

Comparative Foreign Policy

POSC 267 Winter 2016

Time: Tuesday, Thursday 10:10-11:55

Location: Weitz Center for Creativity 133

Instructor: Greg Marfleet

Office: Willis 206

Office Hours Th 3:00-4:30, W 1-4.

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Course Description:

Is "Grand Theory" in IR dead?

In a recent working paper two prominent IR scholars, Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer, lamented the narrowing focus of the discipline and the lack of new, comprehensive works of IR theory. For years classics works loomed over the field including: Hans Morgenthau's Politics among Nations, Kenneth Waltz's Theory of International Politics, Thomas Schelling's The Strategy of Conflict, Hedley Bull's The Anarchical Society, Robert Keohane's After Hegemony, Alexander Wendt's Social Theory of International Politics and (they are too modest to include themselves) Walt's Origins of Alliances and Mearsheimer's Tragedy of Great Power Politics. Lately, we've stalled out.

Have we abandoned "big theory"? Is this due to some hangover from the end of the Cold War (a generation ago)? Are we struggling for frameworks after 9/11 and the Bush Doctrine? Are we waiting for China to finally rise to center stage?

Some might suggest that our problem is the inadequacy of state-centric IR in the context of global challenges like terrorism, climate change and financial interdependence. These critics point to the neglect of transnational, non-state actors and the role of domestic politics. As if to recognize these claims, the profusion of 'less-than-grand' IR scholarship has often centered on mid-range policy problems and hypotheses about state behavior.

At its heart, this debate surrounds the utility of 'Actor General' versus 'Actor Specific' kinds of explanations. The field of Comparative Foreign Policy -- initially an outgrowth of the behavioral era in IR (the 60's) -- seems ready to make a comeback. Informed by the insights of new approaches from rational choice and constructivist IR thinking, but still focused on the incorporation of domestic factors into the explanatory framework, CFP suggests an actor-in-system framework for mid-range explanation.

In this course we will explore the global political orientations of five types of states in the International system: Western Allies, the BRICS, Regional Powers, Rogue States, and Small States.

Texts:

[FPCP] Beasley, Kaarbo, Lantis and Snarr (2013) Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective. Second Edition. Sage CQ press. (First edition books have different cases and won't work).

Grading

Participation and Daily News Quizzes 20

Country SEO Status Updates (2) 20

Simulation Prep and Response Paper 20

Theory or Regional Analysis Paper 15

Group Country FP Presentation 25

IMPORTANT "SIGN UP" LINKS

The preponderance of our class meetings will focus on a particular country case. We will discuss the historical context, external factors, internal factors and contemporary issues as presented in the FCPC chapter.

However, those chapters were written in 2013 and change does happen! The magnitude of these changes might be limited or profound depending on the case.

For each case THREE students will present a 15 minutes presentation (5 minutes each) updating us on case-related news and events since 2013. These presentations should address three topical issues SE & O: a) Security and Defense challenges; b) Economics and Trade developments; and c) Other policy areas such as the environment, human rights, global health, international organizations, refugees etc.

You must sign up for TWO COUNTRIES but note that there are three choice links. Each of these only has 12 open slots (there are 18 students enrolled) so you may be blocked out from one.

Country Status Update (Security) Choice

Country Status Update (Economics) Choice

Country Status Update (Other Policy Areas) Choice

SEO Powerpoint Slide Upload Assignment

Upload your Powerpoint slide for your case-related Security, Economic or Other foreign policy presentation.

I will grade each submission out of 10 and update your score after each upload.

Group Country FP Presentations

You and two group members (4 total per country) will help to construct an FP analysis of a country of your choosing which is NOT one of the countries we explore in the course reading. Each groups will prepare a POSTER which will be part of a class display held on the final day of class. The poster will adopt the general format of the reading chapters and include four sections related to a) historical context, b)

external factors, c) internal factors and d) a contemporary example of a foreign policy issue or challenge. We will spend some class time on this project toward the end of term.

