

## UNDERSTANDING FOREIGN POLICY: THE DIPLOMACY OF WAR, PROFIT AND JUSTICE (IR105)

**Course duration:** 54 hours lecture and class time (Over three weeks)

**LSE Teaching Department:** Department of International Relations

**Lead Faculty:** Prof Chris Alden

**Pre-requisites:** None

### Course Objectives:

This course examines the key concepts and schools of thought in the study of foreign policy. Concentrating on the process of decision making, internal and external factors which influence foreign policy and the instruments available to foreign policy decision makers, the course will provide an understanding of the role and effect that foreign policy has on international politics. Students will learn about the differing strategies that great powers and small states employ in achieving their aims; the foreign policy challenges posed by terrorism, rogue and failed states; and the significance of new foreign policy powers like China. The classes will combine a discussion of these theories with their application to selected countries in the North, and South, international organizations and transnational actors.

1

### The principle themes to be addressed by the course are:

- How do states formulate and implement their foreign policy?
- Does leadership make a difference in successful foreign policy?
- Can national foreign policies ever be ethical?
- What can states and international organisations do to prevent common threats like terrorism, nuclear proliferation and climate change?
- Are democracies more likely to pursue aggressive foreign policies than dictatorships?
- Are emerging powers pursuing foreign policies of confrontation with traditional powers?

Each of the lectures will be followed by a discussion seminar on a topic drawn from the lecture and readings. Active student participation is encouraged.

**Public Lectures:** 13 July (18:30-20:00) and 21 July (18:30-20:00)

### Reading List:

Required Text : C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011).

Recommended Text: S. Smith, Amelia Hadfield and Tim Dunne, eds., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Oxford UP 2011).

**Course Outline:**

**Session One: Introduction to Foreign Policy Analysis (Monday – week 1)**

- **Class Topic:** Orientation, discussion and selection of seminar presentation topics. Topic for discussion -- Foreign Policy Analysis
- **Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp 1-13.
- **Additional Reading:** S. Smith, Amelia Hadfield and Tim Dunne, eds., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases* (Oxford UP 2011), 'The History of Evolution of FPA' – Chapter 1.
- **Questions to consider:** Who makes foreign policy? Which factors influence foreign policy making? Can one talk about the state as the producer of foreign policy? How do other accounts challenge the 'state-centric' approach to foreign policy analysis?

**Session Two (A): Power, Capability and Instruments (Tuesday – week 1)**

- **Class Topic:** Diplomacy, Sanctions and War
- **Required Reading:** S. Smith, Amelia Hadfield and Tim Dunne, eds., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases* (Oxford UP 2011), 'Economic Statecraft' – Chapter 11 and 'Implementation and Behaviour' – Chapter 8.
- **Additional Reading:** Z Laub, 'International Sanctions on Iran', *CFR Backgrounders*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2015 – Study Guide.
- **Questions to consider:** What tools are available to state in their pursuit of foreign policy objectives? Do all states have similar capabilities? Are sanctions preferable to war? Can culture influence diplomatic exchanges?

2

**Session Two (B): Determining Goals (Tuesday – week 1)**

- **Class Topic:** Determining Goals – US and Chinese Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era
- **Required Reading:** : C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp 13-19.
- **Additional Reading:** China White Paper on Defence 2015, [www.chinadaily.com.cn/chain/2015-05/26/content\\_20820628\\_3.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/chain/2015-05/26/content_20820628_3.htm) -- Study Guide; US National Security Strategy, February 2015 – Study Guide; Wang Jisi, 'China's Search for a Grand Strategy', *Foreign Affairs*, 90:2 2011 – Study Guide.
- **Questions to consider:** How are foreign policy goals determined in post-Cold War US and Chinese foreign policy? To what extent are domestic factors incorporated in the process? International factors? How do rising powers like China reflect US positions in determining their own foreign policy?

