

Academic honesty

All coursework must meet the Georgia Tech standards of academic honesty. Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. See: <http://www.osi.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=46>

Specific instructions regarding collaboration and citations will be provided for each assignment. Deviations from the instructions and all other violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean Of Students.

If you are not familiar with what qualifies as plagiarism, you are responsible to familiarize yourself with it. It is recommended that each student take the following plagiarism quiz to this end. For students who have already taken it before, it is recommended that they take again it as a refresher.

https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

NOTE: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations are likely and will be announced.

INTA 3110 Course Schedule, Spring 2014

Week	Monday Class	In	Between M/W Classes	Wednesday In Class	Between W/F Classes	Friday In Class	Between F/M Classes
6-Jan	Introduction		Read BWJ Ch. 1 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Orientation: Theory Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 2 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Orientation: Formal Institutions Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 3 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work
13-Jan	Orientation: Informal Institutions Group Work		Read BWJ Ch. 4 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Historical Overview of 1789-1945 and Great Debates - Group Work	Read GCH - Individually Assigned Chapters (TBA) and bring reading notes to class for group work	Workshop: A Closer Look at War and Diplomacy in the Early Years (from Revolution to the Spanish American War), Part I	Prepare presentations for Wednesday.
20-Jan	No Class - MLK Jr. Day		Prepare presentations for Wednesday.	Presentations: A Closer Look at War and Diplomacy in the Early Years (from Revolution to the Spanish American War)	Read GCH Ch. 9 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1901-1913 Group Work	Read GCH Ch. 10 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work
27-Jan	Policy History: 1913-1921 Group Work		Read GCH Ch. 11 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1921-1931 Group Work	Post policy brief 1 on Tsquare and bring a copy to class.	Learning From History: Policymaking Workshop 1	Read GCH Ch. 12 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work
3-Feb	Policy History: 1931-1941 Group Work		Read GCH Ch. 13 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1941-1945 Group Work	Read GCH Ch. 14 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1945-1953 Group Work	Post policy brief 2 on Tsquare and bring a copy to class.
10-Feb	Learning From History: Policymaking Workshop 2		Read GCH Ch. 15 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1953-1961 Group Work	Read GCH Ch. 16 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1961-1968 Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 5 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work

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17-Feb	An alternative account of the early Cold War Group Work	Post policy brief 3 on Tsquare and bring a copy to class.	Learning From History: Policymaking Workshop 3	Read GCH Ch. 17 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1969-1974 Group Work	Read GCH Ch. 18 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work
24-Feb	Policy History: 1974-1981 Group Work	Read GCH Ch. 19 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1981-1991 Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 6 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	An alternative account of the end of the Cold War Group Work	Post policy brief 4 on Tsquare and bring a copy to class.
3-Mar	Learning From History: Policymaking Workshop 4	Read GCH Ch. 20 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policy History: 1992-2007 Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 7 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Orientation: Contemporary Issues in Security Policy Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 8 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work
10-Mar	Orientation: Contemporary Issues in Economic and Democracy Promotion Policy Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 9 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Policymaking in our time Group Work	Post policy brief 5 on Tsquare and bring a copy to class.	Learning From History: Policymaking Workshop 5	Nothing - have a great break!
17-Mar	No Class - Spring Break	Nothing - have a great break!	No Class - Spring Break	Nothing - have a great break!	No Class - Spring Break	Read BWJ Ch. 10 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work
24-Mar	Regional Policy: Asia Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 11 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Regional Policy: The Middle East Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 12 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Regional Policy: Europe & Eurasia Group Work	Read BWJ Ch. 13 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work

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31-Mar	Regional Policy: The Americas Group Work		Read BWJ Ch. 14 and prepare reading notes to bring to class for group work	Regional Policy: Africa Group Work	Post policy brief 6 on Tsquare and bring a copy to class.	Learning From History: Policymaking Workshop 6	Prepare Project Draft Part A and bring to class for peer review.
7-Apr	Projects Group Work		Prepare Project Draft Part B and bring to class for peer review.	Projects Group Work	Prepare Project Draft Part C and bring to class for peer review.	Projects Group Work	Prepare Project Draft Part D and bring to class for peer review.
14-Apr	Projects Group Work		Prepare Project Draft Part E and bring to class for peer review.	Presentations	Prepare Project Draft Part F and bring to class for peer review.	Presentations	Prepare Project Draft Part G and bring to class for peer review.
21-Apr	Presentations		Prepare Project Draft Part H and bring to class for peer review.	Presentations	Complete final draft of Policy Paper.	Last Day of Class: Final Draft of Policy Paper Due	
28-Apr	No Class - Finals Week			Final Exam 8:00 - 10:50 a.m.		No Class - Finals Week	