

Government 311 United States Foreign Policy
Professor Douglas Foyle

Winter 2015

Days: January 7 to January 9, January 12 to January 16

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.

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 due on January 20. 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 12 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

Jeffrey Lantis, U.S. Foreign Policy In Action (USFPA), 2013.

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 7, 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. (hyperlink)

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)

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 38-67.

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. (hyperlink)

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. (hyperlink)

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

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

January 8, 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.

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. 312-333. (hyperlink)

2. The Presidency

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

Lantis, USFPA, 68-99

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

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)

Fredrick Logevall, “Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam,” Presidential Studies Quarterly, March 2004, pp. 100-112. (hyperlink)

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

January 9, 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.

Miller Center, "National War Powers Commission Report." (hyperlink).

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." (hyperlink).

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 12, Monday -- Essay Paper due, 9 am.

1. Public Opinion and Elections

Foyle, "Vox Populi as a Foundation for Foreign Policy Renewal? Unity and Division in Post-Bush Administration Public Opinion." (hyperlink).

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 204-224.

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 and Political Parties

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 163-203.

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

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 13, Tuesday

1. Case Discussion: DP World

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

2. Foreign Policy Institutional Actors

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 116-144.

Clinton, "Leading Through Civilian Power," DSAFP, pp. 239-252.

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.

3. The Military

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

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

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. (hyperlink).

January 14, Wednesday

1. Economics

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

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 pdf). 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."

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

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

Stephen M. Walt, "Indispensable or Insolvent." (hyperlink).

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

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

Budget primer. (hyperlink).

Debt and defense primer. (hyperlink).

3. Goals and Interests and Simulation Exercise Step 1

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

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

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 145-162.

January 15, 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.

McDougall, "Can the U.S. Do Grand Strategy" FPRI April 2010. ([hyperlink](#)).

Kupchan and Trubowitz, "Grand Strategy for a Divided America." ([hyperlink](#)).

3. Security Threats

John Mueller, "Is There Still a Terrorist Threat?: The Myth of the Omnipresent Enemy," Foreign Affairs September/October 2006. ([hyperlink](#)).

2014 DNI Threat Assessment. ([hyperlink](#)).

Western, "Sources of Humanitarian Intervention," DSAFP, pp. 399-416. ([hyperlink](#)).

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

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

January 16, 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

Elisabeth Bumiller and Thom Shanker, "Panetta Strategy for Cutting Military Budget," New York Times, January 2, 2012. ([hyperlink](#)).

2012 Defense Strategic Guidance. ([hyperlink](#)).

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

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

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

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 282-295.

Final Due: January 20, 5 p.m. (upload to the Moodle)