



FOREIGN POLICY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

(POLITICAL SCIENCE 2530)

Class Time and Room: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35 – 3:55pm, McCain Auditorium 1

Instructor: **Prof. Brian Bow** brian.bow@dal.ca

Instructor's Office: Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building, Room 301A

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:00 – 12:00pm, or by appointment

Assistants: TBA

Introduction

Our purpose in this course is to try to make connections between broad, abstract theories of international politics and the real-world practice of foreign policy, by looking more closely at the ways states (and sometimes other relevant actors) make choices and take action. Along the way, we will look at a mixture of general theoretical and more concrete analytical and/or prescriptive readings.

Assignments / assessment

Mid-term Exam	25%	Thursday, February 12
Term Paper	35%	Monday, April 13
Final Exam	40%	Exam period (see below)

Exams

The mid-term exam will be held in class on **February 12** (last class before spring break). For the midterm exam, you will be responsible for all of the ideas and issues raised in lectures and required readings, up to the date of the exam. There will be some choice (e.g., answer 3 of 5 questions in this section) in all parts of the exam.

The final exam will be scheduled by the University Registrar. The official exam period for the Winter 2015 semester is **April 13-28**. Do not make work or travel plans until after you know the official dates and times for all of your final exams. If you will be obliged to be absent from the final exam for some compelling reason (e.g., serious illness or injury, death in your immediate family), you must explain that reason in a letter to the Chair of the Department, in advance of the scheduled exam; the Chair will render a decision on the matter.

For the final exam, you will be responsible for all of the ideas and issues raised in lectures and in the required readings, through the entire semester. There will be some choice (e.g., answer 3 of 5 questions in this section) in all parts of the exam.

Additional information about the exams will be made available through the Blackboard/OWL site.

Term Paper

The term paper will be due on Monday, **April 13**.

Each student will **choose one of the following three clusters of questions**, and use it as the basis for a short research paper:

- Option #1: Canada has historically been known as a strong supporter of multilateral institutions like the United Nations, but in recent years has increasingly been seen to be indifferent—or even hostile—to the UN and other multilateral institutions. What do you think? Has there been a clear shift in Canadian foreign policy priorities? If so, when and why did that shift occur? Is the long-term trend in Canada's attitude toward multilateral institutions best explained in terms of Canada's geostrategic position, its relationship with the US, the foreign policy philosophy of the Conservative Party, the personal priorities of Stephen Harper, or some other factor? How can you tell? What does this tell us about Canada's likely attitude toward diplomatic challenges to the United Nations from other countries, such as the US?
- Option #2: After years of confrontation, Iran has apparently shifted (over the last year or so) to a more cooperative approach to its disagreement with the US and other western powers over the question of nuclear weapons proliferation. What do you think? Has there been a meaningful change in Iran's foreign policy? If so, is that change better explained by something happening inside Iran, or by changing external circumstances (e.g., changes in the way other countries have chosen to relate to Iran)? To what extent can this change be explained by changed players in the Iranian political leadership? How can you tell? What do the answers to these questions tell us about what to expect in future negotiations on the nuclear non-proliferation issue?
- Option #3: When Tony Abbott was elected prime minister of Australia, many observers wondered whether his new government would seek to bolster relations with the US and other traditional allies, even at the risk of diplomatic conflict with China, or instead pursue closer relations with China, even at the risk of undermining relations with Japan and India. What do you think? Has Abbott clearly tilted one way or the other? Which of his choices support the argument that Abbott has favoured traditional alliances, and which choices support the argument that Abbott has tried to shift toward China? Whichever way you would characterize Abbott's approach, how would you explain the reasons behind it? Is this something best explained by Australia's position in the world, the foreign policy philosophy of the Australian Liberal Party, Abbott's foreign minister, or Abbott himself? How can you tell? What do the answers to these questions tell us about what to expect about how Australia will respond diplomatically to ongoing tensions between China and Japan?

Whichever option you choose, be sure to be absolutely clear about: a. which one you are doing; b. how you are answering each question; and c. where and how your answers connect up to the general theories discussed in lectures and required readings. Your paper should include an overview of what others have said about the answers to your questions (i.e., literature review), but it should also advance a clear argument (i.e., your own answers to these questions). While I do want you to answer all of the questions for your option, I don't want a series of disconnected short-answer responses; I want you to try to put them together so that they form one coherent essay.

