

# Foreign Policy Analysis

Fall 2016

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Foreign policy analysis is sometimes treated as the ugly stepchild of international relations theory. This course takes a different tack, based on the premise that most of the research in the field either is or relies on foreign policy analysis. We can think of foreign policy analysis as any work that attempts to explain the micro-outcomes of international relations based on an analysis of state decision-making. As such, foreign policy analysis is interested in opening up the black box of the state – its institutions, politics, bureaucracy, and public opinion -- to investigate why countries make the choices that they do and also how those choices interact with those made by others to explain important events in international relations.

The course begins with a number of weeks on how international relations scholars have traditionally modeled decision-making, with a focus on rationalist work and its critics. We then move to realist approaches that emphasize the external constraints placed on foreign policy, particularly power, and constructivists who stress the role played by social factors. We continue down the levels of analysis at the various elements that affect decision-making in foreign affairs.

## Course Readings:

All readings will be posted in the Course Documents section of Blackboard. I have paid special care to giving you a view of the diversity of the field with provocative pieces. *Pay attention to starred articles, as this indicates that I have only assigned a portion of the text to read, not the entire piece.* We want to pay attention not only to the pieces' theoretical insights but also their success in pulling this off empirically with evidence.

## Week 1: Introduction

### Week 3: What is Foreign Policy Analysis?

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Reading: Addison-Wesley, 1979), ch. 4.

James D. Fearon, "Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy and Theories of International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 1 (1998): 289-313.

David Houghton, "Reinvigorating the Study of Foreign Policy Decision-Making: Toward a Constructivist Approach," *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Vol. 3, No. (2007), pp. 24-45.

Brian Rathbun, "A Rose by Any Other Name: Neoclassical Realism as the Logical and Necessary Extension of Structural Realism," *Security Studies*, Vol 17, No. 3 (1998), pp. 294-321.

### Week 4: Decision-Making I

Philip Tetlock, "Social Psychology and World Politics," in D. Gilbert, S. Fiske, and G. Lindzey (eds.), *Handbook of Social Psychology* (New York, McGraw Hill, 1998), pp. 870- 882.\*

Peter Suedfeld and Philip Tetlock, "Integrative Complexity of Communication in International Crises," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (1977), pp. 169-184.

David Welch, *Justice and the Genesis of War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), selections.

Aaron Rapport, "The Long and Short of It: Cognitive Constraints on Leaders' Assessments

Jennifer Mitzen and Randall Schweller, "Knowing the Unknown Unknowns: Misplaced Certainty and the Onset of War," *Security Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (2011).

### **Week 5: Strategic Interaction**

John Mercer, *Reputation and International Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996), selections.

David Lake and Robert Powell (eds.), *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), ch. 1.

Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976), selections.

Stacie Goddard, "When Might Makes Right," *International Security*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (2008), pp. 110–142.

### **Week 6: Structure and Foreign Policy**

Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations* (New York: Knopf), ch. 14.

Daryl Press, *Calculating Credibility: How Leaders Assess Military Threats* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2005), selections.

Thomas Christensen, *Useful Adversaries: Grand Strategy, Domestic Mobilization, and Sino-American Conflict, 1947-1958* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), selections.

David Lake, *Entangling Relations: America's Foreign Policy in its Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), selections.

### **Week 7: Domestic Institutions**

David L. Rousseau, Christopher Gelpi, Dan Reiter, and Paul K. Huth, "Assessing the Dyadic Nature of the Democratic Peace, 1918-88," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 90, No. 3 (1996), pp. 512-533.

Giacomo Chiozza and Hein Goemans, *Leaders and International Conflict* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), selections.

Jessica Weeks, "Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve," *International Organization*, Vol. 62, No. 1 (2008), pp. 35-64.

Jessica Weeks, "Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 106, No. 2 (2012).

### **Week 8: Domestic Politics**

Brian C. Rathbun, "The 'Magnificent Fraud': Trust, International Cooperation and the Hidden Domestic Politics of Postwar American Multilateralism," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 55, No. 1 (2011), pp. 1-21.

Randall Schweller, "Unanswered Threats: A Neoclassical Realist Theory of Underbalancing," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (2004), pp. 159-201.

Elizabeth Kier, *Imagining War: French and British Military Doctrine between the Wars* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997), selections.

G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), selections.

### **Week 9: Bureaucracy and Interest Groups**

- Michael Horowitz, *The Diffusion of Military Power: Causes and Consequences for International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010), selections.
- Jacques Hymans, *Achieving Nuclear Ambition: Scientists, Politicians, and Proliferation* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), selections.
- Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991), excerpts.
- Keren Yarhi-Milo, *Knowing They Adversary: Leaders, Intelligence and Assessments of Intentions in International Relations* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming).

### **Week 10: Individuals, Leaders and Foreign Policy**

- Elizabeth N. Saunders, "Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy," *International Security*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (2009), pp. 119-161.
- Jacques Hymans, *The Psychology of Nuclear Proliferation: Identity, Emotions and Foreign Policy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), selections.
- Michael Horowitz and Alan Stam, "How Prior Military Experience Influences the Future Militarized Behavior of Leaders," *International Organization* (forthcoming)

### **Week 11: Biology and Human Nature**

- Stephen Rosen, *War and Human Nature* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005), selections.
- Rose McDermott et al, "Monoamine oxidase A gene (MAOA) predicts behavioral aggression following provocation," *PNAS*, Vol. 106, No. 7 (2009), pp. 2118-2123.
- Azar Gat, "So Why Do People Fight? Evolutionary Theory and the Causes of War," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (2009), pp. 571-99.
- Marucs Holmes, "The Force of Face-to-Face Diplomacy" *International Organization* (forthcoming).
- Bradley Thayer, "Bringing in Darwin," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (2000), pp. 124-151.

### **Week 12: Individual Foreign Policy Attitudes**

- Michael Tomz, "Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach," *International Organization*, Vol. 61, No. 4 (2007), pp. 821-40.
- Jon Hurwitz and Mark Peffley, "How are Foreign Policy Attitudes Structured?: A Hierarchical Model," *American Political Science Review* 18: 1101-20.
- Richard Herrmann, Philip Tetlock and Visser, "Mass Public Decisions to Go to War: A Cognitive Interactionist Framework," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93, No. 3 (1999), pp. 553-573.
- Adam Berinsky, "Assuming the Costs of War," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 69, No. 4 (2007), pp. 975-997.

### **Week 13: Writing Week**

**Week 14: Class Presentations**

**Week 15: Review**