

Note: The final course schedule will be available to enrolled students through the course Moodle. This outline is subject to minor modification and should not be used by students enrolled in the course as a guide to weekly assignments.

CSS Junior Government Tutorial:
Good Judgment, History, and Foreign Policy Decision Making

Spring 2017
Friday 2-4
Class Location: TBA
Home Page: <http://dfoyle.faculty.wesleyan.edu/>

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Course Description

In the realm of foreign policy, good choices can avoid or win wars while poor choices can lead to disaster. Although analysts consistently evaluate the quality of United States presidential foreign policy decision making, the fundamentals of good and poor judgment remain controversial. Foreign policy decision makers often employ historical “knowledge” and analogies to make sense of current dilemmas. With a focus on the United States foreign policy decision making, the course considers the concept of good judgment and the role of history in it.

Course Grading

Grading Policies: For specifics on my grading standards and numerical thresholds for various grades, see my website under the “Courses and Grading” link.

Please note: I do not “round” the numerical scores. A numerical score must at least reach the minimum threshold of a grade to receive that grade (e.g., 89.99 is a B+ while 90 is an A-).

Grades will be based on: (1) 2 weekly response papers (33%), (2) a research paper (34%), and (3) participation (33%).

Class periods will be discussion. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the day's assigned reading.

Weekly Response Papers

Students will write 2 response papers on a topic of any one of the daily discussion questions or on a topic of the student’s choosing in relation to the weekly reading with approval of the instructor. Students may choose to write papers on any of the questions from weeks 2 through 7. Papers are due on the Moodle before the class period in which the paper is written. Papers should be approximately 1250-1500 words in length (that’s roughly 4-5 pages). Students have the option to

write a 3rd paper in which case the top two paper grades will be used to calculate the response paper grade.

Research Paper

An approximately 5500 word research paper (approximately 20 pages) is due on the last day of class at 11:59 p.m. on a topic of the student's choosing. The topic should broadly relate to the tutorial's subject matter though some latitude will be granted if the student wishes to explore a topic related to a senior project that diverges from the tutorial content. Paper topics are due by the beginning of the second class session (e-mail them to me). A bibliography is due by the beginning of the third session (uploaded to the Moodle). A rough draft is due by the 5th session which will receive comments from the instructor (upload it to the Moodle).

Potential paper topics:

1. Pick a specific historical foreign policy decision. Evaluate whether or not the decision makers in the case exercised good judgment. Why or why not? Each paper should clearly define the student's standard of good judgment as a basis of this exercise.
2. Pick one of the potential assignments for a "Council of Historical Advisers" (See Graham Allison and Niall Ferguson, "Our Manifesto" assigned for Day 1.)
3. Use the "May Method" to evaluate two historical analogies (See Graham Allison and Niall Ferguson, "Our Manifesto" assigned for Day 1.)

Participation

Participation will be evaluated based upon the student's contribution to discussion, responsiveness to other students, and quality of insight. Class attendance is a basic requirement of the participation grade.

Readings

The following books are required reading:

- Richard E. Neustadt and Ernest R. May, Thinking In Time: The Uses of History for Decision-Makers (New York: Free Press, 1986).
- Stanley A. Renshon and Deborah Welch Larson, Good Judgment in Foreign Policy, (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003).
- John Burke and Fred Greenstein, How Presidents Test Reality: Decision on Vietnam, 1954 and 1965 (Russell Sage Foundation, 1989).

The books are on reserve at Olin Library. The rest of the readings are available directly from the course Moodle as indicated on the syllabus.

Course Schedule

1. Good Judgment in Foreign Policy

Stanley A. Renshon and Deborah Welch Larson, Good Judgment in Foreign Policy, (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003): Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 (pp. vii-60, 127-190, 247-270, 309-320).

2. How Leaders Use History

Note: Research paper topic due.

Richard E. Neustadt and Ernest R. May, Thinking In Time: The Uses of History for Decision-Makers (New York: Free Press, 1986). All.

3. Reality Testing: Eisenhower and Johnson

Note: Research paper bibliography due.

John Burke and Fred Greenstein, How Presidents Test Reality: Decision on Vietnam, 1954 and 1965 (Russell Sage Foundation, 1989). All.

4. Looking Backward and Thinking Forward: Applied History

Graham Allison and Niall Ferguson, "Our Manifesto: Establish a White House Council of Historical Advisers Now" Belfer Center, Harvard University. [Here](#).

See Potential assignments [here](#). Examples of each type.

1. Graham Allison, "Just How Likely is Another World War: Assessing The Similarities and Difference Between 1914 and 2014," Atlantic Monthly July 30, 2014. [Here](#).

2. Graham Allison, "Assessing an Iran Deal: 5 Big Lessons from History," National Interest, July 7, 2015. [Here](#).

3. Niall Ferguson, Virtual History (New York: Basic Books, 1999), "Introduction" (pp. 1-90) and Chapter 8 "Camelot Continued" by Diane Kunz (pp. 392-415).
4. Graham Allison, "US-Russia relations: What would Kissinger do?" National Interest October 5, 2015. [Here](#).
5. Edward Delman, "The Link between Putin's military campaigns in Syria and Ukraine" Atlantic Monthly, October 2, 2015. [Here](#).

5. Good Process and/or Good Experts = Good Outcomes?

Note: Research paper rough draft due.

Herek, Janis, and Huth, "Decision-Making During International Crises: Is Quality of Process Related to Outcome?" Journal of Conflict Resolution Vol. 31 (June 1987).

Schafer and Crichlow, "The *Process-Outcome* Connection in Foreign Policy Decision Making: A Quantitative Study Building on Groupthink," International Studies Quarterly Vol. 46 (March 2002).

Philip E. Tetlock, Expert Political Judgment, pp. 1-24, 67-120.

Review, Renshon, Good Judgment, chapters 9-10.

6. The Value of Plans: Grand Strategy in U.S. Foreign Policy

Commission on America's National Interests, 2000, pp. 1-8 (listed as Allison American National Interests)

Hal Brands, What Good is Grand Strategy, 2014, selections.

Barry R. Posen and Andrew L. Ross, "Competing Visions for Grand Strategy," International Security (Winter 1996/97).

Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, & William C. Wohlforth, "Don't Come Home, America: The Case Against Retrenchment," International Security, (Winter 2012/2013).

Barry R. Posen, "A Grand Strategy of Restraint," in Michèle A. Flournoy and Shawn Brimley, eds., Finding Our Way: Debating American Grand Strategy (Washington, D.C.: Center for a New American Security, 2008), pp. 81-102.

"Debating American Engagement: The Future of U.S. Grand Strategy," International Security Fall 2013.

7. Conclusions: Making Sense of the Past. Making Sense of the Future

Note: Research Paper due 11:59 p.m.

Nassim Taleb, "Black Swans." Watch: <http://youtu.be/BDbuJtAiABA>

National Intelligence Council, Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds, 2012, Executive Summary (i-xiv) Look over the rest as interested.

George Friedman, The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century (2009), pp. 1-30, 88-119, 136-152, 223-253.

Andrew F. Krepinevich, 7 Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century 2009 (selections)

Walter Russell Mead, "The Return of Geopolitics," Foreign Affairs, May/June 2014.

G. John Ikenberry, "The Illusion of Geopolitics," Foreign Affairs, May/June 2014.