3 January - 9 January

Tuesday

Introductions, Course Structure & Requirements

Lecture: IR theory in brief

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 1 and Chapter 15

10 January - 16 January

Week 1 Theory Lecture: Leaders, Cognition and Personality

Related Readings:

Hermann, M.G. and Hermann, C.F., 1989. Who makes foreign policy decisions and how: An empirical inquiry. *International Studies Quarterly*, pp.361-387.

Hermann, M.G., 1980. Explaining foreign policy behavior using the personal characteristics of political leaders. *International Studies Quarterly*, pp.7-46.

CFP Lecture 1 File

Tuesday

FPCP Chapter 2: Britain

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 3: France

17 January - 23 January

Week 2 Theory Lecture: Rational Leaders and Institutions - Selectorate Approaches

Related Readings:

De Mesquita, B.B., Morrow, J.D., Siverson, R.M. and Smith, A., 2004. Testing novel implications from the selectorate theory of war. *World Politics*, 56(03), pp.363-388.

De Mesquita, B.B. and Smith, A., 2007. Foreign aid and policy concessions. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51(2), pp.251-284.

CFP Lecture 2 File

Tuesday

FPCP Chapter 4: Germany

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 5: Russia

24 January - 30 January

Week 3 Theory Lecture: Group Decision Making

Related Reading:

Schafer, M. and Crichlow, S., 2002. The Process-Outcome Connection in Foreign Policy Decision Making: A Quantitative Study Building on Groupthink. *International Studies Quarterly*, 46(1), pp.45-68.

Maoz, Z., 1990. Framing the national interest: The manipulation of foreign policy decisions in group settings. *World Politics*, 43(01), pp.77-110.

CFP Lecture 3 File

Tuesday

FPCP Chapter 6: China

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 7: Japan

31 January - 6 February

Week 4 Theory Lecture: Bureaucratic Politics

Readings:

Allison, G.T., 1969. Conceptual models and the Cuban missile crisis. *American political science review*, 63(03), pp.689-718.

Drezner, D.W., 2000. Ideas, bureaucratic politics, and the crafting of foreign policy. *American Journal of Political Science*, pp.733-749.

John, D.S., 1974. *The Cybernetic Theory of Decision: New Dimensions of Political Analysis*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Cohen, M.D., March, J.G. and Olsen, J.P., 1972. A garbage can model of organizational choice. *Administrative science quarterly*, pp.1-25.

CFP Lecture 4 File

Tuesday

FPCP Chapter 8: India

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 13: Brazil

7 February - 13 February

Week 5 Theory Lecture: Role Theory and (Strategic) Culture

Readings:

Holsti, K.J., 1970. National role conceptions in the study of foreign policy. *International Studies Quarterly*, 14(3), pp.233-309.

Doty, R.L., 1993. Foreign policy as social construction: A post-positivist analysis of US counterinsurgency policy in the Philippines. *International studies quarterly*, pp.297-320.

CFP Lecture 5 File

Tuesday

FPCP Chapter 9: Turkey

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 10: Iran

14 February - 20 February

Week 6 Theory Lecture: Interest Groups and Public Opinion

Readings:

Jentleson, B.W. and Britton, R.L., 1998. Still Pretty Prudent Post-Cold War American Public Opinion on the Use of Military Force. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 42(4), pp.395-417.

Jacobs, L.R. and Page, B.I., 2005. Who influences US foreign policy?. *American political science review*, 99(01), pp.107-123.

Tuesday

FPCP Chapter 11: Nigeria

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 12: South Africa

21 February - 27 February

Tuesday

In-class visit from US intelligence official and Carleton Alumnus

Group Project Workshop

Thursday

FPCP Chapter 14: Venezuela (note, there are no Student SEO update presenters for this case)

28 February - 5 March

Tuesday

Simulation Day 1

Thursday

Simulation Day 2

6 March - 12 March

Tuesday