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/
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 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:


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


   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.


   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


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

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).


2. 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."

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):


Gordon Goldstein, Lessons in Disaster, pp. 144-185.
McNamara, In Retrospect.


**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" *DSAEP*, pp. 219-236.


2. The President


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


Christopher Whipple, *The Gatekeepers*, Epilogue, 2017


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

3. Case Discussion: Iraq War 2003


January 10, Friday

1. Foreign Policy Institutional Actors

Snow & Haney, Chapter 5.


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


Trump Political Appointee Status here.

2. The Military


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


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

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).


January 13 -- Essay Paper due, 5 pm.

January 14, Tuesday

1. Public Opinion and Elections

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


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


January 15, Wednesday

1. Interests and Goals


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


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

2. Grand Strategy

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


3. Security Threats

Snow & Haney, Chapter 9.


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


January 16, Thursday

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

2. Economics

Snow & Haney, Chapter 10.


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

January 17, Friday

1. Defense Policy


3. Great Power Dynamics

   China


   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.


   Russia


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)