

**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/>

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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:

Donald M. Snow & Patrick J. Haney, U.S. Foreign Policy: Back to the Water's Edge, 5th edition, 2017 ISBN: 1442268174.

James McCormick (ed.), Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy (DSAFP), 2012, 6th edition, ISBN 1442209615.

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

Walter Russell Mead, "The American Foreign Policy Legacy," Foreign Affairs 81 (January/February 2002): pp. 163-76.

"Geopolitics of the United States, Part 1 The Inevitable Empire" August 24, 2011 (republished July 4, 2016), Stratfor. (Originally here: <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/geopolitics-united-states-part-1-inevitable-empire>).

Snow & Haney, Chapter 1, Chapter 2.

#### 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.

Snow & Haney, Chapter 3.

Mead, "Tea Party, Populism, and the Domestic Culture of U.S. Foreign Policy," DSAF, pp. 55-66.

Eugene Wittkopf and Christopher Jones, "Pattern and Process in American Foreign Policy: An Analytical Perspective" American Foreign Policy, pp. 17-26.

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

Ole R. Holsti, "Cognitive Process Approaches to Decision-Making: Foreign Policy Actors Viewed Psychologically" Making American Foreign Policy, pp. 33-54.

Philip Tetlock and Charles McGuire, Jr., "Cognitive Perspectives on Foreign Policy," in G. John Ikenberry, American Foreign Policy, 5th ed., pp. 484-500.

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](http://casestudies.isd.georgetown.edu). Please note that this item is nonreturnable.

Vojtech Mastny, “Soviet Foreign Policy, 1953-1962,” in Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad, eds. The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Vol. 1, 2010, pp. 331-333.

### 2. The Presidency

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

Snow & Haney, Chapter 4.

Philip Rucker & Robert Costa, "It's a Hard Problem": Inside Trump's Decision to Send More Troops to Afghanistan, Washington Post, August 21, 2017.

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

Fisher, "Presidents who Initiate Wars," DSAFP, pp. 189-208.

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):

Bruce Kuklick, Blind Oracles, 2006, pp. 206-220.

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

McNamara, In Retrospect.

Fredrick Logevall, "Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam," Presidential Studies Quarterly, March 2004, pp. 100-112.

Thomson, "How Could Vietnam Happen? An Autopsy," DSAFP, pp. 333-344.

Logevall & Goldstein, "Will Syria Be Obama's Vietnam?" New York Times October 9, 2014.

## **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.

Miller Center, "National War Powers Commission Report."

Josh Gerstein, "President Obama Invokes Iraq War Authorization in Syria," Politico September 23, 2014.

### 2. Case Discussion: Iraq War 2003

Jeffrey S. Lantis and Eric Moskowitz, "The Return of the Imperial Presidency? The Bush Doctrine and U.S. Intervention in Iraq."

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.

Peter Baker and Eric Schmitt, "Many Missteps in Assessment of ISIS Threat," New York Times, September 29, 2014.

Destler, "How National Security Advisers See Their Role," DSAFP, pp. 209-222.

Jervis, "Why Intelligence and Policymakers Clash," DSAFP, pp. 267-284.

Smith, "Policy Preferences and Bureaucratic Position: The Case of the American Hostage Rescue Mission" DSAFP, pp. 345-360.

2. The Military

Feaver & Gelpi, "American Veterans in Government and the Use of Force," DSAFP, pp. 105-122.

Russo & Haney, "Intermestic Politics and Homeland Security," DSAFP, pp. 285-300.

FPRI, "Mind the Gap: Post-Iraq Civil-Military Relations in America A Conference Report" January 2008.

Andy Kroll, "Trump At War," Huffington Post.

3. Public Opinion, Information, and Media Exercise

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

Jeffrey Lantis, U.S. Foreign Policy In Action, pp. 216-37.

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).

Michael Kazin, "Trump and American Populism," Foreign Affairs, October 6, 2016.

Berinsky, "Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict," DSAFP, pp. 123-138.

Nincic, "External Affairs and the Electoral Connection," DSAFP, pp. 157-178.

## 2. Interest Groups

Snow & Haney, Chapter 7.

