**Miyazaki International College**

**Autumn 2020**

**Course Syllabus**

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| Course Title (Credits) | | ASN362 North American Foreign Policy (3 credits) | |
| Course Designation for TC | | N/A | |
| Time and Location | | Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:45 – 12:15 | |
| **Content Teacher** | | | |
| Instructor | | Atsushi Yasutomi, Ph.D. (実務経験のある教員) | |
| Email address | | ayasutomi@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp | |
| Office/Ext | | MIC 1-332/ Ext. | |
| Office hours | | Tuesdays 13:00 – 17:15 | |
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| **Course Description** | | | |
| Introduces American foreign policy, how it is formulated and implemented, and the issues that have influenced its development since the end of World War I. | | | |
| **Course Goals/Objectives** | | | |
| This course examines key concepts and discussions that have shaped the US foreign policy of today. It reviews the diplomatic relations between the United States and the countries in the Middle East, Russia/Europe, and the Asia-Pacific.  Students will gain a familiarity with the basic knowledge, concepts, and policy discourses in forming the US foreign policy in the late-20th and 21st centuries. In the end of the class, students will be able to critically discuss and analyse key issues and challenges in the global politics from the perspectives of the US foreign policy. Students therefore should accomplish these objectives with a focus on developing their critical thinking and communication skills.  Students’ Communication and Critical Thinking Skill Objectives  1) Students should try to improve the following communication skills this semester:  Write and speak with clarity (communicate without ambiguity or confusion)  Write and speak with precision (communicate in deﬁnite and exact terms)  Write and speak with depth (communicate complex issues effectively)  2) Students should try to improve the following critical thinking skills this semester:  Identify salient information  Determine underlying presumptions or presuppositions  Evaluate conclusions from premises  Avoid fallacies - authority, expertise, straw man, etc.  Ask the right questions to understand a problem  Categorize appropriately  Evaluate the effects of conclusions/judgments on different parties (moral imagination)  Develop a new way to solve an old problem | | | |
| **Course Schedule** | | | |
| **Session #** | **Topic** | | **Content** |
| 1  Tue, 10/1 | Syllabus & Course Introduction | | - Self-introduction / icebreaking  - Explaining the course structure, class requirements, examinations, etc. |
| 2  Thu, 10/3 | US foreign policy: basics 1) | | - The US Foreign policy until 1945 |
| 3  Tue, 10/8 | US foreign policy: basics 2) | | - The basics of US politics and US administration  - National interests in the US foreign policy |
| 4  Thu, 10/10 | US foreign policy: basics 3) | | - The media and the US foreign policy |
| 5  Tue, 10/15 | US foreign policy: basics 4) | | - The Cold War  - Group discussion |
| 6  Thu, 10/17 | The Middle East 1) | | - Introduction to the politics in the Middle East  - **Map Quiz** |
| 7  Thu, 10/24 | The Middle East 2) | | - The Persian Gulf War  - 9/11 and the aftermath  - The Iraq War |
| 8  Tue, 10/29 | The Middle East 3) | | - the US and Israel |
| 9  Thu, 10/31 | The Middle East 4) | | - the US and Saudi Arabia |
| 10  Tue, 11/5 | The Middle East 5) | | - the US and Iran |
| 11  Thu, 11/7  (substituted) | The Middle East 6) | | - film discussion |
| 12  Tue, 11/12  (substituted) | Review and **Quiz #1** | | - Review of Sessions 2-11  - Quiz #1 on Sessions 2-11 |
| 13  Thu, 11/14 | Latin America 1) | | - Background to the politics of Latin America  - **Map Quiz** |
| 14  Tue, 11/19 | Latin America 2) | | - the US and Mexico |
| 15  Tue, 11/26 | Latin America 3) | | - the US and Cuba |
| 16  Thu, 11/28 | Latin America 4) | | - the US and Haiti |
| 17  Tue, 12/3 | Latin America 5) | | - Venezuela and Columbia |
| 18  Thu, 12/5 | Review and **Quiz #2** | | - Review of Sessions 13-18  - **Quiz #4** on Sessions 13-18 |
| 19  Tue, 12/10 | Russia and Europe 1) | | - Introduction to the politics of Russia and Europe  - **Map Quiz** |
| 20  Thu, 12/12 | Russia and Europe 2) | | - The US and Russia 1 |
| 21  Tue, 12/17 | Russia and Europe 3) | | - The US and Russia 2 |
| 22  Thu, 12/19 | Russia and Europe 4) | | - The US and the EU |
| 23  Tue, 1/7 | Review and **Quiz #3** | | - Review of Sessions 19-22  - **Quiz #4** on Sessions 19-22 |
| 24  Thu, 1/9 | Asia-Pacific 1) | | - Introduction to the US foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific  - **Map Quiz** |
| 25  Tue, 1/14 | Asia-Pacific 1) | | - the US and China -1 |
| 26  Thu, 1/16 | Asia-Pacific 2) | | - the US and China -2 |
| 27  Tue, 1/21 | Asia-Pacific 3) | | - the US and China -3 |
| 28  Thu, 1/23 | Asia-Pacific 4) | | - the US and North Korea -1 |
| 29  Tue, 1/28 | Asia-Pacific 5) | | - the US and North Korea -2 |
| 30  Thu, 1/30 | Review | | Review |
| EXAM  WEEK | **Final Exam** | | **Final Exam** |
| **Required Materials** | | | |
| Students will not be required to purchase a specific textbook. We will work from a number of handouts to be distributed during the class. | | | |
| **Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)** | | | |
| Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students with ﬁve unexcused absences risk failing the course and will be asked to withdraw. Excusing absences is the prerogative of the instructor. Students must notify the instructor of their absences before the start of class and provide college-approved documentation. Attendance is not part of the grade for this class. Participation is part of the grade, and students must attend class to participate.  Assignment Deadlines: Students must turn in assignments on the due date. Students with an ‘excused absence’ on the due date should submit assignments on the due date via email unless granted an extension by the instructor. All late submissions of assignments that are not approved by the instructor will be penalized by minus 5% per day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays).  Academic Integrity: MIC’s Academic Honesty policy prohibits cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. The Bulletin and Handbook of Student Information explains this policy. Students should understand it and ask the instructor if they have any questions. Violating the Academic Honesty can result in losing all credit (0%) for an assignment, being asked to withdraw from the course, or other appropriate actions. | | | |
| **Student Preparation & Review Time** | | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson and one hour reviewing and doing homework. Therefore, because we meet for 90 minutes per week, you should be doing at least 180 minutes preparing and reviewing each week. In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. | | | |
| **Grades and Grading** | | | |
| 20% Participation in discussions  60% Quizzes  20% Final examination  The grading system at MIC is as follows:   * A (Excellent) 90-100% * B (Above average) 80-89% * C (Average) 70-79% * D (Below average) 60-69% * F (Fail) 59% or less | | | |
| **Methods of Feedback** | | | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback i.e., grade, comment, rubric, etc. | | | |
| **Diploma Policy Standards Satisfied by Course Objectives** | | | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):  1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)  2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations  3. The ability to identify and solve problems  4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English  5. Proficiency in the use of information technology | | | |

