Government 311 United States Foreign Policy

Winter 2014

Times: Daily 9 am- 11:30 am; 1 pm – 3:30 pm
Home Page: http://dfoyle.web.wesleyan.edu/
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Professor Douglas Foyle
Class Location: TBA

This course provides a survey of the content and formulation of American foreign policy with an emphasis on the period after World War II. It evaluates the sources of American foreign policy including the international system, societal factors, government processes, and individual decision makers. The course begins with a consideration of major trends in U.S. foreign policy after World War II. With a historical base established, the focus turns to the major institutions and actors in American foreign policy. The course concludes with an examination of the challenges and opportunities that face current U.S. decision makers. A significant component of the course is the intensive discussion of specific foreign policy decisions.

Students are strongly encouraged to stay current with foreign policy developments through reading one of the major newspapers (e.g., New York Times or Washington Post) in either the paper or on-line version.

Course Grading

Grading Policies: For specifics on my grading standards and numerical thresholds for various grades, see the grading policies link at http://dfoyle.faculty.wesleyan.edu/.

Grades will be based on: (1) a take-home final (40%), (2) a short analytical paper (5-6 pages) (20%), and (3) participation (40%).

Class periods will be devoted to a mixture of lecture, discussion, and other activities.

Incompletes will be allowed only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious personal illness, death in the family).

Exam

Final: There will be an essay-format, take-home final. The exam is open book and open note, but you may not give or receive aid from any other person. You do not need to provide footnotes to material assigned in the course. No references to material from outside the course are expected.

Excused (no penalty) late exams will be allowed only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies.
Unexcused late exams will be penalized 1/3 of a full letter grade (e.g., B+ to B) for each day it is late (every full 24 hours from the due time is a one grade step). Please inform me immediately through e-mail that your exam will be late under this provision. No unexcused late exams will be accepted after 7 days.

**Paper**

A 5-6 page essay is due on Monday, January 13 at 9 am (upload your paper on the Moodle). The question is:

How effectively do you believe the United States political system handles foreign policy issues? Why?

Late papers will be handled according to the policies for the final.

**Books**

There are two books for purchase.

James McCormick (ed.) *Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy (DSAFP)*, 2012, 6th edition (you need this one).

You will also need to purchase a case study (see Cuban Missile Crisis case discussion for information).

Additional readings are available on the course Moodle (students will be granted access to the Moodle shortly before the end of the Fall semester). Some of the reading references below are not complete since they are accessed through the Moodle.

**Case Discussion**

This course employs a case study teaching method where, periodically, class time will be devoted to the discussion of specific episodes of American foreign policy. This method allows for the application and reconsideration of the theoretical principles introduced in the course with reference to particular incidents. These class periods will be devoted exclusively to discussion.

To aid your preparation, consider the following questions:

- What are the salient aspects of the context (domestic and global)?
- What are the stakes in the case?
Who are the key actors and how do they define the situation?
What policy options were considered? Which might have been, but were not? Why not?
What were the key decisions?
What factor(s) dominated the decision(s)?
Were the processes by which decisions were reached appropriate?
How would you rate the substance of the decision(s)?
What lessons are to be learned from the case, if any?

Students with Disabilities

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-2332 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

Class Schedule

A note about the class schedule: We’ll follow the daily schedule in the order listed below. Some items will be longer or shorter than others in terms of class time. Hyperlinked items will be available through the Moodle.

A note about reading: Students should complete the reading before it is discussed in class. Given the intensive nature of the course, students may want to complete as much of the reading before the start of class as possible and then review the day’s material the night before class (It would be best to do so sequentially from the beginning of the course).

For cases, see case discussion questions above to guide your preparation.

For readings that are not cases, students would be well-served if they wrote down a two sentence summary of the author’s main point as they read through the course material. Many items assigned include guiding questions which can assist you as you read through the material.
January 8, Wednesday

1. The Legacy of U.S. Foreign Policy History


Lantis, *USFPA*, pp. 1-35.

2. Models of American Foreign Policy Making: International and Societal Forces

Ole R. Holsti, “Theories of International Relations,” *Making American Foreign Policy*, pp. 313-343. (hyperlink)


3. Models of American Foreign Policy Making: Individual Level


Nelson, "Person and Office: Presidents, the Presidency, and Foreign Policy," *DOAFP*, pp. 179-188

January 9, Thursday

1. Case Discussion – Cuban Missile Crisis

ISD Case 334 “The Cuban Missile Crisis” Note: For purchase directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy:

To order the case, go to the ISD website: http://www.guisd.org/. Please note that this item is nonreturnable.

2. The Presidency

Larry George, "Democratic Theory and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy" (hyperlink)

Lantis, USFPA, 68-99


3. Case Discussion -- Vietnam

“Americanizing the Vietnam War” by Richard Neustadt-- this case will be the basis for discussion. (hyperlink)

Bruce Kuklick, Blind Oracles, pp. 206-220. (hyperlink)

Gordon Goldstein, Lessons in Disaster, pp. 144-185. (hyperlink)

McNamara, In Retrospect, (selections) (hyperlink)


January 10, Friday

1. Congress

Harold Hongju Koh, “Why the President Almost Always Wins in Foreign Affairs.” (hyperlink).

Lindsay, "The Shifting Pendulum of Power: Executive-Legislative Relations on American Foreign Policy" DSAFP, pp. 223-238.

2. Case Discussion: Iraq War 2003


Douglas Foyle, “Leading the Public to War?” (hyperlink).

3. Structured Debate: The War on Terror

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 100-111.

We’ll prepare and conduct this debate in class.

January 13, Monday -- Essay Paper due, 9 am.

1. Public Opinion and Elections


Lantis, USFPA, pp. 204-224.


2. Interest Groups and Political Parties

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 163-203.


Mearsheimer and Walt, "The Israel Lobby," DSAFP, pp. 89-104.

3. Public Opinion Exercise

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 226-237.

Students will prepare and present a PowerPoint presentation during class.
January 14, Tuesday

1. Case Discussion: DP World


2. Foreign Policy Institutional Actors

   Lantis, USFPA, pp. 116-144.

3. The Military


January 15, Wednesday

1. Economics


2. Financial Crisis, Budget Deficit, and Foreign Policy

   This will take you a little bit of time. Do the reading first and then this exercise (http://www.marketplace.org/topics/economy/budget-hero). Do before class -- print out/save your final results (the cards will print or save). Write down your budget bust date. Bring both to class (available at the end -- you can save it as a
We will use your results as a point of discussion. Be sure to listen to the briefing first (otherwise you will be confused). Note: you do not have to give them your information -- just press "play."


Budget primer. (hyperlink).

Debt and defense primer. (hyperlink).

3. Goals and Interests and Simulation Exercise Step 1


Rachman, "Think Again: American Decline," DSAFP, pp. 47-54.

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 145-162.

January 16, Thursday

1. Simulation Exercise Step 2

1 page strategic options memo outline due at the beginning of class.

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 145-162.

2. Simulation Step 3 and Grand Strategy

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 243-60.


3. Security Threats


2012 DNI Threat Assessment. (hyperlink).


Hersh, "Last Stand" DSAFP, 417-29.


Janurary 17, Friday

1. Structured Debate: Grand Strategy

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 262-282.

We’ll prepare and conduct this debate in class.

2. Defense Policy, Great Powers


3. Why does the U.S. do what it does?

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 282-295.

Final Due: January 21, 5 p.m. (upload to the Moodle)