International Politics and Policies
Professor: Silvia Borzutzky
Email: sb6n@andrew.cmu.edu
Office: 2114 Hamburg Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday: 12:00-1:00 PM or by appointment. Feel free to email me to request an appointment. I am generally free before class
TAs: Vivian Xie (wenlix@andrew.cmu.edu) and Chanelle Labash (chanelll@andrew.cmu.edu)

Course Objectives
The goal of this course is to examine critical foreign policy issues and actors. The first section will focus on critical issues in the Middle East including the 2011 uprisings and their consequences for the region, the Syrian Civil War, ISIS, and the role that Iran and Saudi Arabia play in the region. U.S. relations with Pakistan and India will be analyzed as well.

The section on China will provide a detailed analysis of China’s economic and military transformation into a major international power in the last thirty years. This section will focus on China’s strategic and national security policies, China’s role in the world economy, and China’s relations with the U.S., Taiwan, Japan, S. and N. Korea. The current conflicts in the S. China Sea and U.S., Chinese and S. East Asian policies in this critical region will be analyzed as well.

The last section of the course will discuss Russia’s role in the international economic and political system and U.S. and China relations with Africa and Latin America.

1.-Knowledge:
At the end of the course, the students are expected to have acquired:
a) The main analytic methods and approaches used in international relations.
b) In depth knowledge of the nature of the Chinese government, its approach to foreign policy, as well as China’s impact on the world political and economic systems
c) In depth knowledge of major issues affecting the Middle East and the U.S. role in that region
d) The nature and impact of the conflicts in the South China Sea
e) Major problems affecting the international position and power of Russia, and Latin American and African countries’ relations with China and the U.S.

2.-Skills:
The course emphasizes the development of analytical skills. Students will develop these analytical skills in three different forms and through four different processes:
a) Class discussions which will allow the students to develop the ability to analyze, discuss, and defend different policy positions in an academic environment
b) **Writing policy memos:** It is critical for all of us to be able to summarize a problem, present possible solutions, and recommend policies/solutions to others. The policy memos allow the students to develop these very important skills. Typically, students are expected to assume the role of a policy maker and provide specific policies to the President or the Secretary of State. The policy memos emphasize the use of relevant data, the analysis of the problem, and the policy design.

c) **Group presentations:** Group presentations are geared to allow the student to develop the ability to work in a project with two or three other students, learn about a specific topic in depth, and prepare a class presentation using either power point or class handouts. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the presentation the instructor meets with the student about a week before the presentation to set the specific topics and parameters of the presentation. The handout or slides need to be submitted at least 24 hours before the presentation. The instructor reviews the slides or handouts in order to verify the effectiveness of the presentation. The group is encouraged to debate alternative policy positions.

**Conclusion**
At the end of the course, the student would have learn about the specific foreign policies included in the syllabus, the principles/motivations that inform those policies, and to have developed a set of analytical, presentation and writing skills.

**Required Readings**

**Books**


Feel free to get electronic copies of these books, if available. If you read electronically, please keep track of locations for proper citations.

**All assigned Articles will be posted on the course bboard and /or emailed to the class**
Requirements
Students are required to attend class, to have done the reading assignments, and to participate in the class discussions.
The classes will be run as a combination of lectures, discussions and class presentations/debates.
Students will have to write three policy papers or memos, and do a class presentation
Students are expected to complete the papers/memos and fulfill the class requirements on the assigned dates.
Extensions will be granted only for medical reasons. Students should present a note from the attending physician.

Class attendance is required
Students who do not attend class will have their grade substantially reduced.
Grade reduction will proceed as follows:
Between 2-4 unexcused absences= one-point reduction i.e. from A to B
Between 4-6 unexcused absences=two points reduction i.e. from A to C
Over 6 unexcused absences=student will fail the class
If you have a medical or personal reason for missing class, please make sure to email the instructor before class.

Grading
Policy Papers or memos: 3 memos 25% each= 75% of the grade
Presentation=25%

Policy Memos: Students will have to write three policy memos. Guidelines and topics for the policy papers will be distributed on the assigned dates. Students will have between 10-12 days to complete the assignment. Dates are listed below. All assignments should be submitted via email: Please email to sb6n@andrew.cmu.edu

Memo Grading Criteria
Problem
Grammar and spelling: minor problems minus half grade point
Major problems minus one point
Missing sections:
a) Abstract and/ or conclusions: minus half point each
b) Missing one of the content sections: minus one point
c) Failing to analyze the problem: minus one point
Recommendations:
No recommendations minus one point
Good idea for a recommendation, but poor development or implementation: minus half point per recommendation
Citations:
Depending on the seriousness of the problem: minus one point to failing grade

Debate/Presentations
Students will be required to do one class presentation/debate. The groups will be formed during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of classes. Depending on the topic, students will be encouraged to debate the issues by focusing on the interests of the nations involved, or on different viewpoints. More information on the debates will be given at the time that the groups are formed.

