

Cairo University

Faculty of Economics and Political Science

Political Science Department



Course P308 (Core): Foreign Policy Analysis (C.H. 3)

Sundays and Tuesdays, 3:00-4:20 pm, Room: TBD

Associate Prof.: Riham Bahi

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-6:00 pm

Teaching assistant: Yosra Taha

Course Objectives:

This course examines alternative theoretical explanations of foreign policy. It follows a level-of-analysis approach, oriented around alternative understandings of foreign-policy making, rather than outcomes. We will pay particular attention to the assumptions underlying various approaches, the methodological concerns that each faces, and the intersections and divergences between schools. The course examines a variety of alternative theoretical explanations for how states formulate and implement their foreign policies. The course examines several conceptual models pertaining to foreign policy analysis: rational actor, bureaucratic/organizational, institutional, societal, and psychological identity. It also assesses the impact of government decision-makers, organizations, political parties, private interests, social groups, and mass publics and the various constraints within which each of these sets of actors must operate, the nature of their interactions with each other and the processes and mechanisms through which they resolve their differences and formulate policy. The course aims to apply frameworks of foreign policy analysis to the analysis of specific state and non-state actors. The majority of readings are theoretical, but we will examine case studies using various approaches. Finally, we will consider if, and how, changes in the international system challenge existing theories.

Course textbook

- The main textbooks for this course are

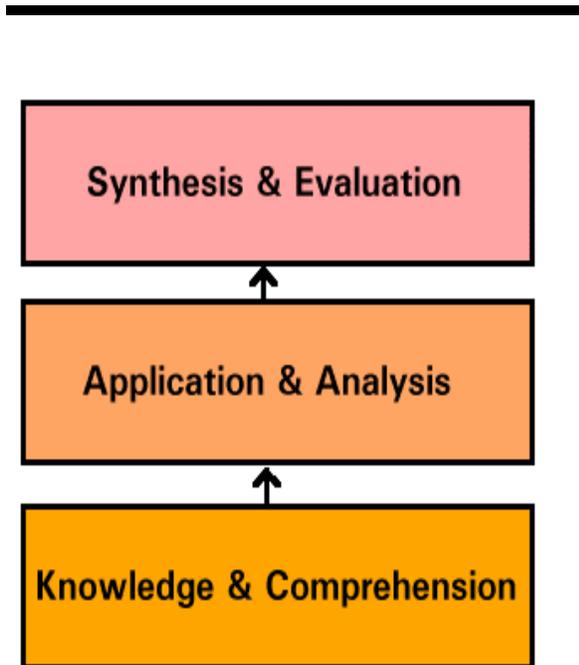
Neack, Laura (2008) *The New Foreign Policy: Power Seeking in a Globalized Era*, Rowman and Littlefield.

Hill, Christopher (2003) *The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy*, Basingstoke: Palgrave.

- Additional articles and book chapters will be posted on the course website on moodle

Learning outcomes

There are three levels of skill which you are going to learn and practice in this course:



When you have completed this course successfully, you should thus be able to demonstrate orally and in your essay writing that you can:

- **EVALUATE** the contributions of various theoretical approaches to foreign policy analysis
- **APPLY** selected theoretical approaches to empirical case studies
- **ANALYSE** the merits and limitations of different theoretical approaches
- **DEFINE** key theoretical concepts
- **EXPLAIN** selected theoretical approaches to foreign policy analysis

Each of these skills will be assessed in your essay at the end of the semester.

