Course Title: Vital Issues in American Foreign Policy
Course Code: POL 05
Instructor: Professor Gerald Dorfman

Grade Options and Requirements:

No Grade Requested (NGR): This is the default option; no work is required and no credit shall be received.

Credit/No Credit (CR/NC): Short paper of at least 6 pages will be required analyzing the public affairs of one of the course’s topic areas.

Letter Grade (A,B,C,D, No Pass): Written work of at least 12 pages will be required on a topic of a student’s choosing that relates to one of the course’s topic areas.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1: The traditional core of American foreign policy: history, values, trends, variations.
--Overview of President Obama’s foreign policy.

Week 2: The condition of the Western Alliance
- The future of the EU and the Euro
- The Migrant Crisis

Week 3: Troubles in the Middle East (Part I):
- The failure of the Arab Spring
- The Arab-Palestine Conflict
- The Syrian War

Week 4: Troubles in the Middle East (Part II)
- Terror, ISIS
- Iran and the Nuclear Issue
- The Afghanistan War continues

Week 5: Renewed trouble with Russia—a new Cold War?
- The War in the Ukraine
- Russia in Economic Trouble and Suffering from Western Sanctions

Week 6: Obama Pivot to Asia (Part I)
- The most important bilateral relationship: China

Week 7: Obama Pivot to Asia (Part II)
- Asian allies and partners: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Phillipines, Thailand, Vietnam, etc.
- The Argument in the South and East China Sea

Week 8: Overview and Analysis of President Obama's Foreign Policy.
- Speculations About the Transition to a New President in 2017