**Public Lecture: Prof Adriana Abdeneur (Rio-PUC) 'China in Latin America's Extractive Sector' CLM 7.02, 18:30-20:00, 13 July.**

### Session Three: Decision Making: Leadership and Psychological Factors (Wednesday – week 1)

- **Class Topic:** Leadership and foreign policy
- **Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp 14-30.
- **Additional Reading:** S. Smith, Amelia Hadfield and Tim Dunne, eds., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases* (Oxford UP 2011), 'Foreign Policy Decision-Making: rational, psychological and neurological models' – Chapter 7; G Stern, 'Interview with Lee Kwan Yew', *Leaders and Leadership* (London: BBC 1993), pp. 101-115 – Study Guide.
- **Questions to consider:** What is the role of leadership in setting the foreign policy agenda? How do psychological factors play a role in determining formulation of foreign policy objectives?

### Session Four: Decision Making: Bureaucratic Politics (Thursday – week 1)

- **Class Topic:** Foreign policy decision making and the role of bureaucracies
- **Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp. 31-45.
- **Additional Reading:** J Cason and T Power, 'Presidentialization, Pluralization and the Rollback of Itamaraty: explaining change in Brazilian foreign policy making in the Cardoso-Lula Era', *International Political Science Review* 30:2 2009 – Study Guide.
- **Questions to consider:** To what extent does the 'bureaucratic imperative' influence foreign policy? Is bureaucracy a threat to democratic practice in foreign policy or is it a guarantee of curbs upon political adventurism?

3

### Session Four (B): Decision Making: The Role of History (Thursday – week 1)

- **Class topic:** Foreign policy decision making and the role of history
- **Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp. 92-100.
- **Additional Reading:** H Kissinger *On China* (London: Penguin 2011), pp. xv-xviii, 1-32 – Study Guide.
- **Questions to consider:** Is history a useful guide for foreign policy decision makers? How does it influence the foreign policy process?

### Session Five: No lecture or afternoon classes – individual study (Friday – week 1)

### Session Six: Decision-Making in Crisis (Monday – week 2)

- **Class Topic:** Crisis decision-making at the national level
- **Required Reading:** Y Vertzberger, 'India's Border Conflict with China: a perceptual analysis', *Journal of Contemporary History* 17:4 1982 – Study Guide.

- Additional Reading:** L Holland 'The US Decision to Launch Operation Desert Storm: a bureaucratic politics analysis', *Armed Forces and Society* 25:2 1999 – Study Guide.  
In class film, BBC 4, 'Cuban Missile Crisis – the other side of Armageddon'
- Questions to consider:** How appropriate crisis decision making as a metaphor for all foreign policy decisions? Have nuclear weapons changed the nature of crisis management? Despite the proliferation of other analytical approaches, explain the persistence of the 'rational actor' model.

## Session Seven: Domestic Influences (Tuesday – week 2)

- Class Topic:** Interest groups, the media and foreign policy
- Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp. 46-61.
- Additional Reading:** S. Smith, Amelia Hadfield and Tim Dunne, eds., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases* (Oxford UP 2011), 'The Role of the Media and Public Opinion' – Chapter 9; J Staats, 'Puzzled by China's Foreign Policy? look inside instead', US Institute of Peace, 28 April 2016 – Study Guide
- Questions to consider:** To what extent is foreign policy subject to domestic influences? Does regime type determine the degree of influence? What role do the media play in shaping public opinion on foreign policy issues?

## Session Eight: Midsession essay research and writing (Wednesday – week 2)

4

## Session Nine: External Influences (Thursday – week 2)

- Class Topic:** The return of geo-politics
- Readings:** S Kotkin, 'Russia's Perpetual Geopolitics', Foreign Affairs May/June 2016 – Study Guide.
- Recommended:** Michael Klare, 'The Coming Resource Wars' – Study Guide; Osterud and G Honneland, 'Geopolitics and International Governance in the Arctic', *Law and Politics* 5:2 2014 – Study Guide.
- Case Studies:** East Asian Islands Disputes; The Scramble for the Arctic
- Questions to consider:** Does the nature of the international system determine the behaviour of states in it? Is geography still important?

## Session Ten: Emerging Powers and Systemic Transition (Friday – week 2)

- Class Topic:** The return of geo-politics – emerging powers and Africa
- Required Reading:** C Alden, *Emerging Powers and Africa*, LSE Ideas Strategic Paper 2013 [www.](#)
- Additional Reading:** C Alden, S Morphet and M Vieira, *The South in World Politics*, (Palgrave 2010), introduction – Study Guide.
- Questions to consider:** How are emerging powers challenging the international order? Does the case of Africa suggest a new scramble for resources?

