

Government 311 United States Foreign Policy
Professor Douglas Foyle

Winter 2020

Days: January 7 to January 10, January 14 to January 17

Times: 9 am- 11:30 am; 1 pm – 3:30 pm

Class Location: TBA

Home Page: <http://dfoyle.faculty.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.

PLEASE NOTE: Students will be expected to complete the readings *before* the start of the class on January 7.

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) (25%), 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).

Final Exam

Final: There will be an essay-format, take-home final due on January 22. 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 Tuesday, January 13 at 5 pm (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, 2018 ISBN: 9781442268173.

James McCormick (ed.), Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy (DSAFP), 2018, 7th edition, ISBN 9781442275362.

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 disability as defined by the ADA. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

If you have a disability, or think that you might have a disability, please contact Accessibility Services in order to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Accessibility Services is located in North College, rooms 021/022, or can be reached by email (accessibility@wesleyan.edu) or phone (860-685-5581).

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, if not all of it, 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 of the syllabus).

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.

January 7, Tuesday

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.

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

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

Western, "Sources of Humanitarian Intervention: Beliefs, Information, and Advocacy in U.S. Decision on Somalia and Bosnia," DSAFP, pp. 327-342.

Goldgeier, "NATO Expansion: Anatomy of a Decision," , pp. 345-360.

January 8, Wednesday

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.

Daniel Ellsberg, Doomsday Machine, 2017 (selections).

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.

Fisher, "Presidential Wars," DSAFP, pp. 183-202.

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

Andrew Rudalevige, "No, A Downed Drone Does not Give Trump the Authority to Start a War," Washington Post (Money Cage), June 22, 2019 (Moodle Readings).

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. 315-327.

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

January 9, Thursday

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. 219-236.

Miller Center, "National War Powers Commission Report."

2. The President

Nelson, "Person and Office: Presidents, the Presidency, and Foreign Policy," DSAFP, pp. 173-182.

Kaplan, "Obama's Decision-Making Style," DSAFP, pp. 381-97

Ryan Lizza, "(Obama) The Consequentialist" New Yorker 2011 (selections)

Julie Kaarbo, "Trump's Personality and U.S. Foreign Policy" BRICOLAGE, 2017.

Christopher Whipple, The Gatekeepers, Epilogue, 2017

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

Elizabeth Saunders, "Is Trump a Normal Foreign-Policy President? What We Know After One Year," Foreign Affairs, January 2018.

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

3. Case Discussion: Iraq War 2003

Pfiffner, "President Bush and the Invasion of Iraq: Presidential Leadership and Thwarted Goals," DSAFP, pp. 361-380.

Douglas Foyle, "Leading the Public to War?" International Journal of Public Opinion Research, 2004.

January 10, Friday

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. 203-218.

American Academy of Diplomacy, "American Diplomacy at Risk," DSAFP, pp. 237-52.

Jervis, "Why Intelligence and Policymakers Clash," DSAFP, pp. 266-282.

Susan Rice, "The Threat in the White House," New York Times December 23, 2018

Trump Political Appointee Status [here](#).

2. The Military

Feaver & Gelpi, "American Veterans in Government and the Use of Force," DSAFP, pp. 85-122.

Flournoy, "The Urgent Need for Defense Reform" DSAFP, pp. 253-264.

Fred Kaplan, "The Think Skin of John Kelly," Slate October 26, 2017.

Alice Hunt Friend, "This is the One Norm Trump Didn't Break When He Pulled Troops Out of Syria," Washington Post (Monkey Cage) January 6, 2019

Alex Horton, "For Some Veterans, John Kelly's Remarks Add to A Worrying Civilian-Military Divide," Washington Post October 21, 2017.

3. The Media, Public Opinion, and Information

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

Jeffrey Lantis, US Foreign Policy In Action, pp. 216-37 (Moodle Readings)
(Note: You are not doing the presentations discussed in this reading).

Entman, "How Media Limit Accountability in Foreign Policymaking: Iraq and Beyond," DSAFP, pp. 119-132.

January 13 -- Essay Paper due, 5 pm.

January 14, Tuesday

1. Public Opinion and Elections

Snow & Haney, Chapter 8 (through p. 205).

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

Berinsky, "Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict," DSAFP, pp. 103-118.

Smeltz et al., "Foreign Policy Beliefs Among Leaders and the Public," DSAFP, pp. 133-152.

Busby, Smeltz, Tama, "Trump and His Advisers Are Probably Wrong About What Foreign Policy Americans Want," Washington Post (Monkey Cage), July 3, 2019

2. Interest Groups and Political Parties

Snow & Haney, Chapter 7.

Mearsheimer and Walt, "The Israel Lobby," DSAFP, pp. 69-84.

Sam Goldman, "It's Christian Politics, Not AIPAC Money, That Explains American Support for Israel," Washington Post (Monkey Cage), February 12, 2019

3. Case Discussion: DP World

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

January 15, 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>).

Smith, "Liberal Internationalism," DSAFP, pp. 31-42.

Dueck, "Conservative American Realism," DSAFP, pp. 43-58.

Nau, "Conservative Internationalism," DSAFP, pp. 59-68.

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

2. Grand Strategy

Hal Brands, What Good is Grand Strategy?, 2014, Chapter 1.

Barry Posen & Andrew Ross, "Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy," International Security 1996-1997, (Neo-isolationism, Selective Engagement, Cooperative Security, Primacy), pp. 3, 9-15, 17-21, 23-30, 32-42.

Barry R. Posen, "The Rise of Illiberal Hegemony: Trump's Surprising Grand Strategy," Foreign Affairs 2018

Joel Gehrke, "State Department preparing for clash of civilizations with China," Washington Examiner April 30, 2019.

Jessica Chen Weiss, "No, China and the U.S. Aren't Locked in an Ideological Battle," Washington Post (Monkey Cage), May 4, 2019.

3. Security Threats

Snow & Haney, Chapter 9.

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

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, "The World Wants You to Think Like a Realist" Foreign Policy May 2018.

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

January 16, Thursday

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

2. Economics

Snow & Haney, Chapter 10.

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

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

Adam S. Posen, "The Post-American World Economy: Globalization in the Trump Era," Foreign Affairs 2018

Adam Dean, "Free Trade Doesn't Just Lead to Job Loss," Washington Post (Monkey Cage), July 15, 2019.

Neil Irwin, "The Trump Trade Strategy is Coming Into Focus," New York Times October 6, 2018.

January 17, Friday

1. 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.

3. Great Power Dynamics

China

Kurt M. Campbell & Ely Ratner, "The China Reckoning: How Beijing Defied American Expectations," Foreign Affairs 2018.

Jisi Wang; Stapleton Roy; Aaron Friedberg; Thomas Christensen; Patricia Kim; Joseph S. Jr. Nye; Eric Li; Kurt M. Campbell; Ely Ratner, "Did America Get China Wrong: The Engagement Debate," Foreign Affairs 2018.

Stacie E. Goddard, "The U.S. and China are Playing a Dangerous Game. What Comes next?" Washington Post, October 3, 2018.

Ana Swanson & Keith Bradsher, "U.S. China Trade Standoff May be Initial Skirmish in Broader Economic War," New York Times May 11, 2019.

Russia

Andrei Shleifer & Daniel 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.

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

Snow & Haney, Chapters 11, 12.

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

Final Due: January 22, 5 p.m. (upload to the Moodle)