McCormick, "Ethnic Interest Groups in American Foreign Policy," DSAFP, pp. 67-88.

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

## 3. Case Discussion: DP World

Foyle, "Anatomy of a Crash: Port Security and the 2006 Dubai Ports World Controversy."

## **January 17, Wednesday**

### 1. Interests and Goals

"Geopolitics of the United States, Part 2 American Identity and the Threats of Tomorrow" August 24, 2011 (republished July 4, 2016), Stratfor. (Originally here: <https://worldview.stratfor.com/analysis/geopolitics-united-states-part-2-american-identity-and-threats-tomorrow>).

Nye, "The Future of American Power: Dominance and Decline in Perspective," DSAFP, pp. 33-47.

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

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

### 2. Grand Strategy

McDougall, "Can the U.S. Do Grand Strategy" FPRI April 2010.

Kupchan and Trubowitz, "Grand Strategy for a Divided America.



### 3. Security Threats

Snow & Haney, Chapter 9.

Uri Friedman, "How Donald Trump Could Change the World," Atlantic, November 7, 2016.

Gideon Racham, "Donald Trump and the Dangers of America First," Financial Times November 9, 2016.

Stephen Walt, "What Would a Realist World Have Looked Like?" Foreign Policy January 2016.

Richard Cohen, "The Limits of American Realism," New York Times, January 11, 2016.

Lizza, "Obama: The Consequentialist" DSAFP, pp. 429--448.

Get main argument. Western, "Sources of Humanitarian Intervention: Beliefs, Information, and Advocacy in U.S. Decision on Somalia and Bosnia," DSAFP, pp. 399-416.

### **January 18, Thursday**

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

2. Economics

Snow & Haney, Chapter 10, 11.

Destler, "American Trade Policymaking: A Unique Process," DSAFP, pp. 301-318.

Hufbauer & Lowry, "U.S. Tire Tariffs: Saving Few Jobs at High Cost," Policy Brief, Peterson Institute for International Economics, Number PB12-9, April 2012.

## January 19, Friday

### 1. Financial Crisis, Budget Deficit, and Foreign Policy

Niall Ferguson, "Complexity and Collapse: Empires on the Edge of Chaos," Foreign Affairs, March/April 2010.

Paul Krugman, "Nobody Understands Debt," New York Times January 2, 2012.

Stephen M. Walt, "Indispensable or Insolvent."

John Cassidy, "The Reinhart and Rogoff Controversy: A Summing Up." New Yorker.

Paul Krugman, "Reinhart and Rogoff Are Not Happy" New York Times.

Budget primer.

Debt and defense primer.

### 2. Defense Policy

Michael O'Hanlon & David Petraeus, "America's Awesome Military," Foreign Affairs, September/October 2016.

Mac Thornberry & Andrew F. Krepinevich, Jr. "Preserving Primacy" Foreign Affairs, September/October 2016.

Andrew J. Bacevich, "Ending Endless War," Foreign Affairs September/October 2016.

K.K. Rebecca Lai, Troy Griggs, Max Fisher and Audrey Carlsen, "Is America's Military Big Enough?" New York Times March 22, 2017.

Recommended:

Jones, "Roles, Politics, and the Survival of the V-22 Osprey," DSAFP, pp. 361-382.

Adams & Leatherman, "A Leaner and Meaner Defense," DSAFP, pp. 253-266.

## 5. Great Powers

Shleifer & Treisman, "Why Moscow Says No," Foreign Affairs 2011.

Graham Allison, "Wishful Thinking and Vital Interests," The National Interest, November 28, 2016.

Joseph Nye, Jr. "The Good News and the Bad," The National Interest, November 28, 2016.

Christopher Layne, "China's Challenge," Current History 2008.

Goldgeier, "NATO Expansion: The Anatomy of a Decision" DSAFP, pp. 383-398.

Gideon Rachman, "Donald Trump Faces Five Fateful Foreign Policy Choices," Financial Times, December 12, 2016.

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

Snow & Haney, Chapter 12.

Brill, "Are We Any Safer?" Atlantic Monthly September 2016.

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