

Political Science 4320
Strategies of War and Peace
Autumn 2015

Tuesday & Thursday 3:55 – 5:15 pm
Journalism Building, Room 251

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Office Hours:

Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Other times by appointment

Office Hours:

Wednesday 12:00 – 1:30pm
Other times by appointment

Course Description

This course examines common strategies in foreign policy and the factors that explain why countries pursue them. It pays special attention to the ways countries seek to affect change and advance their interests and the implications these have for war and peace. The course examines both the track-record different strategies have and the conditions under which they have been found to work. It also covers different ways the process of decision-making has been conceived of and it explores what is known about the factors that have the biggest impact on the course countries follow. Students should acquire a good deal of substantive knowledge about the strategic options available to countries, including the United States, in dealing with each other and the problems they face. They should also have an understanding of how to do research on the effectiveness of foreign policy strategies, how to construct and test interpretative propositions about why countries are doing things, and how to examine the motivational force of economic, ideological, bureaucratic, and psychological factors in shaping world views and choices.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to participate in class having read the reading assignments for that day. This will be monitored with quizzes using Top Hat. Instructions for Top Hat are in this course's content on Carmen. Students are also required to participate in a diplomatic simulation. Attendance on the days of the simulation is required and unexcused absences will lead to deductions on the final grade. Students must complete two mid-term exams and a final exam.

Grades are based on the following:

First mid-term Exam (September 29, 2015)	25
Second mid-term exam (October 29, 2015)	25
Final Exam (December 16, 2015)	25
Quizzes	25

Academic Misconduct: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to

investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)

Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Outline

Part 1: Alternative Strategies: How they work and when to use them

August 25: What is a strategy? How should it be constructed?

- Identifying goals
- Assessing trends to target in the pursuit of goals
- Imagining ways to move the most important trends in desired directions
- Alternative strategies: their logic, hoped for effects and likely costs
 - Connecting targets to instruments of influence
 - Evaluating relative power and leverage
 - Anticipating the dynamics of a relationship into the future

August 27: Connecting tactics to strategy: The case of the Iranian Nuclear Deal

- The constraints the JCPOA includes
- The verification and adjudication mechanisms
- The expected impact on Iran’s nuclear military capabilities
- The expected impact on Iran’s leverage in the region and beyond
- The strategic logic looking forward according to opponents & proponents

Required reading: (Samore, 2015)

September 1: A Grand Strategy for the United States?

- How are national interests determined?
- A framework for estimating relative power
- The case for internationalist engagement: Shaping the environment

Required reading: (Brooks, Ikenberry, & Wohlforth, 2012)

September 3: No class: American Political Science Association annual meeting.

- September 8: Determining when containment, deterrence, or reassurance strategies make sense
- Types of states and a typology of motives
 - What are the indicators distinguishing one type from the other?
 - Using both generic and actor-specific knowledge: Analogies and distinctions
 - The case for selective engagement: Closing the means-end gap.

Required reading: (Mearsheimer, 2014)

- September 10: Estimating a country's motives and likely power: An interdependent task
- Interpreting actions as indicative of intentions
 - The importance of historic and geostrategic context
 - What do China's moves reveal?

Required reading: (Johnston, 2013) and (Friedberg, 2015)

- September 15: Constructing a strategy for the United States toward China: A case study
- The outlines of a containment and deterrent strategy
 - The outlines of a reassurance strategy

Required reading: (Glaser, 2015)

- September 17: Reassurance through strategies of integration
- From empires to nation: sovereign separation as reassurance
 - Pacific Settlement and Peacekeeping
 - Functionalism and strategies of integration
 - The European case

Recommended reading: (Dennison et al., 2015) and (Mogherini, 2015)

- September 22: Strategies of intervention and imposition of control
- Direct occupation
 - Traditional three-part strategy of indirect control
 - Counter-insurgency & hybrid warfare
 - The case of Afghanistan

Required reading: (Fitzsimmons, 2008)

- September 24: National, ethnic, and religious identities and strategies of control
- What is the relationship between effective control and community identities?
 - Does globalization lead to larger or smaller states, or both?
 - When does partition lead to peace?
 - What determines which political movements get recognized as states?
 - Imagining the future state system in the Middle East

Required reading: (Biddle, 2014)

September 29: Midterm 1

Part 2: Explaining the strategic choices countries make:

October 1: Conceptualizing foreign policy decision-making: Modeling how choices are made
 --Economic, Organizational, and Political Psychological conceptions
 --Unpacking the component parts of a decision-making model
 --Crossing levels of analysis and treating collectives & institutions as actors

October 6: How big a difference do individual leaders make and how can we tell?
 --The importance of counterfactuals in causal reasoning
 --The importance of institutions and decisional latitude
 --The role interest groups play
 --Can leaders be the catalysts for change?

