

PO8017 US Foreign Policy

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Course Description: This module offers an introduction to various factors that influence how US foreign policy is made. The course will examine how institutions such as the Presidency and Congress determine foreign policy, the role of public opinion and the media, the effect of bureaucratic politics, and lobbying by special interest groups. At the end of the course, students should be able to explain trends in US foreign policy using these lenses and tools. Many of the theories and arguments introduced in the course will also be of use explaining the foreign policy of countries other than the US.

Assessment

Participation 15%

Student participation and discussion is a central aspect of the seminar. This means that it is necessary to do the readings. Students should come prepared with topics of discussion and questions. The assessment of participation will be based on the quality of input into class discussions. To prepare for discussion you should: identify the theory or argument of the readings; identify the method used by the authors in the readings to test their arguments, and evaluate the strength of these method for testing the authors' argument; and you should think of possible extensions or alternatives to the arguments put forward in the readings.

Along with participation in class, there will be a discussion board on Blackboard. All students are expected to make at least one comment or raise a question for discussion on this board by the day before class. Higher levels of participation are welcome.

Response Papers (800 words each) 20%

Students are required to submit two 800-word response papers each worth 10% of the student's total mark. Students must submit one paper during the first 3 weeks and one from the remaining two weeks. These response papers should critically evaluate the readings. This means identifying a weakness or limitation in the articles and offering suggestions on how to improve the research. The critical evaluation may focus on the empirical or theoretical aspects of the readings or both.

Presentation 15%

Each student will be required to provide a 5 minute presentation on one of the readings. These presentations are intended to stimulate discussion. To this end, the presentation should provide a brief over view of the reading, highlighting the main points. Students should emphasise potential questions for discussion and, critically, why these questions are of interest. There should be no or minimal summary of the readings. Grading will be based on the quality of content and presentation of the argument. A sign up list for the presentations will be distributed in the first week of term.

Research Design Paper (2500 words) 50%, Due March 11 2019

The research design paper focuses on a potential research project related to the military and politics. Based on the course materials or other knowledge related to the topic, students should identify a question of interest or puzzle that they do not feel is adequately answered in the literature. Students should define their research question, outlining the variation they hope to explain, develop a preliminary theory to explain the variation, then detail the methods they would use to test the theory. When outlining the methods students should pay close attention to issues such as how they conceptualise their key variables (both independent and dependent variables) and the data they would use to measure them and how the methods they propose can be used to falsify their theory.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is a serious matter and must be avoided. Students should be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism. Please see <http://www.tcd.ie/undergraduate-studies/general-regulations/plagiarism.php> for further information regarding plagiarism and the university's policy regarding it. **Text(s):** *A detailed reading list is provided below*

Course Outline

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class.

Week 1: Introduction

Required Reading:

- Milner, H. V. and Tingley, D. (2015). *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Princeton University Press, Chapters 1
- Brooks, S. G., Ikenberry, G. J., and Wohlforth, W. C. (2013). Lean forward: In defense of american engagement. *Foreign Aff.*, 92:130
- Walt, S. M. (2005). The relationship between theory and policy in international relations. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.*, 8:23–48

Recommended Reading:

- Hudson, V. M. (2013). *Foreign policy analysis: classic and contemporary theory*. Rowman & Littlefield
- Jentleson, B. W. (2004). *American foreign policy: the dynamics of choice in the 21st century*. WW Norton
- Morgenthau, H. J. (1950). The mainsprings of american foreign policy: The national interest vs. moral abstractions. *American Political Science Review*, 44(04):833–854
- Nye Jr, J. S., Rachman, G., Mead, W. R., Mearsheimer, J., Walt, S., Feaver, P. D., Gelpi, C., Berinsky, A. J., Nincic, M., Nelson, M., et al. (2012). *The domestic sources of American foreign policy: insights and evidence*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Week 2: Presidents and Congress

Required Reading:

- Milner, H. V. and Tingley, D. (2015). *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Princeton University Press, Chapters 2 and 4
- Saunders, E. N. (2017). No substitute for experience: Presidents, advisers, and information in group decision making. *International Organization*, 71(S1):S219–S247
- Howell, W. G. and Pevehouse, J. C. (2005). Presidents, congress, and the use of force. *International Organization*, 59(01):209–232

Recommended Reading:

