This course aims to familiarize students with the process by which foreign policy is made. In exploring this question, the course takes students on a tour through the foreign policy analysis (FPA) scholarship, which utilizes a variety of theoretical frameworks and research strategies. Broadly speaking, the course follows a traditional "levels of analysis" structure, beginning with the systemic or structural level, where we examine constraints on foreign-policy making such as balance of power considerations and alliance structures. We also consider systemic sources of foreign policy, including transnational social networks, multi-national corporations, diasporas, epistemic communities, global norms, and the democratic peace. We then move to the state level to investigate the influence of domestic factors such as regime type, government veto players, bureaucratic and organizational politics, sub-state interest groups, public opinion and media, as well as cultural factors. Finally, we move to individual-level factors that influence foreign policy decision-making, including cognitive maps, leadership traits, psychological factors, perceptions, and beliefs. Rather than offering a definitive answer to the question of how foreign policy is made, students will be encouraged to consider a number of possible sources and interactions among these sources. Students will also be asked to evaluate alternative accounts for a given foreign policy in order to construct the most plausible explanation for it. The course focuses largely on US foreign policy, as the FPA literature is largely U.S.-based. However, we will also examine foreign policy-making in the EU, China, Japan, Russia, as well as small or weak states.

The goals of the course are threefold. First, it aims to familiarize students with the principal approaches to foreign policy as a field related to, but distinct from, international relations. Second, it enables students to participate in and contribute to contemporary debates on foreign policy-making using theoretically-informed empirical analysis. Finally, it teaches students how to research and write and deliver a foreign policy paper to assist their own government in diagnosing a problem and offering concrete policies to solve the problems. In doing so, students must give attention to both the costs and political viability of their proposal.

Students are encouraged to read over the university guidelines on plagiarism with regard to any written work.
**Course Aims**
The course’s main aim is to provide students with a sound understanding of:

1) Competing theories of foreign policy
2) The principal differences between foreign policy and international politics
3) The trade-offs involved in using different levels of analysis
4) The uses and limits of comparative foreign policy analysis
5) How to ascertain the relative influence of psychological factors versus political institutions versus systematic constraints on foreign policy
6) How to identify analogies, national roles and norms in the production of foreign policy
7) How to write and deliver foreign policy papers.

**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Distinguish the causal logics of competing theories of foreign policy
- Explain foreign policy formation in concrete cases
- Test the relative explanatory value of competing theories using empirical analysis
- Undertake foreign policy analysis using process-tracing and other techniques
- Identify the policy implications of competing theories of foreign policy
- Develop, present and defend policy papers

**Course Requirements**

1) **Policy Paper (30%)**. Students are expected to write a policy paper addressing a foreign policy problem facing their own country. The paper should be 2,500 to 3,000 words in length (10-12 pages double-spaced). Students should consult with me in advance about their topics. **Due 10 a.m. November 12.** Details TBA.

2) **Presentation (15%)**. Students will be expected to deliver a presentation in class based on their policy paper. They should be prepared to argue for and defend their policy position in class (**November 13, 15**). Details TBA.

3) **Final Exam (40%)**. Students will be given an **in-class final exam** on the final day of class, **December 6**. This will be comprehensive, covering all the material in the course. Students will be allowed to take a page of notes to the final with them and will be given additional time to complete the exam, if needed.

4) **Class Participation (15%)**. Students are expected to **attend all the seminars and participate in class discussions**; since the course is highly interactive, it is essential that students attend the seminars having read the materials for that day’s class. **Additional short policy readings may also be assigned for selected seminars.**

2
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Course Introduction

*September 18: What is Foreign Policy and How Do We Analyze It?*


**Further Reading**


*September 20: Analytical Frameworks*


**Further Reading**

**Week 2. Systemic Theories of Foreign Policy**

*September 25: Realist and Neorealist Theories of Foreign Policy*


**Further Reading**
[http://books.google.hu/books?id=64PWMY5QksMC&lpg=pA63&ots=rc03zEYElt&dq=the%20global%20system%20and%20arab%20policies%20constraints &pg=pA61#v=onepage&q=the%20global%20system%20and%20arab%20foreign%20policies%20constraints%f=false](http://books.google.hu/books?id=64PWMY5QksMC&lpg=pA63&ots=rc03zEYElt&dq=the%20global%20system%20and%20arab%20policies%20constraints &pg=pA61#v=onepage&q=the%20global%20system%20and%20arab%20foreign%20policies%20constraints%f=false).


September 27: Liberal and Neo-Liberal Theories of Foreign Policy


Further Readings


Week 3. Other System-level Theories of Foreign Policy

October 2: National and International Norms


Further Readings

October 4: Neo-Gramscian and World Systems Theories


Reading TBA

Further Readings:
STATE LEVEL THEORIES OF FOREIGN POLICY

Week 4. Government Institutions and Domestic Political Actors

October 9: Organizational Culture and Bureaucratic Politics


Further Readings:

October 11: Coalition Governance, Sectors, and Special Interests


Further Readings

Week 5. Political Culture and Societal Actors

October 16: Political Culture and Ideas


Further Reading

October 18: Media and Public Opinion


**Further Readings**


**INDIVIDUAL LEVEL THEORIES OF FOREIGN POLICY**

**October 23**: Personality, Leadership, and Psychoanalytic Approaches


**Further Readings**


Juliet Kaarbo. 1997. "Prime Minister Leadership Styles in Foreign Policy Decision-

October 25: Cognition and Framing


Further Readings

Week 7. Psychoanalytic Approaches (cont.)

November 30: Emotions and Illness


**Further Readings**

November 1: Prospect Theory and Foreign Policy


**Further Readings**
Week 8. Constructivist Approaches to Foreign Policy Analysis

November 6: Historical Analogies and Metaphors in Foreign Policy Analysis


Further Readings

November 8: Role Theory and Foreign Policy


K. He and H. Feng. 2013. “Xi Jinping’s Operational Code Beliefs and China’s Foreign Policy,” The Chinese Journal of International Politics,

Further Readings

**Week 9. Student Presentations**

*November 12: Policy Papers Due*

*November 13: Presentations*

*November 15: Presentations (cont.)*

**Week 10. Non-Traditional Foreign Policy Actors**

*November 20: EU Foreign Policy*


**Further Readings**


Spyros Economides and James Ker-Lindsay. 2010. Forging EU foreign policy unity from diversity: the 'unique case' of the Kosovo Status Talks'. *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 15, 4, pp. 495-510.


November 22: Diasporas and other Non-State Actors


Further Readings

Week 11. Foreign Policy of Weak States and Non-Democracies

November 27: Weak and Developing States


Further Readings

**November 29: Contemporary Russian and Chinese Foreign Policy**

Peter Ferdinand. 2017. „Westward ho—the China Dream and „One Belt, one Road”: Chinese Foreign Policy under Xi Jinping,” *International Affairs*.


**Further Readings**

**Week 12. Wrap-up and Final Exam**

**December 4: Foreign Policy in the Twenty-first Century**


Short Reading, TBA.

**Further Readings**

*December 6: FINAL EXAM*