HONR269T: Honors Seminar: Understanding U.S. Foreign Policy toward Afghanistan

UMD Course Instructor: Temim (Tim) Nusraty

Th 6:30pm - 9:00pm

ANA 0120

Course description

Honors College students at UMD will team with students at American University of Afghanistan to examine the history of Afghanistan, its political figures, and the empires that attempted to rule the country. The students will also learn about Afghanistan's turbulent modern history, including the Soviet occupation, the Afghan civil war, and the Taliban era. Students will then analyze in detail U.S. foreign policy decisions that followed the events of September 11, 2001. This includes key policy decisions such as how the country should be governed, the selection of Afghanistan's leader, the role and mission of the international community, the adoption of a new Constitution, and the establishment of a new democratic system of government. To better understand the interests and policies of the various stakeholders, students at UMD and AUAF will hear different perspectives on the conflict in Afghanistan from former senior U.S. and Afghan government officials.

Against this backdrop and informed by the lessons learned over the past 12 years, the students from UMD and AUAF will re-examine the key policy decisions made immediately following the events of September 11, 2001. The students will accomplish this by holding a mock Bonn Conference. It was at the Bonn Conference in December 2001 that policymakers from the United States, the United Nations, Afghanistan, and the international community came together and decided many of the pivotal decisions regarding Afghanistan's future. A total of five groups will be formed to reenact the Bonn Conference. Each group will consist of four students: two from UMD and two from AUAF. Each group will be responsible for representing a country and/or organization and advocating for a particular course of action, which advances that country's or organization's interests.