

Comparative Foreign Policy  
Professor Susan H. Allen  
University of Mississippi  
Political Science 364  
Spring 2018

## Contact Information

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## Course Description

Why do different states have different foreign policies? Are these policies driven by systemic factors in the international system or domestic institutions within the state or by the psychology of individual leaders and policy-makers?

The foreign policies of countries – whether large and powerful, small and weak, or somewhere in between – drive the course of world history. At times, countries and their leaders have pursued wise policies that have yielded peace and prosperity. Yet at other times they have made choices that have been destructive of both. The central question that drives the study of foreign policy is the quest to understand not just why leaders make the choices they do, but also what domestic and international forces compel them to make their choices.

Decision making is studied by historians, economists, psychologists, political scientists and other disciplines, both inside and outside the social sciences. The study of foreign policy decision making, while conceptually and theoretically integrated with the study of decision making more generally, faces additional challenges: data about foreign policy decisions, either of our own country or other states, is often less easily available. Hence, understanding why leaders of other states make the decisions they do, what security threats we face, and what strategy is most appropriate to counteract such problems is less straightforward than in more mundane decision making situations.

In this course, the focus is on understanding foreign policy making in comparative perspective. The investigation will focus not only on leaders, but also on the foreign policy bureaucracy and other aspects of the domestic and international environments that affect foreign policy making. We will explore the foreign policy decision-making not only of Great Powers like the United States but also smaller powers like Iran and Iraq as well as rising powers like China and India.

## Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic theoretical literature regarding the making of foreign policy
- Trace the basic foreign policy history of several major and minor states in the international system
- Describe the foreign policy challenges facing major powers in the current international system – both from a theoretical and real world perspective
- Delineate the foreign policy challenges for states that are not major powers in the international system
- Explain foreign policy choices of a country or group of countries through the lenses of multiple decision-making frameworks.

## Expectations

- READ THE SYLLABUS!
- Come to class. I know that seems like an obvious one, but it's important nonetheless. You will have a tough time passing this course without attending it. Class attendance is not mandatory, but it's been said that 80% of success comes from showing up, and so it will likely be in this class.
- Do the readings beforehand; you will find that they provide important background for the lectures. Without that background, you may have a difficult time keeping up during class sessions. Most practically, questions for the exams will come from both the lecture and the readings. Not all relevant material will be duplicated in both sources.
- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with national political events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), the Washington Post ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), CNN ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)) or the International Herald Tribune ([www.ihf.com](http://www.ihf.com)). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events.
- In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning off all cell phones before entering classroom. Texting during class is also unacceptable. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session.

## Readings

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. Only one book is required for this course and are available at the bookstore:

- Beasley, Kaarbo, Lantis and Snarr. 2013. *Comparative Foreign Policy*, Second Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press.

Other materials will be available via Blackboard.

## Requirements

The requirements for this course include two exams and two writing assignment. Along with your contribution to the course, these elements will be weighted as follows:

- First Exam 20%
- Second Exam 25%
- Final Paper 25%
- Simulation and Briefing Papers 15%
- Attendance: 10%
- Participation 5%

**Attendance Policy:** Students may miss up to three classes over the course of the semester. Upon the fourth absence, a student will forfeit all of the available attendance points. Exceptions, of course, will be made for school approved absences and can be made in the case of prolonged illness.

**Research Paper** – This 10-15 page paper will be due by 10AM on May 8th. Students will write a comprehensive foreign policy analysis paper on either a major historical foreign policy decision that occurred in their focus country more than ten years ago or an analysis of their focus country's current foreign policy with predictions for the next ten years. Regardless of the approach selected, students will use the theoretical perspectives discussed in class to assess the decision-making processes in the focus country. Additional information about sourcing and intermediate deadlines for rough drafts will be provided by the first week in March.

**Late Assignments:** All work for the course must be handed in on time. All late assignments will be penalized one FULL LETTER GRADE for each day past the deadline. If papers will be late due to illness or other serious impediment to school work, please let me know as soon as possible and an extension may be offered at my discretion.

**Makeup Exams:** Requests to take examinations at times other than those listed above must be made in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a

student fails to take an exam, the decision to allow a makeup and the penalty associated with that makeup, if granted, is again at the discretion of the instructor.