**Public Lecture: Prof Cynthia Sanborn (Uni del Pacifico) 'China and Latin America: the case of Peru', NAB 1.04,**

18:30-20:00, 21 July.

### Session Eleven: Ethical Foreign Policy (Monday – week 3)

- **Class Topic:** Humanitarian intervention and ethical foreign policy
- **Required Reading:** S. Smith, Amelia Hadfield and Tim Dunne, eds., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases* (Oxford UP 2011), 'Duties Beyond Borders' – Chapter 12.
- **Additional Reading:** S. Smith, Amelia Hadfield and Tim Dunne, eds., *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases* (Oxford UP 2011), 'Britain and Gathering Storm over Iraq' – Chapter 19; 'Canada and Anti-personnel Landmines' – Chapter 15.
- **Case Study:** UK versus Canadian Foreign Policy and Ethics
- **Questions to consider:** Contrast UK and Canadian approaches to ethical foreign policy. Does Canada's approach to land mines conform to the promise of pursuing a more ethical foreign policy? To what extent was the changing international context important to pursuing ethical aims?

### Session Eleven: Foreign Policy and Change (Tuesday – week 3)

- **Class Topic:** The Foreign Policy(s) of Transitional States
- **Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp 92-103.
- **Additional Reading:** P Gordao, 'Regime Change and Foreign Policy: Portugal, Indonesia and the self-determination of East Timor', *Democratization* 9:4, 2002.
- **Case Study:** South African Foreign Policy in Transition
- **Questions to consider:** How do newly democratic states reconcile idealism with the foreign policy concerns of the state? To what extent are competing ancient regime and 'new order' bureaucracies a problem in implementing foreign policy?

5

### Session Twelve: Inter-Governmental Organisations, State Actors and Foreign Policy (Wednesday – week 3)

- **Class Topic:** the United Nations and Peace and Security
- **Required Reading:** J Morris and N Wheeler, 'The Security Council's Crisis of Legitimacy and the Use of Force', *International Politics*, 44, 2007 – Study Guide.
- **Additional Reading:** UN Charter – Study Guide.
- **Case Study:** UNTAC in Cambodia
- **Questions to consider:** Can national foreign policies be reconciled with international and universalist objectives? Can the international community produce 'social peace' in the aftermath of war? What are the impediments to an effective UN peacekeeping operation?

### Session Twelve: Non State Actors, Globalization and Foreign Policy (Thursday – week 3)

- **Class Topic:** Transnational Movements and the International System

- **Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp 78-91. Class topic and readings: Transnational Actors and the International System
- **Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (Routledge 2011), pp 78-91.
- **Case Studies:** NGOs, UN and MNCs – regulating resource conflicts through the Kimberley process; Illegal Wildlife Trade; Human Trafficking
- **Additional Reading:** L Shelley, *Dirty Entanglements: corruption, crime and terrorism* (Cambridge 2014), introduction – Study Guide.
- **Questions to consider:** How has globalization facilitated transnational crime and terrorism? Can states and transnational advocacy networks impact policies and challenge these problems? What impediments do they face?

### Session Twelve (B): Examination Review (Thursday – week 3)

### Final examination (Friday – week 3)

#### Assessment:

- Final examination (2 hours): 50%
- Midsession Essay (1500 words): 25%
- Class presentation: 25%

**Credit Transfer:** If you are hoping to earn credit by taking this course, please ensure that you confirm it is eligible for credit transfer well in advance of the start date. Please discuss this directly with your home institution or Study Abroad Advisor.

As a guide, our LSE Summer School courses are typically eligible for three credits within the US system and 7.5 ECTS in Europe. Different institutions and countries can, and will, vary. You will receive a digital transcript and a printed certificate following your successful completion of the course in order to make arrangements for transfer of credit.

If you have any queries, please direct them to [summer.school@lse.ac.uk](mailto:summer.school@lse.ac.uk)