In this course we examine some of the leading theoretical approaches to the study of foreign policy across a range of countries and issue areas. The goal of the course is to prepare students to critically evaluate the theoretical literature on foreign policy, to participate in a collaborative data generation project and to conduct their own research.

Foreign Policy Analysis is a sub-field of international relations which has received increased attention since the end of the Cold War. Critics observed that the dominant (and mostly structural) IR theories failed to predict or explain this profound transformation. The subsequent debate about the causes of the collapse of bipolarity, the debate over the Democratic Peace, events of 9/11, Afghanistan and US motivations for the invasion of Iraq have generated renewed interest approaches that emphasize how actors (leader, states and regimes) and domestic factors shape international politics. The rising status of FPA in the last decade was recognized by the decision of the International Studies Association to create a new journal dedicated to this area of research.

Although the sub-field, like most sub-fields in political science and international relations, is a diverse set of research programs and theoretical approaches, FPA scholars share several common tendencies. First, they eschew ‘grand theory’ and broad systemic explanations of world politics in favor of mid-range explanations for the behavior of actors in international affairs. Second, they are generally suspicious of the simplifying assumption that states can be viewed as unified and/or rational agents. The rejection of these assumptions forces FPA researchers to ‘open the black box’ of the state as they seek explanations for events, choices and outcomes. This makes FPA an inherently interdisciplinary sub-field as scholars must acquaint themselves with topics such as leadership, decision making, group dynamics, bureaucracies, institutions of government, public opinion, culture and the media (to name just a few factors). The challenge, of course, is to do all this with some focus and rigor. FPA draws on theories of human interaction and behavior in social psychology, organizational behavior, economics and sociology.
FPA - an introduction


WEDNESDAY

Agents, Structures, Levels of Analysis


18 September - 24 September

MONDAY

Dimensions of FP Opinions


WEDNESDAY

Cognition, Images and FP Attitudes


Shoon Kathleen Murray and Jonathan A. Cowden. The Role of "Enemy Images" and Ideology in Elite Belief Systems International Studies Quarterly. Vol. 43, No. 3 (Sep., 1999), pp. 455-481 (jstor)

25 September - 1 October

MONDAY

FP, Candidates and Elections


WEDNESDAY
Interest Groups and FP


Bryan Daves 2013. Shorthands, Reputations and Ethnic Lobbies: Reputation and Reality of the pro-Israel lobby. ISA Conference Paper (link)

2 October - 8 October
MONDAY

Public Opinion constraints on FP


A. Cooper Drury, L. Marvin Overby, Adrian Ang and Yitan Li "Pretty Prudent" or Rhetorically Responsive? The American Public's Support for Military Action. Political Research Quarterly


WEDNESDAY

Elite Influence


Lawrence R. Jacobs and Benjamin I. Page. Who Influences U.S. Foreign Policy?


9 October - 15 October
MONDAY

Public Opinion Data Exploration Group Presentations

Public Opinion and FP Group Data Presentation Assignment

Upload your group's materials to this link. Only one member of the group needs to submit materials.

Data Presentations Folder

WEDNESDAY

Final Research Paper - Proposal Workshop

Bring a draft or outline of your research proposal - PRINTED OUT - for others to read in a peer feedback setting.
Everyone MUST bring something written to share. Deviation from this requirement will be reflected in your participation grade.

16 October - 22 October

MONDAY - MID TERM BREAK, NO CLASS

Research Proposal Paper Due: Tuesday by 11:59pm Assignment

WEDNESDAY

FPA TOPIC

How do national culture and role perceptions shape state behavior? (Kayla, Nick, Luke)

Thies, C. G. (2012). "International socialization processes vs. Israeli national role conceptions: can role theory integrate IR theory and foreign policy analysis?". Foreign Policy Analysis, 8(1), 25-46. (Link to PDF)


23 October - 29 October

MONDAY

FPA TOPIC

Why do countries give aid? (Chris, Amanda, Katin)


WEDNESDAY

FPA TOPIC

How do countries choose allies? (Zack, Mason)


Douglas M. Gibler and Scott Wolford. 2006. Alliances, Then Democracy: An Examination of the Relationship between Regime Type and Alliance Formation. The Journal of Conflict Resolution. 50, 1 pp. 129-153 (J-stor)
30 October - 5 November

MONDAY - No Class, shifted to Friday for Speaker

WEDNESDAY

FPA TOPIC

How do rivalries start and end? (Tori, Zayn, Sacha)


FRIDAY (special)

Time & Location: Library Athenaeum, 2:30 to 4:00

Dr. M.V. Ramana, Nuclear Proliferation & Indian FP

https://www.princeton.edu/sgs/faculty-staff/m.v.-ramana/

Readings:


Cirincione, J. 2000. The Asian Nuclear Reaction Chain. Foreign Policy, (118), 120-136. (J-stor)

6 November - 12 November

MONDAY

FPA TOPIC

What influences how countries act during international crises? (Briannon, Micheal and Yuchao)


WEDNESDAY

FPA TOPIC
How has foreign policy responded to (or attracted) terrorism? (Shannon, Elizabeth, Mitch)


13 November - 19 November

MONDAY

FPA TOPIC

How are coercive foreign policy tools used or abused? (Connor, Ben, Jeremy)


WEDNESDAY

Final Class, Conclusions

Final Major Paper