Required reading: (Jervis, 2013)

October 8: What characteristics of leaders matter most?
 --A three-dimensional personality framework
 --What is the relationship between leaders and followers?
 --Principals and agents and models of imperfect information
 --Values and identities as sources of preferences: Typologies of values
 --Cue taking in a marketplace of values & identities

October 13: The impact of worldviews and mindsets on decision-making
 --How leaders infer what the intentions of other countries are.
 --The role played by prior beliefs and ideology.
 --Common cognitive shortcuts in reasoning

Required reading: (Yarhi-Milo, 2013)

October 15: Fall Break

October 20: Nationalism as both something that leaders mobilize and that constrains them.
 --What is nationalism? Where does it come from and can leaders create it?
 --When can leaders mobilize nationalism?
 --How do nationalism and economic interests compare?
 --What shapes trade preferences?

October 22: --Nationalism and leaders: The case of Vladimir Putin and Russia

Required reading: (Tsygankov, 2015) and (Gerber, 2014)

October 27: The role emotions and wishful thinking play

- Emotional beliefs and the role of emotions in reasoning
- A theory of images: Stereotypes and their function
- Motivated reasoning: Wishful thinking, “magical thinking,” recognizing nationalism more at home than abroad.
- The case of Ukraine: dehumanization and infra-humanization

Required reading: (Mercer, 2010)

October 29: Second mid-term exam

November 3: When can negotiations be successful?

- When is a conflict “ripe” for a negotiated outcome?
- How can we identify the parameters of likely negotiated outcomes?
- The case of the Six Party Talks: Should they be resumed, in what format?

Required reading: Background research on the worldviews of the leaders and groups in the country you are representing in the simulation.

November 5: The rules of the diplomatic game and the connection to world politics.

- Meetings: Bilateral and multilateral
- The role of intelligence and the news
- A case study of Israel’s negotiations over time in the real world and the game

November 10: Diplomatic Game

November 12: Diplomatic Game

November 17: Diplomatic Game

November 19: Diplomatic Game

November 24: Diplomatic Game

November 26 Thanksgiving

December 1: Analysis of the game

December 3: Learning, change and the challenge for forecasting

December 8: American strategy in the 21st century: How is it likely to evolve?

Required reading: (Thrall, 2007)

December 16: Final exam paper is due no later than 6:00 pm

References

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- Fitzsimmons, M. (2008). Hard Hearts and Open Minds? Governance, Identity and the Intellectual Foundations of Counterinsurgency Strategy. *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, 31(3), 337-365.
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- Glaser, C. L. (2015). A U.S.-China Grand Bargain? The Hard Choice between Military Competition and Accommodation. *International Security*, 39(4), 49-90.
- Jervis, R. (2013). Do Leaders Matter and How Would We Know? *Security Studies*, 22(2), 153-179.
- Johnston, A. I. (2013). How New and Assertive Is China's New Assertiveness? *International Security*, 37(4), 7-48.
- Mearsheimer, J. J. (2014). America Unhinged. *The National Interest*(129), 9-30.
- Mercer, J. (2010). Emotional Beliefs. *International Organization*, 64(1), 1-31.
- Mogherini, F. (2015). The European Union in a changing global environment: A more connected, contested and complex world: The European Union.
- Samore, G. (2015). The Iran Nuclear Deal: A Definitive Guide *Harvard Kennedy School*. Cambridge, MA.: Harvard Kennedy School.
- Thrall, A. T. (2007). A Bear in the Woods? Threat Framing and the Marketplace of Values. *Security Studies*, 16(3), 452-488.
- Tsygankov, A. (2015). Vladimir Putin's last stand: the sources of Russia's Ukraine policy. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 31(4), 279-303.
- Yarhi-Milo, K. (2013). In the Eye of the Beholder How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Assess the Intentions of Adversaries. *International Security*, 38(1), 7-51.