Foreign Policy Analysis

Fall 2018

Library 344

MW 1:50 to 3:35

Instructor: Greg Marfleet

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Office Hours T 12:00 to 3:00, F 12:00-3:00

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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 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.

**Assignments and Grading**

Participation, Attendance and Engagement  15

Reading Synopsis and discussion question (2 X 10 -- Theory & Behavior) 20

Research Proposal and Presentation (See Week 6 workshop) 20

Final Research Paper (Due by the end of the exam period)  30

Group Data Collection Contribution 15

**9 September - 15 September**

- Monday
  - Topic: Introductions, Course Outline and Planning
- Wednesday
  - Topic: FPA vs IR

Reading:

Hudson Ch 1


**16 September - 22 September**

- Monday
  - Topic: Leaders

Reading:

Hudson Ch 2


- **Wednesday**
  - Topic: Small Groups/Advisors

  Reading:
  
  Hudson Ch 3


- **23 September - 29 September**
  - Monday
  - Topic: Bureaucracies, Organizations and Institutions

  Reading:
  
  Hudson Ch 3 (again ;))


  Krasner, S.D., 1972. Are bureaucracies important?(or Allison Wonderland). *Foreign Policy*, (7), pp.159-179. ([J-Stor](https://www.jstor.org/))

  - Wednesday
  - Topic: Culture, Identity and Roles

  Readings:
  
  Hudson Ch 4


- **30 September - 6 October**
Monday
Topic: Domestic Politics and Opposition

Reading:

Hudson Ch 5


Wednesday
Topic: System and State Attributes

Reading:

Hudson Ch 6


- **7 October - 13 October**
  - Monday
  - Data Day (Specifics to be negotiated)
  - Wednesday
  - Data Day (Specifics to be negotiated)

- **14 October - 20 October**
  - Monday
  - Mid-Term Break. No Class
  - Wednesday
  - Term Paper Workshop

- **21 October - 27 October**
  - Monday
  - Topic: Rivalry and Conflict
Readings:


- Wednesday
- Topic: Alliances

Readings:


- 28 October - 3 November
- Monday
- Topic: Foreign Aid

Readings:


- Wednesday
- Topic: Sanctions

Readings


- **4 November - 10 November**
  - Monday
  - Topic: Creating and Responding to Norms

  Readings


  - Wednesday
  - Topic: Terrorism and non-state security threats

  Readings


- **11 November - 17 November**
  - Monday

  Topic: Humanitarian Intervention

  Readings:


- Wednesday
- Wrapping up, review Hudson Ch 7,8