Grading and assignment

- **Participation:** Students are asked to come to all classes and discussion sections having completed all readings and fully prepared to participate actively and constructively in the discussions (*5 points*).
- **Mid-term exam:** during the mid-term exam week. (*20 points*).
- **Assignment (1000 words) due on March 27:**

Some scholars claim that internal characteristics of states (at the state level of analysis) strongly affect the propensity for war or potential for lasting peace. For one state, show how internal characteristics—social, economic, and/or cultural—influence that state’s external behavior

The assignment must be completed and submitted on the due date. Late submission will not be accepted. It will be assessed for (1) accuracy, (2) quality of analysis, (3) the extent to which knowledge of the relevant theoretical approaches is evident, and (4) clarity of the writing (*10 points*)

- **Final essay:** A final essay is **due on April 30**. All students submit an analysis of a foreign policy event. The paper will apply one foreign policy analysis model or approach to an important foreign policy event (to be agreed on with the instructor). Student's analysis will be discussed in the discussion sections. The paper is expected to range between 2000-2500 words (*15 points*).
- **Final exam:** final exam will be administered during exam weeks (*50 points*).

Format of submissions

- Work to be handed in should be typed in Times New Roman font, size 12, spaced in 1.5, 1-inch margin each side, on regular 8.5x11 sheets.
- Students should write their name (as it appears in the Records), the name of the course and instructor and the date on top of the first page.
- Work should be concise, reflect clarity of thinking, and follow a logical presentation.

Expectations

- Students are required to read the texts thoroughly before coming to class.
- The instructor has a zero-tolerance policy regarding academic integrity.
- Attendance is mandatory. Student participation (i.e. reading the required text before class and discussing then during class) is an integral part of the learning process.
- Students are expected to observe general rules of civility (turn off your mobile phone before you come, listen to your colleagues and avoid interrupting them, don't monopolize the discussion, be considerate of others, etc.).

Communication

- The instructor is available to answer the students' questions about the academic content of this course. This could happen during the class time and office hours (see above).
- Questions regarding the readings' availability, deadlines and other details related to the course should be addressed to the *teaching assistants*.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

Laura Neack pp.1-27

Week 2: Foreign Policy Analysis as a Field of Study

Christopher Hill, *The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy* (London: Palgrave, 2003): Chapters 1 and 2.

Individual Level Analysis

Week 3: Foreign Policy Makers: Leaders and Personalities

Christopher Hill, pp. 51-69 & 79-126

Laura Neack, pp. 29-45

Hermann, Margaret, Preston, Thomas, Korany, Baghat, and Shaw, Timothy. 2001. "Who leads matters" in *International Studies Review*, 3(2) (available online)

Week 4: Ideology vs National Interest

Slater, Jerome (2002) 'Ideology vs. the National Interest: Bush, Sharon, and US Policy in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict', *Security Studies*, 12:1, pp.164-206. (available online)

Weldes, Jutta (1996) 'Constructing National Interests', *European Journal of International Relations*, 2:3, pp.275-318 (available online)

Week 5: Cognition and Preferences

Laura Neack, pp. 47-64

Dyson, Stephen B. (2009) 'Cognitive Style and Foreign Policy: Margaret Thatcher's Black-and-White Thinking', *International Political Science Review*, 30:1, pp.33-48 (available online)

State-Level Analysis

Week 6: Groupthink and Bureaucratic Politics

Christopher Hill, pp. 72-96

Week 7: National Identity, Culture and Norms

Laura Neack, pp. 81-94

Week 8: Public Opinion, Interest Groups and the Media

Christopher Hill, pp. 250- 281

Laura Neack, pp. 111- 128

John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, “The War Over Israel’s Influence”, pp. 57-66 (available online)

Week 9: Domestic Politics

Christopher Hill, pp. 219-249

Laura Neack, pp. 95-109

System Level Analysis

Week 10: Systemic Constraints

Christopher Hill, pp. 159-215

Laura Neack, pp. 129-171

Week 11: An Ethical Foreign Policy

Gelb, Leslie, and Rosenthal, Justine A. (2003) ‘The Rise of Ethics in Foreign Policy: Reaching a Values Consensus’, *Foreign Affairs*, 82:3, pp.2-7.

Week 12: Foreign Policy Implementation

Christopher Hill, pp.127-155

Week 13: Essay presentations and class discussions.

Week 14: Conclusion and exam review