

International Relations 441
Comparative Analysis of Foreign Policy

Class: Monday/Wednesday
5 to 6:20 p.m.
VKC 204

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to enable you to learn how to analyze and more fully understand foreign policy decisions. The first part of the course will cover different methods of analyzing foreign policy decisions, including individual, state, system and international level theories and approaches. The second part of the course will focus on case studies of major foreign policy decisions, their analysis and outcomes.

Grading

10% Class attendance and participation
5% Presentation of foreign policy stories of the day
5% Leading class discussion of readings
20% Midterm
15% Presentation of term paper findings
15% Term paper
30% Final

You will not be graded on a curve. You will receive your grade based on your work and participation. USC defines grades as the following:

- A: Outstanding work
- B: Above average work
- C: Average work
- D: Below average work
- F: Unsatisfactory work

Any violation of academic dishonesty rules as outlined on the USC web site will result in a grade of F for the course and reporting of the transgression to the university.

All assignments must be completed on time. Each day the term paper is late will result in the loss of one letter grade.

Term Paper

One of the most important foreign policy decisions a nation can make is whether to use military force. Therefore, the class will conduct a structured, focused comparison case study of decisions related to the intervention in Iraq in 2003. The class will be researching American, British, French, Russian, Chinese and several other states' decisions regarding foreign policy toward Iraq leading up to the Anglo-American intervention in 2003. Each country's decisions can be analyzed from multiple levels of

analysis. We will discuss the project and how it will be broken down into manageable assignments in the first few classes. Collaboration will be encouraged on the project, although each student must present their own findings at the end of the course. Each student will have 10 minutes to present their findings during one of the last classes. The term paper itself should be between 7 and 15 pages and is due the last class meeting on Nov. 29.

Class Preparation

You will be expected to come to class having read the readings and ready to participate in a discussion. Each student will be expected to lead the discussion during part of one class session.

We will spend a part of each class applying what we have learned about analyzing foreign policy decisions to current foreign policy decisions. Therefore, you should have looked at the newspaper, the evening world news, BBC news on PBS or a news website to be able to discuss some major foreign policy decisions that are mentioned in the media that day. Each student will be expected to lead the discussion about current foreign policy decisions in class for part of one class session.

Texts

Since the readings for each class are from articles and a chapter or two from different books, there are no required texts for the course. All of the assigned readings, books and articles, are available on reserve at Leavey (books physically, articles electronically). The articles are also available as a reader. Most of the books that have more than 40 pages assigned are also available at the bookstore, if you choose to purchase them.

Lectures and Readings

August 21: Introduction / Start of Discussion of Theory

No readings.

August 23: Theory: What is it and Why Use it?

Discuss Research Project: The structured, focused comparison case study.

Sign up for presenting news

Sign up for leading readings

No readings.

Part I: Theory and Approaches to the Analysis of Foreign Policy

August 28: Models of Foreign Policy Decision Making

Janice Gross Stein and Raymond Tanter, *Rational Decision-Making: Israel's Security Choices, 1967*, Chapter 2, pp.23-87.

August 30: Levels of Analysis

Individual level: Rational Actor

Laura Neack, *The New Foreign Policy, US and Comparative Foreign Policy in the 21st Century*, chapter 2, pp.37-73.

Sept 6: Perception and Misperception; Beliefs; Habit

Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Part III Common Misperceptions, Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11, pp.319-406.

Sept 11: Judging Decisions: Learning and Nonlinearity

Alan Beyerchen, "Clausewitz, Nonlinearity, and the Unpredictability of War," *International Security*, 17, 3, Winter 1992/93, 59-90.

Jack S. Levy, "Learning and Foreign Policy," *International Organization*, 48, 2, Spring 1994, 279-312.

Sept 13: Historical Analogies and Learning

Scot Macdonald, *Rolling the Iron Dice*, Introduction and Conclusion, 1-26, 191-216.

Sept 18: State Level: Organizational and Bureaucratic Politics

Stephen Krasner, "Are Bureaucracies Important?," *Foreign Policy*, 7, Summer 1972, 159-179.

Robert Art, "Bureaucratic Politics and American Foreign Policy: A Critique," *Policy Sciences*, 4, (1973), 467-490.

Sept 20: Culture, History, Nationalism

KJ Holsti, "National Role Conceptions in the Study of Foreign Policy," chapter 2, pp.5-43 in Walker, ed. *Role Theory and Foreign Policy Analysis*.

Ulf Hedetoft, "National Identities and Mentalities of War in Three EC Countries," *Journal of Peace Research*, 30, 3, 1993, 281-300.

Sept 25: Public Opinion and the Media

Simon Serfaty, ed., *The Media and Foreign Policy*:

Wallach, "Leakers, Terrorists, Policy Makers and the Press," 81-94.

