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

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

Summer School Programme Area: International Relations, Government and Society

LSE Teaching Department: Department of International Relations

Lead Faculty: Professor Chris Alden (Dept. of International Relations)

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.

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 be a discussion seminar on a topic drawn from the lecture and readings. Active student participation is encouraged.

Reading List:


Assessment:

Formative assessment

An essay plan of no more than 500 words to be submitted on Thursday of week one, with feedback given on Monday of week two. This work will not contribute towards students’ final grades, but will help preparation for the first summative assessment.

Summative assessments

A mid-session essay of no more than 1,500 words will be due on Thursday of week two. This is worth 50% of the final overall grade, and grades should be distributed by Tuesday of week three.

A two-hour unseen final examination will take place on Friday of week three, this will be worth 50% of the final overall grade. The precise time and location of the exam will be circulated during the programme. Results should be distributed within a week of the exam.

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

- **Class Topic:** Determining Goals – US and Chinese Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era
- **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) (see Moodle)
- US National Security Strategy, February 2015; Wang Jisi, (see Moodle)
- ‘China’s Search for a Grand Strategy’, *Foreign Affairs*, 90:2 2011 (see course pack)
- **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?

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*, 2nd Edition (Routledge 2017), pp 23-44.

- **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


- **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 (see course pack)
- **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?
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*, 2nd Edition (Routledge 2017), pp. 26-29; 126-129.

- **Questions to consider:** Is history a useful guide for foreign policy decision makers? How does it influence the foreign policy process?

Session Five: Decision-Making in Crisis (Friday – week 1)

- **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 (see course pack)
- **Additional Reading:** L Holland ‘The US Decision to Launch Operation Desert Storm: a bureaucratic politics analysis’, *Armed Forces and Society* 25:2 1999 (see course pack)
- 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 Six: No lecture or afternoon classes – individual study (Monday – week 2)

Session Seven: Midsession essay research and writing (Tuesday – week 2)

Session Eight: Domestic Influences (Wednesday – week 2)

- **Class Topic:** Interest groups, the media and foreign policy

**Required Reading:** C. Alden and A Aran, *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches*, 2nd Edition (Routledge 2017), pp. 63-86.

- **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
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 (see course pack)
- **Recommended:** Michael Klare, ‘The Coming Resource Wars’; Osterud and G Honneland, ‘Geopolitics and International Governance in the Arctic’, *Law and Politics* 5:2 2014 (see Moodle)
- **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 – China and the Global South
- **Required Reading:** C Alden, *Emerging Powers and Africa*, LSE Ideas Strategic Paper 2013, (see Moodle)
- **Additional Reading:** C Alden, S Morphet and M Vieira, *The South in World Politics*, (Palgrave 2010), introduction (see Moodle)
- **Questions to consider:** How are emerging powers challenging the international order? Does the case of Africa suggest a new scramble for resources?

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

- **Class Topic:** Humanitarian intervention and ethical foreign policy
- **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*, 2nd Edition (Routledge 2017), pp 133-137.

**Additional Reading:** P Gordao, ‘Regime Change and Foreign Policy: Portugal, Indonesia and the self-
determination of East Timor’, *Democratization* 9:4, 2002 (*see course pack*)

- **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?

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

- **Class Topic**: the United Nations and Peace and Security
- **Additional Reading**: UN Charter (*see Moodle*)
- **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 Actors and the International System
  - **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 (*see course pack*)
  - **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)**
**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 or four 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