

St. John's University

GOV 3630

Foreign Policy of the Major Powers

Monday/Thursday
10:40-12:05am
MAR 427

David W. Kearns, Jr.
kearnmd@stjohns.edu
SJH 237-R

Office Hours: Mon. 2-3 pm
Thurs. 2-4 pm

Course Description

This course is designed to serve as an introduction to the foreign policy of major powers—or the leading states in the international system. While we will discuss ongoing questions and debates concerning contemporary foreign policy issues, the focus of the course will be to provide students with a basic understanding of the sources of a state's foreign policy. To this end, the course will focus explicitly on factors that shape or influence the strategies and behavior of states. We will explore various theoretical approaches that seek to explain state behavior and we will examine the history of the state system since the 1600s to test the utility and applicability of these approaches. We will then turn to the current day to examine the policies of several major and potential powers. Class readings and assignments should provide students with a strong analytical foundation in foreign policy, and allow them to thoughtfully apply these analytical tools to both practical modern day and historical policy problems.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to meet the following objectives:

1. To provide students with a foundation in the analysis of foreign policy and state behavior.
2. To introduce student to the major theoretical approaches to understanding international relations and foreign policy and the various factors upon which these approaches are based.
3. To refine students' skills in critical thinking and analysis and to cultivate writing skills for conveying the students' thoughts effectively.
4. To introduce students to working in small groups on a practical policy-related project that engages their analytical skills and capacities to interact with their colleagues.

Course Requirements

Requirements include completion of all assigned readings, examinations and writing assignments, as well as participation in class. The grading breakdown is as follows: Theoretical Analysis (20%); Historical Case Assessment (20%); Group Country Evaluation/Simulation Assignment (25%); Class Participation (15%), and the Final Exam (20%). Information on these assignments will be provided in class.

Make-Up Examinations/ Missed Assignments

St. John's College establishes rules for final examinations and make-up final examinations. Permission to sit for a make-up final due to a missed final must be sought from the College Administration. Those sitting for the regular final examination may not also sit for a make-up examination. There will be no scheduled make-up midterm exam. Students requiring a make-up must speak with me prior to the date of the exam; only dire circumstances are acceptable for consideration. Late paper assignments will be docked 1/3 grade for every day the paper is not turned in (from a C+ to a C).

Department Plagiarism Policy

Any student submitting a plagiarized paper, examination or class assignment will fail the course regardless of what percentage of the grade the assignment ordinarily represented. Plagiarism is using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to the other person. When you use someone else's words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by revealing the source in a citation. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else or just use their ideas, you still must give the author credit. Not giving due credit is stealing. Plagiarism constitutes theft, fraud and betrayal of values in an academic community devoted to advancement by merit. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: 1) Downloading a free research paper. 2) Buying a paper (in total or partially) from a commercial paper mill or any other source. 3) Copying an article from the web, an online database, books or journals as well as friends, or fraternity files. 4) Cutting and pasting to create a paper from several sources. 5) Misrepresenting the extent of a quote. 6) Faking a citation. 7) Not citing at all. In addition to failing the course, any student who plagiarizes will be reported to the Chair of the Government Department

Readings

There are two books available for purchase at the St. John's bookstore. Other readings (marked *) will be available online on the course webpage.

- Ryan K. Beasley, Juliet Kaarbo, Jeffrey S. Lantis, and Michael T. Snarr (eds.), *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective*, 2nd Ed. Washington: CQ Press, 2012. [Hereafter *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective*.]
- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, New York: Random House, 1987.

Students should also remain engaged with ongoing foreign affairs during the course of the class by reading newspapers and periodicals. Good sources include *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*.

Key Deadlines

Students should keep aware of the following important deadlines:

- Monday, September 6 is the last day to add or drop a class
- Thursday, September 18 is the last day students can drop a class without a transcript notation.

- Wednesday, November 7 is the last day for students to withdraw from a class with a transcript notation or apply for a pass/fail option.

First Class: Introductions, Expectations

Thurs. 8/30

*****No classes, Labor Day**

Mon. 9/03

PART I. Theoretical Approaches

What is foreign policy or grand strategy?

Thurs. 9/06

- Paul Kennedy, *Grand Strategies in War and Peace*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991. Chapter 1.*
- Ryan K. Beasley, Juliet Kaarbo, Jeffrey S. Lantis, and Michael T. Snarr (eds.), *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective*, Washington: CQ Press, 2009. Chapter 1.

