

**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs**  
**Fall 2020**

**INTA 3110: US Foreign Policy**  
**Class Time: MW 11:00 AM-12:15 PM**  
**Mode of Delivery: Remote Synchronous**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Mikulas Fabry

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Virtual office hours: MW 12:30-1:30 PM (email me for a virtual appointment)

**Course Description:**

This course serves as an advanced introduction to the study of US foreign policy. It has three broad aims. First, the course examines key internal and external factors that have had a bearing on the formulation and implementation of US foreign policy since the founding of the republic. Special attention will be paid to domestic institutions, actors, and processes as well as important entities in, and features of, the international system. Second, the course surveys major ideas and theoretical perspectives about the proper ends and means of US relations with the outside world. And third, the course examines the evolution of the place of the US in international affairs and US policy towards different parts of the world.

The course has three intended learning outcomes. By its end, students should:

- 1) demonstrate familiarity with domestic and international determinants shaping US foreign policy
- 2) be able to analyze, compare and critically assess major theoretical perspectives informing the conduct of, and debates about, US foreign policy
- 3) be able to explain the evolving role of the US in the world

**Required Text:**

Bruce W. Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (W.W. Norton, 2014).

This textbook is available for purchase in the GT Barnes & Noble bookstore. It is also on course reserve in the Main Library. Other readings will be available directly on the Canvas course website ([canvas.gatech.edu](http://canvas.gatech.edu)) under "Files." It is the responsibility of students to ensure access to resources posted on Canvas. Should you experience technical difficulties, contact the Office of Information Technology (<http://www.oit.gatech.edu>) for help.

**Course Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated according to the following format:

- Two closed-book exams, on September 16 and October 19 (worth 25% each)
- Final open-book take-home exam, handed out via e-mail on Friday, November 20 and due on Monday, December 7 at 2 PM via email (40%)
- Class participation (10%)
- Extra credit up to 5% for outstanding class participation

You must take both exams, and hand in the final take-home exam, on their assigned dates. The two close-book exams can be appealed to the instructor within one week of their return. Students must email the instructor a detailed explanation of why their grade should increase. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire assignment (i.e. not just the appealed part) and to increase, affirm or decrease the originally assigned grade.

You are **expected** to attend online classes and have the assigned readings completed **before** each class. Doing the assigned reading prior to each class is important since class time will regularly feature discussion. You should also follow US foreign policy-related events and developments by reading respectable news sources such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Economist*. I also highly recommend following publications that concentrate on US foreign policy analysis such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *World Affairs*, *The National Interest*, *The American Interest*, *Washington Quarterly* and *Orbis*.

As discussion is a vital part of the course, you **regular and informed** participation is essential. Students are going to be evaluated by the frequency as well as quality of their verbal and written contributions. Students can earn **up to 5% extra credit** for outstanding class participation.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an exam or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible so that I know of your learning needs.

### **Communications Policy:**

As your official GT email is the only means for the instructor to reach you outside the classroom, you are responsible for checking it **daily**. You are also asked to **turn on** to receive **all** the course-related notifications on Canvas.

**Tips for Success:**

1. Come to class.
2. Come to class having read and reflected on the assigned readings and prepared to engage in discussion.
3. Participate in class by both asking and answering questions and sharing your perspectives. There is no such thing as a bad or stupid question.
4. Make sure you understand the material for each class before attending the next class.
5. Form study groups with your peers both to compare notes and to get feedback on your grasp of the course material. Where relevant, study material/concepts comparatively and with reference to empirical examples.
6. Make use of all available resources including, but not limited to, the library and the instructor's office hours. Reach out if you need additional assistance or support.

**Outline of Classes and Readings:**

[N.B. The schedule is subject to revision; I will provide ample notice.]

**August 17: Course Introduction**

Begin readings for the next class

***I. The Strategic Context of US Foreign Policy*****August 19: Key Elements of the National Interest**

Jentleson, ch. 1, readings 1.3. and 1.4.

**August 24: The Context of the International System**

Jentleson, reading 1.1.

***II. The Domestic Context of US Foreign Policy*****August 26: The Presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court**

Jentleson, ch. 2 (pp. 27-45) and reading 2.1.

