COURSE SYLLABUS

Foreign Policy Analysis

Instructor:
Erin Jenne, PhD
Professor, International Relations Dept.
Central European University
4 Credits (8 ECTS Credits)
Office hours: by appointment
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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 brief and defend it publicly before a critical audience. In doing so, students must give attention to both the costs and political viability of their proposal.

Students are strongly 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 brief 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 11.** Details TBA.

(2) **Presentation (15%)**. Students will be expected to deliver a team presentation in class based on their policy paper. They should be prepared to argue for and defend their policy position in class (**November 11, 12**). Details TBA.

(3) **Final Exam (essay) (45%)**. Students will be given an in-class final exam on the final day of class, **December 3**. 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 (10%)**. 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. Please be aware of the department policy on unexcused absences. **Additional short policy readings may also be assigned for selected seminars.**
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Course Introduction

September 16: What is Foreign Policy and How Do We Analyze It?


Further Reading

September 17: Analytical Frameworks


**Further Reading**


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

**September 23**: Realist and Neorealist Theories of Foreign Policy


**Further Reading**


http://books.google.hu/books?id=64PWMY5QksMC&pg=PA63&ots=rc03zEYEl&dq=the%20global%20system%20and%20arab%20foreign%20policies%20constraints&pg=PA61#v=onepage&q=the%20global%20system%20and%20arab%20foreign%20policies%20constraints&f=false.

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September 24: Liberal and Neoliberal Theories of Foreign Policy


Further Readings
Wolfgang Wagner. 2003. “Why the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy will Remain Intergovernmental: A Rationalist Institutional Choice Analysis of European
Week 3. Other System-level Theories of Foreign Policy

September 30: Norms, Taboos and Ideas


Further Readings


October 1: 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 7: Organizational Culture and Bureaucratic Politics


Further Readings:
American Political Science Review, 95, 1, pp. 191-98.
October 8: Coalition Governance, Sectors, and Special Interests


Further Readings

Week 5. Political Culture and Societal Actors

October 14: Political Culture and Ideas


Further Reading


October 15: Media and Public Opinion


Further Readings


INDIVIDUAL LEVEL THEORIES OF FOREIGN POLICY

October 21: Personality, Leadership, and Psychological Approaches


Further Readings

October 22: Cognition and Framing


Further Readings

**Week 7. Psychological Approaches (cont.)**

*October 28: Emotions and Illness*


**Further Readings**


*October 29: Prospect Theory and Foreign Policy*


**Further Readings**

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

**November 4: Metaphors and Narratives in Foreign Policy Analysis**


**Further Readings**
November 5: 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 13: Policy Papers Due

November 14: Presentations

November 16: Presentations (cont.)

Week 10. Non-Traditional Foreign Policy Actors

November 18: EU Foreign Policy


Further Readings

November 19: Diasporas and Churches in Foreign Policy


Further Readings

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

*November 25:* Weak and Developing States


**Further Readings**


*November 26:* 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 2: Foreign Policy in the Twenty-first Century*


Short Reading, TBA.

**Further Readings**


*December 3: FINAL EXAM*