Government 311 United States Foreign Policy
Professor Douglas Foyle

Winter 2021
Days: January 5 - January 29, Tuesday through Friday
Times: 1 pm - 3:30 pm Eastern Time Zone
Class Location: synchronous, online
Home Page: http://dfoyle.faculty.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 and broad analytical tools. With this 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 as well as a simulation of foreign policy decision making.

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 (30%), (2) 3 short analytical papers (2-3 pages each) (35%), 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 February 2. 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.

Papers

A 2-3 page essay is due on the following dates (3 papers total): Monday, January 11, Monday, January 18, and Monday, January 25. Each paper is due at 5 p.m.

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).

There is one book on reserve.

Stanley Renshon & Peter Suedfeld, The Trump Doctrine and the Emerging International System, 2021. Referred to as Trump Doctrine on the Moodle. ISBN: 978-3030450496. This can also be rented or purchased through Amazon.

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?

Accommodations Statement

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 021/218, or can be reached by email (accessibility@wesleyan.edu) or phone (860-685-2332).
Class Schedule

A note on class schedule: Because of daily classroom pacing, reading material is listed in 2 day blocks.

January 5, Tuesday and January 6, Wednesday

The Legacy of U.S. Foreign Policy History


Snow & Haney, Chapter 1, Chapter 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.


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."

Donald J. Trump, RNC Speech Transcript, August 27, 2020, pp. 16-17. (Moodle Readings). From red arrow and blue highlighted text to conclusion. Consider in light of other material.

Models of American Foreign Policy Making: Individual Level


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

January 7, Thursday and January 8, Friday

Case Discussions -- 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).


The Presidency

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

Snow & Haney, Chapter 4.


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."

Case Discussions -- Vietnam

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

January 12, Tuesday and January 13, Wednesday

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.


The President

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

Henry R. Nau, "Trump and America's Foreign Policy Traditions," Trump Doctrine, Chapter 3

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

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


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


Case Discussion -- *Iraq War 2003*


**January 14, Thursday and January 15, Friday**

**Public Opinion and Elections**

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


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


**Interest Groups and Political Parties**

Snow & Haney, Chapter 7.

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


**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).


**Case Discussion -- *DP World 2006***


**January 19, Tuesday and January 20, Wednesday**

Foreign Policy Institutional Actors

Snow & Haney, Chapter 5.

Martha Cottam, "Foreign Policy Decision Making in the Trump Administration," *Trump Doctrine*, Ch.5


William Taylor, "Opening Statement" October 22, 2019 (Moodle Readings) Look for aspects of the interagency process and short-circuits of the interagency process.

The Military


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

Jeffrey Goldberg, "James Mattis Denounces President Trump, Describes Him as a Threat to the Constitution," The Atlantic, June 3, 2020


Interests and Goals


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


Walt, "The End of Hubris And the Age of American Restraint" Foreign Affairs May/June 2019


Peter Seudfeld, Bradford H. Morrison, and Lawrence Kuznar, "National Interests and the Trump Doctrine: The Meaning of "America First" Trump Doctrine, Ch. 2

January 21, Thursday and January 22, Friday

Grand Strategy

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


Stanley A. Renshon, "The Trump Doctrine and Conservative American Nationalism," Trump Doctrine Ch. 1

Security Threats

Snow & Haney, Chapter 9.

Thomas Preston, "Deterrence, Competence, and Containment in the Trump Foreign Policy: Comparing Present and Past Strategies of American Leadership" Trump Doctrine Ch. 6

Thomas Wright, "The Folly of Retrenchment," Foreign Affairs March/April 2020

Stephen Wertheim, "The Price of Primacy," Foreign Affairs March/April 2020

Ben Rhodes, "The 9/11 Era is Over," The Atlantic, April 6, 2020

Economics

Snow & Haney, Chapter 10.

James Jay Carafano, "The Trump Doctrine and the Institutions of the Liberal International Order," Trump Doctrine, Ch. 4


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


January 26, Tuesday and January 27, Wednesday

National Security Council Simulation

January 28, Thursday and January 29, Friday

Resource Allocation: Budgets and Defense Policy

Kathleen Hicks, "Getting to Less: The Truth About Defense Spending," Foreign Affairs March/April 2020

Katrina vanden Heuvel, "After This Pandemic Passes, America Needs a Reckoning with its National Security," *Washington Post* April 7, 2020


Great Power Dynamics

Daniel W. Drezner, "This Time is Different: Why U.S. Foreign Policy Will Never Recover," *Foreign Affairs* May/June 2019

Graham Allison, "The New Spheres of Influence," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2020


Michael Beckley, "The End of the Affair: U.S.-China Relations Under Trump," *Trump Doctrine* Ch. 9

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

Snow & Haney, Chapters 11, 12.

**Final Due: February 2, 5 p.m. (upload to the Moodle)**