**August 31: Executive Branch Politics**

Jentleson, ch. 2 (pp. 45-53) and reading 2.2.

Irving L. Janis, "Groupthink," in Harold J. Leavitt, Louis R. Pondy and David M. Boje, in *Readings in Managerial Psychology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (University of Chicago Press, 1980)

**September 2: Interest Groups**

Jentleson, ch. 3 (pp. 56-66) and reading 9.2.

**September 7: Labor Day (NO CLASS)****September 9: The Media and Public Opinion**

Jentleson, ch. 3 (pp. 66-85) and readings 3.1, 3.2.

**September 14: Review Session**

**September 16: FIRST IN-CLASS EXAM**

**III. *Historical Patterns and Debates in US Foreign Policy***

**September 21: 1776-1898**

Jentleson, ch. 4 (pp. 89-93).

**September 23: 1898-1945**

Jentleson, ch. 4 (pp. 93-100) and readings 4.1 and 4.2.

**September 28: Documentary Watching (NO CLASS)**

TBA

**September 30: Key Debates 1776-1945**

Jentleson, ch. 4 (pp. 100-128).

**October 5: The Immediate Post-World War II years**

Jentleson, ch. 5 and reading 5.2.

**October 7: The Early Cold War**

Jentleson, reading 5.1.

**October 12: The Late Cold War**

Jentleson, ch. 6 and readings 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3

**October 14: Review Session**

**October 19: SECOND IN-CLASS EXAM**

**IV. *US Foreign Policy in the Contemporary Period***

**October 21: The Post-Cold War Era I**

Jentleson, ch. 7 and readings 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

**October 26: The Post-Cold War Era II**

Jentleson, ch. 8 and readings 8.1., 8.2. and 8.3.

Michael Mandelbaum, "Foreign Policy as Social Work," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 75, No. 1 (January/February 1996), pp. 16-32.

Stanley Hoffmann, "In Defense of Mother Teresa: Morality in Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 75, No. 2 (March/April 1996), pp. 172-175.

**October 28: The Post-Cold War Era III**

Jentleson, ch. 9 and readings 9.1 and 9.3.

**November 2: Asia and the Rise of China**

Jentleson, ch. 10 and reading 10.1.

Robert B. Zoellick, “The China Challenge,” *The National Interest*, No. 166 (March/April 2020), pp. 10-20.

Aaron L. Friedberg, “An Answer to Aggression: How to Push Back Against Beijing,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, No. 5 (September/October 2020), pp. 150-164.

#### **November 4: The Middle East**

Jentleson, ch. 11 and reading 11.1.

Charles Krauthammer, “Democratic Realism: An American Foreign Policy for a Unipolar World,” The Irving Kristol Lecture, American Enterprise Institute (February 2004).

David C. Hendrickson, “Toward Universal Empire: The Dangerous Quest for Absolute Security,” *World Policy Journal*, Vol. 9 (Fall 2002), pp. 1-10.

#### **November 9: Europe and Russia**

Jentleson, ch. 12 and readings 12.1 and 12.2.

Michael McFaul, “Russia as It Is: A Grand Strategy for Confronting Putin,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, No. 4 (July/August 2018), pp. 82-91.

Matthew Rojansky and Michael C. Kimmage, “The Third Neighbor,” *The National Interest*, No. 166 (July/August 2020), pp. 12-21.

#### **November 11: The Americas and Africa**

Jentleson, chs. 13 and 14, reading 13.1.

John R. Bolton, Address on New Trump Strategy Towards Africa, December 13, 2018.

#### **November 16: Guest Lecture on US-Canadian Military Relations**

#### **November 18: Conclusion: Whither US Foreign Policy?**

Stephen Wertheim, “The Price of Primacy: Why American Shouldn’t Dominate the World,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, No. 2 (March/April 2020), pp. 19-29.

Thomas Wright, “The Folly of Retrenchment: Why America Can’t Withdraw from the World,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, No. 2 (March/April 2020), pp. 10-18.

#### **November 23: Final Take-Home Exam Office Hours**