**Academic Integrity:** Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment at a minimum.

**ADA:** Any student with a disability that might affect class performance should notify me as soon as possible. Ole Miss can make a variety of accommodations and arrangements that help insure equal opportunity. It is your right and we are glad to work with you on this. For necessary accommodations to be made, please let me know prior to the first exam.

**Grading for Political Science Majors and Minors:** It is the policy of the political science department that no grade lower than a C can be counted towards either a major or minor in political science. This course will be graded using the plus/minus scale.

**Attendance Verification:** “The university requires that all students have a verified attendance at least once during the first two weeks of the semester for each course. If attendance is not verified, then a student will be dropped from the course and any financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. Please see <http://olemiss.edu/gotoclass> for more information.”

## Course Outline

### January 23: Course Introduction

### January 25: What is Foreign Policy and Why Do We Study It?

- Beasley et al, chapter 1.
- Snyder, Jack (2004). “One World, Rival Theories,” *Foreign Policy* 145 (Nov/Dec): 52-62.

### January 30: Levels of Analysis and Foreign Policy Decision-Making

- Hudson, Valerie. 2005. Foreign policy analysis: actor-specific theory and the ground of international relations. *Foreign Policy Analysis* 1(1):1-30.
- Breuning, Marijke. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, ch. 1

### February 1: Foreign Policy and the International System

- Mastanduno, Michael, David Lake, and John Ikenberry. 1989. “Toward a Realist Theory of State Action.” *International Studies Quarterly* 33: 457-74.
- Rose, Gideon. 1998. “Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy.” *World Politics* 51(1): 144-72.

## **February 6: Nuclear Weapons Policy and the International System**

- Sagan, Scott. 1996. “Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb.” *International Security* 21:3.
- Kroenig, Matt. 2014. “Force or friendship? Explaining great power nonproliferation policy” *Security Studies*.

## **February 8: Foreign Policy and Domestic Politics**

- Beasley et al, Chapter 15.

## **February 13: Foreign Policy and Domestic Influences – Democracies**

- Reiter, Dan and Allan C. Stam. 2004. *Democracies at War*. Chapters 1 and 2.
- *Please read one of the following to critiques of Democratic Peace Theory as it pertains to Foreign Policy:*
  - Downes, Alexander. 2008. “How Smart and Tough are Democracies? Re-assessing Theories of Democratic Victory in War.” *International Security* 33 (4): 9-51
  - McDonald, P.J. 2015. Great Powers, Hierarchy, and Endogenous Regimes: Re-thinking the Domestic Causes of Peace. *International Organization* 69(3): 557-588.

## **February 15: Foreign Policy and Domestic Influences in Autocratic States**

- Colgan, Jeff and Jessica Weeks. 2015. Revolution, Personalist Dictatorships, and International Conflict. *International Organization*
- Lai, Brian and Dan Slater. 2005. “Institutions of the Offensive: Domestic Sources of Dispute Initiation in Authoritarian Regimes, 1950-1992.” *American Journal of Political Science* 50(1):113-126.
- Optional:
  - Cabestan, J.P., 2009. “China’s foreign-and security-policy decision-making processes under Hu Jintao.” *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 38(3): 63-97.
  - Economy, Elizabeth. 2014. “China’s Imperial President: Xi Jinping Tightens His Grip.” *Foreign Affairs* 93: 80.

## February 20: Civil Military Relations

- Feaver, Peter. 1999. Civil-military relations. *Annual Review of Political Science* 2(1):211-241.
- Herspring, D., 2009. Civil-Military Relations in the United States and Russia: An Alternative Approach. *Armed Forces & Society* 35(4): 667-687.

## February 22: Individual Level Decision-Making

- Hermann, Margaret. 1980. "Explaining Foreign Policy Behavior Using the Personal Characteristics of Political Leaders." *International Studies Quarterly* 24: 7-46.
- Allen, Susan Hannah and Maryann Gallagher. 2014. "Presidential Personality: Not Just a Nuisance" *Foreign Policy Analysis* 10(1): 1-21.

