

# What Standards Based Specifications Grading Looks Like in the Classroom:

## PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS SYLLABUS

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### For each assignment, you earn one of four marks:

- Exemplary (E): Excellent work that provides an example for future submissions
- Satisfactory (S): Attempted and fulfills all specifications of an assignment
- Unsatisfactory (U): Attempted and does not fulfill at least one specification
- Not acceptable/attempted (N): No submission or the submission does not meet a critical requirement (usually the deadline).

During the first week of the course, **you must earn a perfect score on a quiz consisting of multiple choice questions on the contents of the syllabus.** You may retake the quiz as many times as necessary, until the deadline, to earn a perfect score.

You have opportunities throughout the term to provide input and feedback on the course. These come in the form of weekly snap polls in Slack and in-depth evaluations.

### Basic knowledge:

#### Critical reading reflections and discussion

Each week, **you must read one chapter from the required textbook.** (Because we only have ten weeks, we will need to cover two chapters in one week.) The relatively small text provides accessible explanations of what we (think we) know about U.S. foreign policy making.

For each chapter, **submit a critical reading reflection** that includes the following:

- Requirement 1: The three most important aspects (arguments, concepts, issues, events, pieces of factual information) of the reading (be sure to justify your inclusion);
- Requirement 2: Two aspects of the reading you did not understand, briefly discussing why these confusing aspects interfered with your general understanding of the reading; and
- Requirement 3: One question to the text's author, the answer to which should go beyond the content and does not reflect the areas of confusion in Requirement 2.

Each week I will post **discussion** prompts in the class Slack team #discussion channel. These prompts ask you to apply concepts learned in the reading toward discussion of real-world cases and issues. Your participation in each week's

discussion requires three parts:

- Original post: Post directly in the #discussion channel. Due Wednesday at 5 p.m.
- Reply: Reply to an original post, creating a thread. Due Friday at 5 p.m.
- Response: Address the instructor's feedback and reply. Due Sunday at 5 p.m.
- You must satisfactorily complete all three parts to receive credit for the week's discussion. Discussion posts must satisfy the relevant prompt and meet the Discussion Guidelines (see Policies below). Because discussion requires timely interaction, you may not submit late entries.

### Applications: Model Diplomacy

We will work on a simulation of the U.S. National Security Council dealing with a foreign policy crisis. Each of you will play a specific role within the Council.

The simulation consists of reading and watching videos, selecting a case, researching an assigned role, submitting short answer responses, developing a policy proposal, participating in debate, and reflecting on the entire process. I will share more information throughout the term.

### Summation: Final exam

The prompts for the final exam come from our discussion of your critical reading reflections in the #reflections channel in class Slack team; therefore, your final exam grade depends on your responses to exam prompts as well as your participation in the development of the exam prompts.

## Minimum Grade Requirements

	D	C	B	A
Administration	Participate in syllabus review; earn perfect score on syllabus quiz; respond to 7 snap polls and 2 evaluations	Participate in syllabus review; earn perfect score on syllabus quiz; respond to 8 snap polls and 2 evaluations	Participate in syllabus review; earn perfect score on syllabus quiz; respond to 9 snap polls and 3 evaluations	Participate in syllabus review; earn perfect score on syllabus quiz; respond to 10 snap polls and 3 evaluations
Reflections	6 Ss	7 Ss, including at least 1 E	8 Ss, including at least 2 Es	9 Ss, including at least 4 Es
Discussion	6 Ss	7 Ss, including at least 1 E	8 Ss, including at least 2 Es	9 Ss, including at least 4 Es
Model Diplomacy	3 Ss; participate in 2 rounds	4 Ss; participate in 3 rounds	4 Ss, including an E on 1 memo; participate in 3 rounds	4 Ss, including an E for each memo; participate in 3 rounds
Final exam	Some contribution to #reflections;  2 Ss	Some contribution to #reflections;  3 Ss	Regular contribution to #reflections;  3 Ss	Regular contribution to #reflections;  3 Ss, at least 1 E