Course Syllabus

POSC 328 Foreign Policy Analysis

Fall 2015

Library 344

T, Th 1:15 to 3:00

Instructor: Greg Marflee

Willis 406 ext 4116

Office Hours T, Th 3:15 to 4:30

Email: gmarflee@carleton.edu

In this course we examine some of the leading theoretical approaches to the study of foreign policy across a range of countries and issue areas. The goal of the course is to prepare students to critically evaluate the theoretical literature on foreign policy, to participate in a collaborative data generation project and to conduct their own research.

Foreign Policy Analysis is a sub-field of international relations which has received increased attention since the end of the Cold War. Critics observed that the (mostly structural) dominant IR theories failed to predict or explain this profound transformation. Subsequently, the debate over the Democratic Peace, 9/11, Afghanistan and US motivations for the invasion of Iraq have generated renewed interest approaches that emphasize the role that actor (leader, state and regime) characteristics may play in international politics. The rising status of FPA was evidenced by the decision of the International Studies Association to support the creation of an eponymously titled new journal dedicated to this area of research.

Although the sub-field, like most sub-fields in political science and international relations, is a diverse set of research programs and theoretical approaches, FPA scholars share several common tendencies. First, they eschew ‘grand theory’ and broad systemic explanations of world politics in favor of mid-range explanations for the behavior of actors in international affairs. Second, they are generally suspicious of the simplifying assumption that states can be viewed as unified and/or rational agents. The rejection of these assumptions forces FPA researchers to ‘open the black box’ of the state as they seek explanations for events, choices and outcomes. This makes FPA is an inherently interdisciplinary sub-field as scholars must acquaint themselves with topics such as leadership, decision making, group dynamics, bureaucracies, institutional constraints on government, public opinion and the media (to name just a few). FPA draws on theories of human interaction and behavior in social psychology, organizational behavior, economic and sociology.
There is no text, this is an article-centered class, see the reading list below

For data analysis tips see the Quick-R website [http://www.statmethods.net/index.html](http://www.statmethods.net/index.html)

**Links for Group Data Analysis (this will grow as we go!):**

[Defense White Papers and National Security Strategies (Links to an external site.)](http://www.statmethods.net/index.html)

[Gelpi's Research Resources for IR (Links to an external site.)](http://www.statmethods.net/index.html)

**Assignments:**

- Participation, Attendance and Engagement 15
- Reading Responses and Leadership 10 (2 x 5pts each)
- Digging Deeper Articles 10 (2 x 5pts each)
- Research Proposal and Presentation 15 (See Week 6)
- Final Research Paper 30 (Due by the end of the exam period)
- Data Analysis: Group Data Collection Contribution 20

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**Week 1**

**Tuesday: What is FPA?**


**Thursday: Do system structures shape actor behavior?**


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**Week 2**

**Thursday: Does domestic instability generate conflict?**


**Thursday: How do national culture and role perceptions shape state behavior?**

• Thies, C. G. (2012). "International socialization processes vs. Israeli national role conceptions: can role theory integrate IR theory and foreign policy analysis?". *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 8(1), 25-46. (Link to PDF) (Links to an external site.)


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**Week 3**

**Tuesday: How do rivalries start and end?**


**Thursday: DATA LAB ACTIVITY – CONFLICT DATA**

*POSC230Workspace.RData*

Mids Data (Links to an external site.)
Week 4

Tuesday: How do countries choose allies?


Thursday: Data LAB ACTIVITY – TREATIES, ALLIANCES AND BEHAVIOR IN IOs

Week 5

Tuesday: Why do countries give aid?

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith. 207. Foreign Aid and Policy Concessions. The Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 51, No. 2, pp. 251-284 (J-stor) (Links to an external site.)

Thursday: DATA LAB ACTIVITY – AID DATA
Week 6

**Tuesday: Why do countries use Sanctions?**


**Thursday: Proposal Brainstorming and presentations**

*(suggested readings)*


Week 7

**Tuesday: How do international norms affect state behavior?**


**Thursday: DATA LAB ACTIVITY: GLOBAL EVENTS DATA**

Week 8

**Tuesday: How has foreign policy responded to (or attracted) terrorism?**


(both these papers use negative binomial regression -- a technique for count level data with dispersion issues or over-represented zeros -- check out this explanation for R [http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/r/dae/nbreg.htm](http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/r/dae/nbreg.htm))

*Thursday: DATA LAB ACTIVITY: TERRORISM DATA*

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**Week 9**

**Tuesday: Do leaders matter?**


*Thursday: How do Decision Units and Bureaucracies shape FP?*


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**Week 10**

**Tuesday: Wrapping up, class security document preliminary data analysis**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat Oct 24, 2015</td>
<td>Research Proposal and Presentation 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Nov 23, 2015</td>
<td>Final Research Paper 9:30pm</td>
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<td>Digging Deeper Related Article Outline</td>
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