## February 27: Individual Level Decision-Making

- Saunders, Elizabeth. 2017. No Substitute for Experience: Presidents, Advisers, and Information in Group Decision Making. *International Organization* 71(1): S219-S247.
- Read Either:
  - Horowitz, Michael, Rose McDermott, AC Stam. 2005 "Leader Age, Regime Type, and Violent International Relations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*
  - Horowitz, Michael and Allan Stam. 2014. "How Prior Military Experience Influence the Future Militarized Behavior of Leaders." *International Organization* 68(3): 527-559.

## March 1: Exam 1

### March 6: The Foreign Policy of Strong States

- Mueller, Patrick. 2013. "Europe's Foreign Policy and the Middle East Peace Process." *Perspectives on European Politics and Society* 14(1): 20-35.
- Schuster, Jurgen and Herbert Maier. 2006. "The Rift: Explaining Europe's Divergent Iraq Policies in the Run-Up of the American-led War on Iraq" *FPA* 2(3): 289-306.

### March 8: The Foreign Policy of Rising Powers

- Nathan, Andrew J. and Andrew Scobell. 2012. "How China Sees America." *Foreign Affairs*
- Glosny, Michael. 2010. "China and the BRICs: A Real (but Limited) Partnership in a Unipolar World, *Polity* 42(1): 100-29.

- Florini, Ann. 2011. “Rising Asian Powers and Changing Global Governance, *International Studies Review* 13(1): 24–33.

## **March 10-18: Spring Break**

### **March 20: The Foreign Policy of Regional Powers**

- Nolte, Detlef 2010. How to compare regional powers: analytical concepts and research topics. *Review of International Studies* 36(4): 881-901
- Soares de Lima, Maria Regina, and Monica Hirst. 2006. Brazil as an intermediate state and regional power: action, choice and responsibilities. *International Affairs* 82(1): 21-40.
- Zarif. 2014. “What Iran Really Wants” *Foreign Affairs*.

### **March 22: The Foreign Policy of Minor Powers**

- Elman, Miriam F. 1995. “The Foreign Policies of Small States: Challenging Neorealism in Its Own Backyard. *British Journal of Political Science* 25(2): 171–217.
- Whitaker, Beth. 2010. “Soft Balancing among Weak States? Evidence from Africa. *International Affairs* 86(5): 1109–27.

### **March 27: Making International Security Policy**

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

### **March 29: Making International Security Policy**

### **April 3: Making International Economic Policy**

- Cooper, Richard N. 1972. Trade policy is foreign policy. *Foreign Policy* (9): 18-36.
- WTO Charter
- Petri, P.A. and Plummer, M.G., 2012. The Trans-Pacific Partnership and Asia-Pacific Integration: Policy Implications. *The Pacific Review*

### **April 5: No Class, International Studies Association Conference**

### **April 10: Making International Economic Policy**

- Weiss, Thomas. 1999. “Sanctions as a Foreign Policy Tool: Weighing Humanitarian Impulses” *Journal of Peace Research* 36(5): 499-509
- Drury, A. Cooper. 2001. “Sanctions as Coercive Diplomacy: The U.S. President’s Decision to Initiate Economic Sanctions” *Political Research Quarterly*.

- Frank, R. 2006. The political economy of sanctions against North Korea. *Asian Perspective*, pp. 5-36.

### **April 12: Making International Environmental Policy**

- Mitchell, Ronald B. 2003. International environmental agreements: a survey of their features, formation, and effects. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 28(1): 429-461.
- Paris Climate Agreement

### **April 17: Making International Environmental Policy**

- Schreurs, Miranda A., and Yves Tiberghien. "Multi-level reinforcement: explaining European Union leadership in climate change mitigation." *Global Environmental Politics* 7.4 (2007): 19-46.
- Kilian, Bertil, and Ole Elgström. "Still a green leader? The European Union's role in international climate negotiations." *Cooperation and Conflict* 45.3 (2010): 255-273.

### **April 19: Exam 2**

**April 24 & 26: Foreign policy speeches and discussion of briefing papers**

**May 1 & 3: In Class Simulation**

**Final Exam Period – May 8, 8AM**