- Lindsay, J. M. (2003). Deference and defiance: The shifting rhythms of executive-legislative relations in foreign policy. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 33(3):530–546
- Gallagher, M. E. and Allen, S. H. (2014). Presidential personality: Not just a nuisance. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 10(1):1–21

- Gelpi, C. and Feaver, P. D. (2002). Speak softly and carry a big stick? veterans in the political elite and the american use of force. *American Political Science Review*, 96(04):779–793
- Howell, W. G. (2011). Presidential power in war. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 14:89–105
- Milner, H. V. and Tingley, D. H. (2010). The political economy of us foreign aid: American legislators and the domestic politics of aid. *Economics & Politics*, 22(2):200–232
- Saunders, E. N. (2011). *Leaders at war: how presidents shape military interventions*. Cornell University Press
- Yarhi-Milo, K. (2014). *Knowing the Adversary: Leaders, Intelligence, and Assessment of Intentions in International Relations*. Princeton University Press

Week 3: Bureaucracy

Required Reading:

- Milner, H. V. and Tingley, D. (2015). *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5
- Rovner, J. (2011). *Fixing the facts: national security and the politics of intelligence*. Cornell University Press, Chapters 1-3
- Drezner, D. W. (2000). Ideas, bureaucratic politics, and the crafting of foreign policy. *American Journal of Political Science*, pages 733–749

Recommended Reading:

- Arel-Bundock, V., Atkinson, J., and Potter, R. A. (2015). The limits of foreign aid diplomacy: How bureaucratic design shapes aid distribution. *International Studies Quarterly*, 59(3):544–556
- Avant, D. D. (1996). Are the reluctant warriors out of control? why the us military is averse to responding to post-cold war low-level threats. *Security Studies*, 6(2):51–90
- Jervis, R. (2006). Reports, politics, and intelligence failures: The case of iraq. *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, 29(1):3–52
- Saunders, E. N. (2015). War and the inner circle: Democratic elites and the politics of using force. *Security Studies*, 24(3):466–501
- Zegart, A. B. (2005). September 11 and the adaptation failure of us intelligence agencies. *International Security*, 29(4):78–111

Week 4: Public Opinion and the Media

Required Reading:

- Milner, H. V. and Tingley, D. (2015). *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 6

- Baum, M. A. and Potter, P. B. (2008). The relationships between mass media, public opinion, and foreign policy: Toward a theoretical synthesis. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.*, 11:39–65
- Kertzer, J. D., Powers, K. E., Rathbun, B. C., and Iyer, R. (2014). Moral support: How moral values shape foreign policy attitudes. *The Journal of Politics*, 76(03):825–840

Recommended Reading:

- Kertzer, J. D. (2013). Making sense of isolationism: foreign policy mood as a multilevel phenomenon. *The Journal of Politics*, 75(01):225–240
- Kriner, D. L. and Shen, F. X. (2013). Reassessing american casualty sensitivity the mediating influence of inequality. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, page 0022002713492638
- Levendusky, M. S. and Horowitz, M. C. (2012). When backing down is the right decision: Partisanship, new information, and audience costs. *The Journal of Politics*, 74(02):323–338
- Mansfield, E. D., Mutz, D. C., and Silver, L. R. (2015). Men, women, trade, and free markets. *International Studies Quarterly*, 59(2):303–315
- Page, B. I. and Bouton, M. M. (2008). *The foreign policy disconnect: What Americans want from our leaders but don't get*. University of Chicago Press

Week 5: Interest Groups

Required Reading:

- Milner, H. V. and Tingley, D. (2015). *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3
- Fordham, B. O. and McKeown, T. J. (2003). Selection and influence: Interest groups and congressional voting on trade policy. *International Organization*, 57(3):519–549
- Jacobs, L. R. and Page, B. I. (2005). Who influences us foreign policy? *American political science review*, 99(01):107–123

Recommended Reading:

- Brooks, S. G. (2013). Economic actors' lobbying influence on the prospects for war and peace. *International Organization*, 67(04):863–888
- Fordham, B. O. (1998). Economic interests, party, and ideology in early cold war era us foreign policy. *International Organization*, 52(02):359–396
- Frieden, J. A. (1991). Invested interests: the politics of national economic policies in a world of global finance. *International Organization*, 45(04):425–451
- Haney, P. J. and Vanderbush, W. (1999). The role of ethnic interest groups in us foreign policy: the case of the cuban american national foundation. *International Studies Quarterly*, 43(2):341–361