Debates/Presentation Guidelines
a) The presentation can be structured either a debate or a presentation depending on the nature of the topic. Students will be encouraged to debate the issues.

b) Topics and dates will be distributed during the second week of classes
d) The debaters/presenters will have to discuss the specific topic with the instructor via email
e) The debaters/presenters are expected to do an in-depth analysis of the policy or problem and suggest specific policies
f) The debate/presentation should last about 20 min.
g) The debaters/presenters have to either prepare a handout or a power point presentation.
h) The use of Power Point is optional
h) The presenters/debaters have to email the instructor a draft copy of the slides and/or the handout no later than 48 hours before the presentation. The instructor will provide feedback and suggestions for improvement if needed
i) The final version of the presentation needs to be emailed to the instructor 24 hours before the presentation. The presentation will be emailed to the class.
j) The debaters/presenters have to provide a couple of discussions questions at the end of their presentation
k) Dress code: business casual

Presentation grading guidelines
The presentation will be graded according to the following guidelines:
Content: are the critical issues been addressed?
Presentation Style: are the presenters addressing the audience in a clear and convincing manner?
Slides or handout: quality of the slides or handout
Each of these factors will account for 1/3 of the grade

Taping/recording of classroom lectures: University Policy establishes that no student may record or tape any classroom activity without the express written consent of the instructor.
**Plagiarism**
If a student is caught plagiarizing, he/she will get 0 points in the assignment and will fail the class.
The instructor will make full use of the disciplinary policies of the Heinz College and the University. A report of the case will be send to both the Program Director, the Associate Dean, and the Dean of Students
The internet makes it very easy to plagiarize the work done by others, but it also makes it very easy to catch the plagiarizer.
In other words, Google works for both you and me. Please refrain from plagiarism.
For more details, please see the University Policy on Academic Integrity in the CMU Website

**Please disconnect your cell phone before the class. Texting is not allowed**

**Use of Internet Sources:** Please use reliable sources. Wikipedia and blogs are not reliable sources

**Important Dates:**
Memo 1 due: Feb 19\textsuperscript{th} before 10:00 PM
Memo 2 due: March 31\textsuperscript{st} before 10:00 PM
Memo 3 due: May 7\textsuperscript{th} before 10:00 PM

**Syllabus**

**Jan 18: Introduction**
**Topic: Basic Concepts and Models:** Power, Realism, Idealism, Bipolarity, Multipolarity, Groupthink, Bureaucratic approach, Domestic politics approach
No readings assigned
**Please start the readings on the Middle East assigned for the week of Jan 24**

**Section 1: The Middle East**

**Jan 25: The New Arab Wars and the Arab Uprising, Intervention and Militarization**
**Read:** M. Lynch, The New Arab Wars, pp.1-104
**Feb 1: Focus on Syria**

**Read:** M. Lynch, The New Arab Wars, pp.105-138 and 189-224, and

“Syria’s Path from Civic Uprising to Civil War” - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

**Memo 1: Topic distributed on Feb 8**
**Memo due: Feb 19 before 10:00 PM**
Please email to sb6n@andrew.cmu.edu

**Feb 8**

**Topic: ISIS and Terrorism**

**Readings:**
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, “To Confront the Islamic State Seek a Truce in Syria”
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, “Defeating the Islamic State Requires a Saudi-Iranian Compromise”
“The Islamic State’s Strategy Lasting and Expanding” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

**Democracy’s Chance and Autocrats reactions**

**Read:** M. Lynch, The New Arab Wars, pp.139-188

**Feb15:**

**Topic: Focus on Iran**

**Readings**
Mohammad J. Zarif, “What Iran Really Wants: Iranian Foreign Policy in the Rouhani Era” Foreign Affairs, May/June 2014, pp. 49-60
“The Historic Deal that Will Prevent Iran from Acquiring a Nuclear Weapon” The White House
Michael Mandelbaum, “How to Prevent an Iranian Bomb: The Case for Deterrence” Foreign Affairs, Nov-Dec 2015
Reuel Gerecht and Ray Takeyh, “Can't Have It Both Ways in Iran: Between Accommodation and Confrontation”, Foreign Affairs, July 14, 2016

Focus on Pakistan
Readings
Husain Haqqani, “Breaking up is not so hard to do: Why the US-Pakistani Alliance is not worth the Trouble, Foreign Affairs, March/April 2013

Feb 22
Topic: India
Readings:
Michael Martin, Coordinator, India-U.S. Economic Relations: In Brief,” CRS Report 2014
Additional articles might be sent to the class, if needed

Section 2: China

March 1st
Topics: China’s global impact, global identities and diplomatic presence
Read: David Shambaugh, China Goes Global: The Partial Power, pp. 1-120

March 8
Topic: Security Issues and the future
Read: David Shambaugh, China Goes Global: The Partial Power, pp. 207-318
March 22
Topic: The South China Sea: History and Main Actors: China, the U.S. and the South East Asian countries: China Now

Memo 2 topic distributed March 22
Memo Due: March31st before 10:00 PM

March 29
Topic: Conclusions China

Introduction to Russia
Topic: Russia: Real Threat or Hollow Power?
Readings:
Jeffrey Mankoff, “Russia’s Latest Land grab: How Putin won Crimea and lost Ukraine” Foreign Affairs, May June 2014, pp. 60-69
John Mearsheimer, “Why the Ukraine crisis was the West’s Fault: The Liberal Delusions that provoked Putin”, and
Mary Elise Sarotte, “A Broken Promise? What the West Really Told Moscow about NATO Expansion”, both in Foreign Affairs, Sept Oct 2014, pp. 77-89 and 90-98

April 5
Topic: Russia

**Topic: Russia, China, the Middle East and Sanctions**

**April 12**
**Topic: Africa: Strategic and Economic Issues: The U.S. and Africa**
**Readings:**

**Topic: Africa and China**

**Memo 3: Topic distributed April 19**
**Memo Due: May 7 before 10:00 PM**

**April 19**
**Topic: Latin America US Latin American Relations**
**Readings:**
The Inter-American Dialogue, “Latin American-U.S. Relations”

**Topic: The U.S. and Cuba and the new Obama Policy**
Julia Sweig and Michael Bustamante, “Cuba after Communism: The Economic Reforms that are Transforming the Island”, *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2013, pp.101-114

**Readings on Cuba will be assigned after Spring Break**
**Topic: Latin America and China**
**Readings**

May 3rd
Obama’s Strategy and Conclusions
Short articles to be assigned