

Foreign Policy Decision-Making

Political Science 545

Summer 2003

MW 2:30-4:18 p.m.

Townshend Hall 248

<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/coggins/>

Bridget Coggins

Office Hours: F 10-12 a.m.

(Or by appointment)

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Course Description:

This course provides an advanced introduction to theories of foreign policy and decision-making. Foreign policy theories are unlike structural theories of international relations because they focus upon the structures, processes and people *within* the state to explain interstate behavior. It is expected that students come to the course with a general understanding of US foreign policy in the post-WWII era (Political Science 245). The course begins with American foreign policy, but broadens its focus to include glimpses into numerous countries' decision-making structures and processes. In the next ten weeks we will survey some of the most prominent theories of foreign policy decision-making including Bureaucratic Politics, Rational Choice, and Prospect Theory. We will also look to psychology for insight into how decision-makers reason and make use of the information presented to them.

Class Participation and Quizzes:	15% (best 3 scores out of 4)
Short Paper:	20%
Long Paper:	30%
Final Exam:	35%
Extra Credit:	2.5% (details to follow)

Required Readings:

All listed readings are required readings. If a particular topic sparks your interest, however, do feel free to ask me for additional readings.

The New York Times (The paper version or the on-line version will suffice. Hard copies of the paper are available at a significant discount to students. On-line copies of the paper are free of charge.) Students are expected to read the *NYT* Monday through Friday each week. Students should focus their reading on the international section and come to class prepared to discuss current events with reference to our coursework. Quizzes may also cover *NYT* article content.

Allison, Graham T. and Philip Zelikow (1999). *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis, 2nd Edition* Pearson PTP ISBN: 0321013492

(Available at SBX or on-line. Amazon.com \$13.78- new, \$7.50- used)

May, Ernest R. (1975). *“Lessons” of the Past: The Use and Misuse of History in American Foreign Policy* Oxford ISBN: 0195018907

(This book is out of print, but new and used copies a plenty are available at SBX and on-line. At Labyrinthbooks.com it's \$4.95, at Amazon you can find it used for as little as \$1.10.)

Plous, Scott (1993). *The Psychology of Judgement and Decision Making* McGraw-Hill ISBN: 0070504776

(Available at SBX or on-line for about \$30)

****Additional links to readings for the course are available on the course Web site. Click on the “Classes” button and then look under 545.**

Student Responsibilities:

Assigned readings should be completed *before* Monday's lecture each week. The reading load is about one hundred pages per week. Reading assignments become shorter as the quarter progresses in order to allow students to focus upon their research papers.

I prefer not to lecture at you for an hour and forty eight minutes each session. If you have questions or comments about the lecture or readings, please don't be shy. I will also provide a number of opportunities for discussion, small group and interactive demonstrations. Strong participation and feedback are essential to your learning more and my teaching better. It also just makes things more interesting.

Attendance at each lecture is not mandatory, but it will greatly increase your chances of success in this class. If you do miss a lecture, please contact your classmates for their notes first and then attend office hours if you have additional questions or need clarification. While students with legitimate absences will be accommodated, I will not rehash entire lectures for those who can not find the time to attend class.

Additional guidelines for papers and information on the structure and content of the final exam will be provided during lectures. I am also happy to address questions or review rough drafts of papers during my office hours.

If you begin to have difficulties with the coursework, please contact me so we can work together to remedy the problem. Don't wait until the 9th week of the quarter to ask for help if you need it.

Quizzes and Participation: There will be four short quizzes throughout the quarter. Your three highest scores out of four will constitute your participation grade. I will drop the low score. The quizzes are designed to measure student participation and engagement with the coursework. Quizzes will include (but will not be limited to) lecture topics, reading assignments, and *New York Times* article content. They will be multiple choice. Quizzes will be *easy* if you read the assigned materials and attend class regularly. Make-up quizzes will only be granted in extreme circumstances.

Short Paper: (Due 7/23) The short paper will be a descriptive paper (5-7 pages) about a single instance of foreign policy decision-making. The paper should be presented from the perspective of one state and the relevant decision-makers within that state.

Long Paper: (Due 8/25) The long paper for this course (10-12 pages) builds itself upon the case study from the short paper. Students should take two decision-making frameworks or theories and apply them to the case study explored in the first paper. This paper should conclude with a discussion of the insights into decision-making provided by each of the two frameworks.

Final Exam: (8/27) The final exam is cumulative and will include multiple choice, identification, and short answer questions.

Extra Credit: 2.5% extra credit (added to your final course grade) is available to those students willing to participate in experiments conducted by the political science department. 2.5% may seem like too little reward, but it is often the difference between a B+ and an A-. Helping other students and professors of politics is also good karma. Details for those wanting to participate will follow in class.

Additional Course Notes:

Disability: Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, by the end of the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung in the Political Science Department if you require assistance at 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Academic Honesty: All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. If you have any questions about what constitutes either of these offenses, please see official OSU policy or ask me during office hours. If you have questions about how to appropriately cite sources in your research papers, please see the "Links" page on my Web site. Proper citation formats can be found toward the bottom of the page. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Course Schedule:

**Lecture topics may vary slightly based upon class interests and discussion time.

Week 1

Course Introduction (no reading)

(6/23) Monday Syllabus Review and Introduction

(6/25) Wednesday What is foreign policy decision-making?

Week 2

Classical Models of Foreign Policy (read p.1-54, skim p.77-129)

*No office hours this week due to 4th of July holiday.

(6/30) Monday Rational Actor and Rational Choice Models

(7/2) Wednesday Basic Game Theory

Week 3

Allison's Alternative Models (read p.143-185, 255-313, 379-405, skim p.197-242, 325-366)

(7/7) Monday Organizational Behavior and Governmental Politics

(7/9) Wednesday Conclusion and Critiques: "Allison Wonderland"

Week 4

Theories of Foreign Policy?: Culture, Roles and Norms (read Huntington, Johnston, and Walker, All On Web site)

(7/14) Monday The Democratic Peace, the Clash of Civilizations, Role Theory and Scripts

**Discussion about short paper requirements in lecture*

(7/16) Wednesday Area Studies and Foreign Policy

<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Group Psychology and Decision-Making</u> (read <i>PJDM</i> p.191-214 and Janis and Hermann, <i>On Web site</i>)
(7/21) Monday	Groupthink
(7/23) Wednesday	Leadership, Group Dynamics and Decision Rules (Short papers are due at the beginning of class)
<u>Week 6</u>	<u>“Lessons” of the Past</u> (read <i>May</i> p.3-121)
(7/28) Monday	Mistakes of the past
(7/30) Wednesday	Insights into learning from psychology
<u>Week 7</u>	<u>“Lessons” of the Past</u> (read <i>May</i> p.125-190)
(8/4) Monday	“Analogies at War”
(8/6) Wednesday	How do we learn the “right” lessons? Does <i>May</i> solve our problems?
<u>Week 8</u>	<u>Individual Psychology and Decision-Making</u> (read <i>PJDM</i> p.13-37, 79-105)
(8/11) Monday	Prospect theory and “challenges” to rational choice
(8/13) Wednesday	Framing, Manipulation and Sources of Influence
<u>Week 9</u>	<u>Individual Psychology and Decision-Making Cont.</u> (read <i>PJDM</i> p.109-188, 217-260)
(8/20) Monday	Heuristics and Biases
(8/22) Wednesday	Taking Psychology out of the lab
<u>Week 10</u>	<u>Course Conclusion and Final Review</u>
(8/25) Monday	Come to class armed with questions about the final exam. (Long Papers are due at the beginning of class.)
(8/27) Wednesday	FINAL EXAM