Odom, "US Intelligence," 161-170.

Evans, "The Norman Conquest," 189-202.

Serfaty, "Neither Hero nor Villain," 229-240.

Sept. 27: Propaganda: Legitimizing Policy Decision

Scot Macdonald, Chapters 3, Psychological Operations, and 4: Psyops, from forthcoming book, *Propaganda and Information Warfare in the 21st Century*. About 38 pages.

Oct 2: System Level: Anarchy, Security Dilemma

Barry Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival*, 35, 1, Spring 1993, 27-47.

Gowa, "Anarchy, Egoism, and Third Images," *International Organization*, 40, 1, Winter 1986, 167-186.

Oct 4: Power and Position: Balance of Power

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," pp. 593-607 in Micah Sifry and Christopher Cerf, eds. *The Iraq War Reader*.

Shahram Chubin, "Regional Politics and the Conflict," pp.1-22 in Alex Danchev and Dan Keohane, eds, *International Perspectives on the Gulf Conflict, 1990-91*.

Oct 9: Review

Oct 11: Midterm (Please bring blue exam booklets to write in.)

Oct 16: Fourth level: International Regimes/Cooperation in an Anarchical System

Stephen Krasner, ed, *International Regimes*:

Krasner, "Structural Causes and Regime Consequences," 1-22.

Susan Strange, "Cave! Hic dragones: a critique of regime analysis," 337-354.

Sign up for times to present Research Paper findings.

Oct 18: International Ideas: Religion, Democracy, Revolution and Al Qaeda

Jason Burke, "Al Qaeda," *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2004, 18-26.

Alan Cassels, *Ideology and International Relations in the Modern World*, Introduction, 1-8, and Conclusion, 240-246.

Cindy Combs, *Terrorism in the Twenty-first Century*, 4th ed., Chapter 3: Ideology and Terrorism, 36-52, and Chapter 4: Criminal or Crusaders? 53-74.

Oct 23: Prolonged Interventions

Ariel Levite, Bruce Jentleson, and Larry Berman, eds. *Foreign Military Intervention*:

Chapter 8: Charles Kupchan, Getting In: pp.241-260.

Chapter 9: Eliot Cohen, Dynamics of Military Intervention, 261-284.

Chapter 10: George Downs, The Lessons of Disengagement, 285-300.

Part II: Analysis of Cases

Oct 25: Foreign Policy in the 1930s: World War II (Appeasement and Today)

PMH Bell, *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe*, 245-267.

Oct 30: Korea: US/UK Decisions

David Rees, *Korea: the limited war*, Chapter 1: The Beginnings, 3-20 and Chapter 2: The Toughest Decision, 21-35.

Nov 1: Iran 1951-53: US/UK Decisions

David Painter, *The United States, Great Britain, and Mossadegh*, case study, 1-19.

Moyara de Moraes Ruehsen, "Operation Ajax Revisited," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 29, 3, July 1993, 467-486.

Nov 6: Suez 1956: US/UK Decisions

Michael G. Fry, *The Suez Crisis, 1956*, case study, 1-28.

Nov 8: Lebanon-Jordan 1958: US/UK Decisions

Ritchie Owendale, Great Britain and the Anglo-American Invasion of Jordan and Lebanon in 1958, *International History Review*, xvi, 2, May 1994, pp.284-303.

Nov 13: The Gulf War

Scot Macdonald, "Hitler's Shadow," *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 13, 4, Dec. 2002, 29-59.

William Kincade, "On the Brink in the Gulf, Part 2," *Security Studies*, 3, 2, Winter 1993/4, 295-329.

Nov 15: Decision Making on Iraq: US/UK and Others

Start to present findings of research project.

John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy," JFK School of Government, Faculty Research Working Paper Series, 1-22.

Laurie Brand, *Citizens Abroad*, Preface, xi-xiii.

Nov. 20, 22, 27: Discussion of Iraq War

Presentation of findings from term papers.

Nov 29: Review

Term papers due at the beginning of class. Each day late results in loss of one letter grade.

Final: December 11 (Unless otherwise announced).

Academic Journals

For your research project academic journals represent the most current research on international relations. For recent articles, see *International Studies Quarterly*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Studies Review*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, *International Security*, *International Organization*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *World Politics*, *International Affairs*, *Orbis*, *Washington Quarterly*, and the *American Political Science Review*, among others.

You may also use websites, but be wary since many websites contain inaccurate information. The majority of your information should come from books, journals and, to a lesser extent, newspapers. If you use a website, please make sure you cite the address of the site, whose site it is, the date it was updated (if you can find out) and when you accessed it.