

Formulating U.S. Defense and Foreign Policy
How the System Works (or Doesn't)
IR 524
Fall Semester, 2003
Dr. G. Wayne Glass
(213) 821-3089
wglass@usc.edu

INTRODUCTION

U.S. defense and foreign policies and programs and the nation's overall national security policy reflect the complex nature of our democratic system and defy simplistic explanations. Most of us know about foreign and defense policies only AFTER they have become public information. In the absence of knowing how the process works and who the players are, we are usually reduced to conjecture about the sources and intent of those policies. Knowing HOW such policies are formulated, debated, and decided, however, can give students of our government important insights into why our policies take the shape that they do and what goals they might be intended to serve. This course seeks to look behind the headlines and describe key structures and processes that underlie the nation's national security foreign policy decision making.

The course will focus on the major governmental contributors to formulating our national security foreign policy, including key agencies of the executive and legislative branches of government. Classes and readings will provide information regarding the structure, key personnel, and decision making processes within the Department of Defense, the State Department, the intelligence community, and the Executive Office of the President, including the National Security Council. The curriculum will also cover the key committees of Congress which have oversight responsibilities regarding national security and foreign policy and will review legislative procedures and practices that can affect important security issues.

The course will incorporate a variety of pedagogical approaches to classroom learning, including lectures, classroom discussions, videos, guest speakers, and simulation exercises intended to portray important dynamics which underlie the policy formulation process. The course will require a number of short written assignments relating to class exercises and readings, a research paper of approximately 15 pages, and a final exam. Class attendance and participation will be particularly important since class exercises and discussions are critical and essential to meeting the learning objectives set for the course.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify and describe key organizations and their components which have significant roles, obligations, and authorities in formulating defense and foreign policy.

2. To describe and assess the standard program, budget, and international security-related decision making processes within agencies of the Executive Branch, and to familiarize students with related concepts and terminology.

3. To describe and assess the Congressional program budget review process for authorizing and appropriating funds for defense and international security foreign policies. To enhance understanding of the roles and practices of congressional staff, lobbying organizations, and the media which affect policy formulation and implementation.

4. To provide an understanding of how defense and foreign policies can be altered subsequent to endorsement by the executive branch and the legislature.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

1. Jerel A. Rosati, "The Politics of United States Foreign Policy", Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1999.

2. William Odom, "Fixing Intelligence for a More Secure America", Yale University Press, 2003

3. Donald Snow and Eugene Brown, "Puzzle Palace and Foggy Bottom: US Foreign and Defense Policy Making in the 1990s", St. Martin's Press. 1995

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Classroom written assignments: 30%

Classroom participation: 30%

Final Paper: 15%

Final Exam: 25%

(Excellent attendance may merit incremental grade improvement.)

CLASS SCHEDULE

August 27. Course overview. Theoretical context and today's national security agenda. The Threat. National Interest. Priorities.

Rosati: pp. 3-4 and 555-573.

September 3. Executive Branch Overview. DoD budget simulation exercise.

Rosati: pp. 173-207

Essay on DoD Simulation Exercise

September 10-17. Defense Budget and Acquisition Processes. Foreign Military Sales and Export Control programs.

Write Defense Budget Issue Paper.

Snow and Brown: pp. 72-83.

September 23-30. State Department. Organization, players, arms control issues,

treaties.

Rosati: pp. 149-167

Snow and Brown: pp. 90-100.

October 8-15. Intelligence Community. Organization, players, National Intelligence

Estimates, Congressional Oversight.

Rosati: pp. 213-251

Snow and Brown: pp. 83-90.

Odom: pp. 8-166

Tenet Testimony

October 22-29. Presidential management: OMB, NSC, Homeland Security. Organization, players.

Rosati: pp. 111-143

Snow and Brown: pp. 31-71

November 5-12. Legislative Branch. Organization, players. Hearings. Markup Process. Floor Action. Conference.

Rosati: pp. 303-350

Snow and Brown: pp. 107-145

November 19-26. Roles and Impact of Lobbyists and Media. "Lobbying 101" Press conference.

Rosati: pp. 445-486 and 505-552

Snow and Brown: pp 179-232.

Final Paper due on Nov 19.

December 3. Wrap up Session.

Final Exam.