This course will focus on the relationship between American public opinion and U.S. foreign policy. The course is structured around four central questions:

▪ Does the American public have coherent attitudes about U.S. foreign policy? If so, what is the content of those attitudes?
▪ How much influence do American leaders and the media have over the formation of public opinion regarding foreign policy?
▪ Do attitudes toward foreign policy issues influence American elections?
▪ Does public opinion actually influence American foreign policy behavior?

We will address these questions through a review of the literature on American public opinion and foreign policy over the past 50 years. While the course does not require a background in statistics, a substantial proportion of the readings will include description and analysis of quantitative data on American public opinion.

Course Requirements:
Student performance will be evaluated on the following basis:

1) Most of our time in class will be spent discussing and analyzing the weekly readings, so attendance at and participation in the discussions are essential. Students will also be asked to sign-up to lead the discussion on one set of readings. Class participation (and discussion leadership) will count for 20% of your final grade.

2) During the course of the semester each student must submit two short papers (3-5 double spaced, typed pages). Students will sign up in advance for the weeks
that they wish to write short papers. In these papers you are to analyze a particular reading or set of readings for your assigned week. From that reading or set of readings, students should identify an issue that they believe requires further research. Students must then describe the survey data that they would collect in order to study that issue. Papers should identify the population that would be surveyed, the specific question wording that would be used in the survey instrument, and the response options that would be provided to respondents. In addition, students should discuss how they believe the responses to these survey items would help to further our understanding of the issue in the readings that they identified. These two short papers will account for 30% of your grade.

3) The third course requirement is a research paper. This paper should be approximately 15-20 pages. In these papers students will be expected to conduct an original analysis of American public opinion regarding some foreign policy related issue. Access to public opinion data on a variety of issues will be made available, but students should also feel free to address other issues or other data if they wish. I am willing to help students locate data that are of substantive interest to them. The research paper will account for 50% of your grade.

**Required Books:**
One book is required for purchase of this course:

All other readings are available online through OSU’s full-text databases or on e-reserves. Students can obtain the readings by clicking on the links below. Students must be connected to the OSU network or through the OSU VPN client to download and print the readings.

**Schedule of Readings** - All listed readings are required

**August 24 - No Class Meeting**

**August 31 - Introductions, and Interpreting Survey Questions and Survey Response**


45:199-207.

Tom Smith. 1987. "That Which We Call Wefare By Any Other Name Would Smell Sweeter." Public Opinion Quarterly 51:75-83


Part I - The Structure of American Public Attitudes Toward Foreign Policy

**September 7 -** The Almond-Lippmann Consensus & The Michigan School

**September 14 - A Reasoning Public?**


**September 21 - The Structure of Individual Attitudes Toward Foreign Policy**


**September 28 - Vietnam and the Vietnam Syndrome**


**October 5 - Attitudes Toward Casualties: A Reasoning Public?**


Part II - Elite Impact on the Formation and Expression of Public Opinion

**October 12 - Agenda Setting, Priming and Framing**


**October 19 - Media Coverage, Media Bias, and Public Opinion**


Part III - Foreign Affairs and Electoral Choice

**October 26 - Foreign Policy and the Electoral Connection?**


**November 2 - The Electoral Impact of Iraq and Afghanistan**


Part IV - The Policy Impact of Public Opinion
November 9 - Does Public Opinion Guide Foreign Policy?


November 16 - From the Outside Looking In: Global Public Opinion and the United States


November 23 - No Class - Thanksgiving Break

November 30 - Public Opinion and International Relations Theory: Diversionary War & the Democratic Peace

December 7 - No Class (Work on your Research Paper!)

December 12 - Research Papers Due 5:00 PM