Government 311 United States Foreign Policy  
Professor Douglas Foyle

Winter 2018  
Days: January 10 to January 12, January 15 to January 19  
Times: 9 am- 11:30 am; 1 pm – 3:30 pm  
Class Location: TBA  
Home Page: http://dfoyle.web.wesleyan.edu/  
Email: dfoyle@wesleyan.edu

The Winter Session course is open to all class years.

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.

No prior knowledge of U.S. foreign policy or international politics is assumed other than what might be gathered from keeping up with the current events.

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 (35%), (2) a short analytical paper (5-6 pages) (30%), and (3) participation (35%).

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 due on January 23. 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 15 at 9 am (upload your paper on the Moodle).

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

**Books**

There are two books for purchase:


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. The amount of class time we spend on each item will vary.

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

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 10, Wednesday**

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


   Snow & Haney, Chapter 1, Chapter 2.

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


   Snow & Haney, Chapter 3.


   Watch (3 minutes -- Look for messages and what you might not like): School House Rock: "Elbow Room."

   Watch (3 minutes -- Look for messages and what you might not like): School House Rock: "No More Kings."

3. Models of American Foreign Policy Making: Individual Level


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

January 11, Thursday

1. Case Discussion – Cuban Missile Crisis

ISD Case 129 “The Cuban Missile Crisis” Note: For purchase directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy: casestudies.isd.georgetown.edu. Please note that this item is nonreturnable.


2. The Presidency

Larry George, "Democratic Theory and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy."

Snow & Haney, Chapter 4.


Evan Osnos, "President Trump's First Term," New Yorker, September 26, 2016.


Watch: "School House Rock: 3 Ring Circus."

3. Case Discussion -- Vietnam

“Americanizing the Vietnam War” by Richard Neustadt– this case will be the basis for discussion.

Recommended (as in very interesting context):


Gordon Goldstein, Lessons in Disaster, pp. 144-185.

McNamara, In Retrospect.


**January 13, Friday**

1. Congress

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

   Snow & Haney, Chapter 6.

   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?"

3. Structured Debate: The War on Terror

   Jeffrey Lantis, *U.S. Foreign Policy*, pp. 100-111.

   We’ll prepare and conduct this debate in class.
January 15, Monday -- Essay Paper due, 9 am.

1. Foreign Policy Institutional Actors

   Snow & Haney, Chapter 5.


2. The Military


3. Public Opinion, Information, and Media Exercise

   Snow & Haney, Chapter 8 (The Media through end of chapter).


   Students will prepare and present a PowerPoint presentation during class.

January 16, Tuesday

1. Public Opinion and Elections

   Snow & Haney, Chapter 8 (Introduction through The Public).


2. Interest Groups

Snow & Haney, Chapter 7.


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

3. Case Discussion: DP World


January 17, Wednesday

1. Interests and Goals


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

Walt, "Choose Your Own Adventure" Foreign Policy August 21, 2016.

2. Grand Strategy


Kupchan and Trubowitz, “Grand Strategy for a Divided America.
3. Security Threats

Snow & Haney, Chapter 9.


January 18, Thursday

1. National Security Council Simulation Exercise (most of day)

2. Economics

Snow & Haney, Chapter 10, 11.


January 19, Friday

1. Financial Crisis, Budget Deficit, and Foreign Policy


Stephen M. Walt, “Indispensable or Insolvent.”


Budget primer.

Debt and defense primer.

2. Defense Policy


Recommended:

5. Great Powers


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

Snow & Haney, Chapter 12.


**Final Due: January 23, 5 p.m. (upload to the Moodle)**