Your essay should be **between 2000 and 2500 words**, which generally works out to be **9-10 pages**, double-spaced, with normal fonts and margins. **Papers that go beyond 2500 words will not be accepted, except with the professor's specific, explicit permission.**

Citations should be done with footnotes, and no separate bibliography is necessary. Additional information about the format and other requirements for the term papers will be made available through the Blackboard/OWL site.

General policies concerning assignments, deadlines, and grades

The University Calendar makes plain that "[s]tudents are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances (e.g. the death of a close relative) may an instructor extend such deadlines." **Late term papers will be assessed a penalty of one mark (out of 35) per day.** If you miss the term paper deadline on account of illness, you must hand it in within one week of your return to class, with a copy of a medical certificate, per academic regulations in the Dalhousie Calendar.

Essays not submitted directly to me must be submitted in person to the Political Science office (if the office is open, hand the paper to the secretary, and ask to have it stamped with date and time; if the office is not open, put the paper in the after-hours drop-box). Neither the professor nor the Department can assume responsibility for papers submitted by mail, fax, or email. Do not submit papers to teaching assistants.

Plagiarism (intentionally or unintentionally representing other people's ideas as your own) is a serious violation of academic ethics, and will be taken very seriously in this class. You can (and should) get information on what plagiarism is, how you can avoid it, and what the relevant university and departmental policies are, at <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>. Please also take note of the formal notice of university policy with respect to academic integrity posted on the course website.

The grading thresholds for this course are:

90-100 = A+	85-89 = A	80-84 = A-
77-79 = B+	73-76 = B	70-72 = B-
65-69 = C+	60-64 = C	55-59 = C-
50-54 = D	50 > F	

Resources

Readings can be accessed through the Blackboard/OWL site for the course, which is accessible through the MyDal area in the Dalhousie website. Login using the same ID and password that you use for your Dalhousie email.

In addition to links to course readings, the Blackboard/OWL site also has a downloadable copy of the course syllabus and general instructions and advice for the exams and term paper. Powerpoint slides from the lectures will be posted there (usually—but not necessarily always—in advance...).

The Blackboard/OWL website is a crucial resource for this course. If the professor or TAs want to send a message to students (e.g., class canceled due to snow, office hours changed for a particular week, etc.), they will do so through Blackboard/OWL, and not by email. **Students are expected to check the Blackboard/OWL site for announcements and updates at least once per week.**

Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended as a general guide to the course. The instructor reserves the right to reschedule or revise assigned readings, assignments, lecture topics, etc., as necessary.

Lectures and readings

SECTION ONE	INTRODUCTION
Class meetings:	January 6, 8
Topics/themes:	Overview of the course; review of syllabus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General introduction to relationship between I.R. and F.P.
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valerie Hudson and Christopher Vore, “Foreign Policy Analysis Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” <i>International Studies Review</i> 39 (1995). 2. David Newsom, “Foreign Policy and Academia,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> 101 (1995-96).

SECTION TWO	THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: OVERVIEW / REVIEW
Class meetings:	January 13, 15

Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline/review of prominent IR theories • IR theories as explanations for foreign policy choices/outcomes • “Levels of analysis”
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hans J. Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism,” in Morgenthau, <i>Politics among Nations</i> (any edition, various publ.). 2. Michael W. Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” <i>American Review of Political Science</i> 80 (1990). 3. Jeffrey T. Checkel, “Constructivism and Foreign Policy,” in Steve Smith, Amelia Hadfield, and Tim Dunne, <i>Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases</i> (Oxford 2008).

SECTION THREE	POWER AND INTERESTS
Class meetings:	January 20, 22
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is power, and how do we measure it? • What does “national interest” refer to? Who decides? How?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kal Holsti, “The Concept of Power in the Study of International Relations,” <i>Background</i> 7 (1964). 2. Joseph S. Nye, Jr., “Soft Power,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> 80 (1990). 3. Andrés Malamud, “A Leader without Followers? The Growing Divergence between the Regional and Global Performance of Brazilian Foreign Policy,” <i>Latin American Politics & Society</i> 53 (2011).

SECTION FOUR	DOMESTIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, PART 1
Class meetings:	January 27, 29
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and how do domestic politics matter to foreign policy? • Are democracies less war-like, or more? Why?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michael N. Barnett and Jack S. Levy, “Domestic Sources of Alliances and Alignments: The Case of Egypt, 1962-73,” <i>International Organization</i> 45 (1991).

