INR 4204 Comparative Foreign Policy

Fall 2016 – T (3), R (3 and 4) Fine Arts C 0120

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Office Hours: Thursday 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Description

This course aims at exploring different approaches and perspectives to Foreign Policy making. The syllabus is organized into three parts. In part 1, we consider the theoretical approaches and concepts necessary to analyze the foreign policies of different international actors. We examine the sources of foreign policy, including individual policy makers, characteristics of the domestic political environment, and international systemic factors. In the second part, we examine the interplay between the fields of International Relations and Foreign Policy Analysis. We review some (not all) of the theories of IR and examine the development of critical alternatives with the goal of understanding if any of these theoretical approaches can help us better understand foreign policy. The final section of the course explores post-Western approaches to foreign policy making. It explores concepts, approaches and perspectives to foreign policy that differ from the mainstream approaches examined in the second part of the class. The course content is primarily theoretical but students are expected to apply theories to relevant foreign policy cases.

Required Texts

- Valerie M. Hudson, Foreign Policy Analysis Beyond North America. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2015. (Note: this is available as an e-book on Library West’s webpage)

Grade Distribution

- Policy Options Papers (2 x 12.5) 25%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Foreign Policy Research Project 25%
- Attendance and Class Performance: 10 %
- Pop Quizzes: 15%

Policy Options Papers: you are asked to analyze a policy issue and produce a policy options paper to brief the President. Policy options papers offer (usually) three policy options and discuss the advantages and drawbacks of each one before recommending one of the three. See Canvas (under Files for more details and an example of an options paper.)

Midterm Exam: you will have a week to complete the exam. Questions will be handed on October 6th and due on October 13th.
Class performance: this course is based on seminar format and the goal is to get students to actively debate, engage, and critically reflect on class material. Although class roll will be taken and unexcused absences will be sanctioned, the bulk of the grade is about the quality and frequency of your participation. Come ready to participate, challenge, and debate issues.

If you are shy, speak to me as soon as the semester begins.

Foreign Policy Research Project: You will act as a consultancy group on an issue of the client’s choosing. Once we have figured out the different groups, we will have meetings during my office hours so that we agree on the issue and discuss the details. The project requires group research and coordination over an extended period of time. It has 2 main components, a paper and a presentation. Find more details about these in canvas but overall the consultancy is expected to present policy recommendations on the selected issue and present them at the end of the semester. Group presentations are scheduled for Tuesday November 29, Thursday December 1st, and Tuesday December 6th. However, all groups are to submit their policy papers to me by Tuesday November 29th. Late work is penalized (all group members) by 1/3 letter grade/day.

Pop quizzes: these contain questions on readings required for any given session. Since students are expected to come to class well-read and prepared; these quizzes will test that. You can use your notes to answer quizzes. Note that there is NO make-up opportunity for missed quizzes.

Your final cumulative score will be translated into a letter grade according to this schedule:
93 points or higher = A; 90–92.9 = A–; 87–89.9 = B+; 83–86.9 = B; 80–82.9 = B–; 77–79.9 = C+; 73–76.9 = C; 70–72.9 = C–; 67–69.9 = D+; 63–66.9 = D; 60–62.9 = D–; <60 = E.

Information on UF’s grading policies is posted at [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

Course policies:

- **University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities**: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

- **University Policy on Academic Misconduct**: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php).

- **The instructor reserves the right to make changes to syllabus readings whenever necessary.**

GETTING HELP:
For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>August 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Official University Holidays - no classes</td>
<td>Labor Day - September 5, Homecoming: October 14 – 15, Veterans Day: November 11, Thanksgiving: November 23 – 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Options paper # 1</td>
<td>09/22 at 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Options paper # 2</td>
<td>10/27 at 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Handed on 10/06 and due 10/13 at 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Research Projects</td>
<td>Outlines due on 11/10 at 9:30 am Final drafts due on 11/29 at 9:30 am Group presentations on 11/29 – 12/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Days - no classes</td>
<td>December 8 - 9</td>
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Course schedule

**PART 1: THEORETICAL OVERVIEW AND LEVELS OF ANALYSIS**

**Week 1 (August 23 – 25) Why Study Foreign Policy Comparatively?**

T. Introduction to the course and syllabus walk through (no readings)


**Week 2 (August 30, September 1) Overview of Foreign Policy Analysis**

T. a) Foreign Policy Analysis, chapter 1.
   b) Walter Carlsnaes, "Foreign Policy" In Handbook of International Relations, 2013, 298-325.

R. Dr. David Schweider gives a presentation on how to use library resources (no readings).

**Week 3 (September 6 – 8) Domestic/International, Agent/Structure Nexus**


R. a) Foreign Policy Analysis, chapter 5.

**Week 4 (September 13 – 15) Individual Level, Personalities/Perceptions**

T. a) Foreign Policy Analysis. Chapter 2


b) Foreign Policy Analysis. Chapter 3

**Week 5 (September 20 – 22) Culture, Ideas, and Institutions**


R. a) Foreign Policy Analysis. Chap. 4.


***POLICY OPTIONS PAPER # 1 DUE

**PART II: THEORIES OF IR AND FPA, DO THEY WORK FOR THE WEST AS WELL AS THE REST?**

**Week 6 (September 27 – 29) Pursuit of Power in FPA: Debates and Critiques**


Optional: Alternatives to Realism (Find it in Canvas under files)


b) John J. Mearsheimer, "Realism and the Rise of China": Click Here

Week 7 (October 4 – 6) Room for Norms in FPA: Dialogues


Week 8 (October 11 – 13) So, What’s a Feminist Perspective on FPA?


***MIDTERM EXAM DUE

Week 9 (October 18 – 20) National Interest, Critical Security and FPA

Week 10 (October 25 – 27) Identity, Strategic Culture and FPA

T.     a) Shibley Telhami and Michael Barnett, “Introduction: Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East,” in Identity and FP in the Middle East. 1-25
b) Foreign Policy Beyond North America, Chapter 5.

R.     a) Lisel Hintz, “’Take it outside!’ National identity contestation in the foreign policy arena” in EJIR (2015) 22(2) 335-362
b) Zachary Selden and Stuart Strome, “Competing Identities and Security Interests in the Indo–US Relationship,” Foreign Policy Analysis (2016) 0, 1–21

***POLICY OPTIONS PAPER # 2 DUE

PART III POST/NON-WESTERN FOREIGN POLICY

Week 11 (November 1 – 3) Relationality and FP Making


Week 12 (November 8 – 10) Religion, non-state actors, and FP Making

T.     a) John A. Rees Four Religions of Foreign Policy, sept. 18 2015, E-IR.


***POLICY RESEARCH PROJECTS OUTLINES DUE

Week 13 (November 15 – 17) FP and the War on Terror, Views of the ‘Others’


   c) Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, “Interpreting al-Qaeda,” Foreign Policy, January 6, 2014

Week 14 (November 22 – 24) Theory as practice, theory is practice?

   c) Foreign Policy Beyond North America, Chapter 9.

R.  Thanksgiving – no class

Week 15 (November 29 – Dec 1)

T.  Project presentations

***POLICY RESEARCH PROJECTS FINAL PAPER DRAFTS DUE

R.  Project presentations

Week 16 (December 6)

T.  Project presentations.