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. John M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," <i>International Security</i> 19 (1994). 3. Ryan Hendrickson, "Clinton's Military Strikes in 1998: Diversionary Uses of Force?" <i>Armed Forces and Society</i> 28 (2002).
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SECTION FIVE	DOMESTIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, PART 2
Class meetings:	February 3, 5
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and how do bureaucracies influence foreign policy decisions?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephen D. Krasner, "Are Bureaucracies Important? (or Allison Wonderland)," <i>Foreign Policy</i> (1972). 2. Jack Levy, "Organizational Routines and the Causes of War," <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 30 (1986). 3. James Fallows, "Blind into Baghdad," <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> (February 2004).

SECTION SIX	MIDTERM REVIEW
Class meetings:	February 10
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for midterm and final exams • Researching and writing term papers

MID-TERM EXAM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

STUDY BREAK (NO CLASSES) FEBRUARY 17, 19

SECTION SEVEN	CULTURE, IDENTITY
Class meetings:	February 24, 26

Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are states' foreign policies driven by ideas about what kind of state they are supposed to be? • How do we decide when ideas are really important, and when they are just a smokescreen for other kinds of pressures or motivations?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thomas U. Berger, "From Sword to Chrysanthemum: Japan's Culture of Anti-Militarism" <i>International Security</i> 17 (1993). 2. Jennifer M. Lind, "Pacifism or Passing the Buck: Testing Theories of Japanese Security Policy" <i>International Security</i> 29 (2004). 3. Deborah Welch Larson & Alexei Shevchenko, "Russia Says No: Power, Status, and Emotions in Foreign Policy," <i>Communist and Post-Communist Studies</i> (2014).

SECTION EIGHT	LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING
Class meetings:	March 3, 5
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we base our explanations or predictions on foreign policy choices on the assumption that leaders are "rational"? • What difference does leadership make?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, "Let Us Now Praise Great Men (and Women): Restoring the First Image" <i>International Security</i> 25 (2001). 2. Rose McDermott, "Prospect Theory in International Relations: The Iranian Hostage Rescue Mission," <i>Political Psychology</i> 13 (1992). 3. Frank Harvey, "President Al Gore and the 2003 Iraq War: A Counterfactual Test of Conventional 'W'isdom," <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> 45 (2012).

SECTION NINE	CASE STUDY #1: AMERICA DROPS THE ATOMIC BOMB
Class meetings:	March 10, 12
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we uncover the "real causes" of a foreign policy decision? • Do we look at what decision-makers say about their reasons, or rely on what we know about context?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do controversies about historical cases impact our efforts to construct broader theories of foreign policy-making?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Henry L. Stimson, "The Decision to Use the Bomb," <i>Harper's</i> (February 1947). 2. Michael R. Beschloss, "Did We Need to Drop It?" <i>New York Times</i>, July 30, 1995. 3. Sean Malloy, "'The Rules of Civilized Warfare,'" <i>Journal of Strategic Studies</i> 30 (2007).

SECTION TEN	CASE STUDY #2: CHINA'S "PEACEFUL RISE"
Class meetings:	March 17, 19
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What drives foreign policy choices—material structures, ideas, or both? How do material structures and ideas interact? • Do states always have coherent foreign policy agendas? How do we deal with contradictory/inconsistent motivations?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul Papayoanou & Scott Kastner, "Sleeping with the (Potential) Enemy," <i>Security Studies</i> 9 (1999). 2. Rosemary Foot, "Chinese Strategies in a US-Hegemonic Global Order: Accommodating and Hedging," <i>International Affairs</i> 82 (2006). 3. David Shambaugh, "Coping with a Conflicted China," <i>Washington Quarterly</i> 34 (2011).

SECTION TWELVE	INSTRUMENTS OF FOREIGN POLICY
Class meetings:	March 31, April 2, 7
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomatic resources and strategies • Military resources and strategies • Economic resources and strategies
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martin E. Dempsey, "The Bend of Power," <i>Foreign Policy</i>, July 25, 2014. 2. David Rohde, "Why Economics, Not Military Might, Is the Future of

	Foreign Policy," <i>The Atlantic</i> , December 5, 2013.
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SECTION THIRTEEN	END-OF-TERM REVIEW
Class meetings:	April 9
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last-minute advice on term papers• Final exam review• Course evaluations
REMINDER	TERM PAPERS DUE APRIL 13