External Influences: Anarchy and the Distribution of Power

Mon. 9/10

- Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* (5th Ed.), New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978. Chapter 1*
- John Mearsheimer, "False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security* 19:3 (Winter, 1994/95). Read only pp. 5-15.*

External Influences: Security and Insecurity

Thurs. 9/13

- Robert Jervis "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics* 30:2 (January 1978) read pp. 167-170 and 186-214.*
- C. Glaser, "The Security Dilemma Revisited," *World Politics* (October 1997), 171-201.*

External Influences: Cooperation and Institutions

Mon. 9/17

- Charles Lipson, "International Cooperation in Economic and Security Affairs," *World Politics* 37:1 (October 1984) pp. 1-23.*
- Robert O. Keohane, "A Functional of Regimes," from Art and Jervis, *International Politics*.

External Influences: Interdependence

Thurs. 9/20

- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, *Power and Interdependence* (Little, Brown & Company: 1977), Chap. 2.*
- Joseph S. Nye, "Soft power and American foreign policy," *Political Science Quarterly* 119: 2 (2004) 255-270.

Influences: Culture and Identity

Mon. 9/24

- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *I.O.*, 46:2, pp. 391-425.

Internal Influences: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Rosecrance and Arthur Stein, "Beyond Realism: The Study of Grand Strategy," in Rosecrance and Stein (eds.) <i>The Domestic Bases of Grand Strategy</i> (Cornell: 1991).* • John M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces the Democratic Peace," <i>International Security</i> 19:2 (Fall 1994). 	Thurs. 9/27
Internal Influences: Leaders and Individuals	Mon. 10/01
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, "Let Us Now Praise Great Men," <i>International Security</i> 25:4 (Spring 2001), pp. 107-146.* 	
First Paper Due at the Beginning of Class	Thurs. 10/04
<i>***No classes, Columbus Day</i>	<i>Mon. 10/08</i>
Part II. Analyzing Historical Cases of Great Power Behavior	
The European "Miracle"	Thurs. 10/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Kennedy, <i>The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers</i>, New York: Random House, 1987. [Hereafter "Kennedy."] Chapter 1. 	
The Habsburg Bid for Mastery	Mon. 10/15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy, Chapter 2. 	
European Continental Conflict	Thurs. 10/18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy, Chapter 3 	
The 19 th Century in Europe and the Rise of Nationalism	Mon. 10/22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy, Chapter 4 	
Arms Races, Alliances and the Great War	Thurs. 10/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy, Chapter 5 	
The Interwar Period and Total War	Mon. 10/29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy, Chapter 6 	
The Superpowers, the Cold War and the Bipolar System	**Wed. 10/31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy, Chapter 7 	
Second Paper Due at the Beginning of Class	
<i>No classes, All Saints' Day</i>	<i>Thurs. 11/01</i>

PART III: Foreign Policy in the Contemporary Global System

The Established Powers: Great Britain, France, Germany Mon. 11/05
• *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective*

Existing and Emerging Great Powers: Russia, China, India Thurs. 11/08
• *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective*

Regional Powers: Japan, Turkey, Iran Mon. 11/12
• *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective*

Regional Powers: Brazil, South Africa, Venezuela Thurs. 11/15
• *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective*

SIMULATION SATURDAY – RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CRISIS Sat. 11/17

Simulation Scoring, Debrief, and Discussion Mon. 11/19

No classes, Thanksgiving Break Thurs. 11/22

PART IV: Looking Forward: Great Power Politics in a Changing System

Potential Futures: U.S. Policy and the World Mon. 11/26
• Barry R. Posen and Andrew L. Ross, “Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy,” *International Security*, 21:3 (Winter, 1996-1997), 5-53.*

• Charles Krauthammer, “The Unipolar Moment Revisited,” *The National Interest* (Winter, 2002/03).*

• T. V. Paul, “Soft Balancing in the Age of U.S. Primacy,” *International Security* 30:1 (Summer 2005), 46-71.* Thurs. 11/29

• Stephen M. Walt, “Taming American Power,” *Foreign Affairs* 84:5 (Sept/Oct 2005) 105-120.

The Future of U.S. Power Mon. 12/03

• Fareed Zakaria, “The Future of American Power: How America Can Survive the Rise of the Rest,” *Foreign Affairs* 87 (2008) 18-43.

• Josef Joffe, “The Default Power: The False Prophecy of America’s Decline,” *Foreign Affairs* 88 (2009) 21-35.

• Joseph S. Nye, Jr., “The Future of American Power: Dominance and Decline in Perspective,” *Foreign Affairs* 89 (2010) 2-12.

Implications for Great Power Politics

Thurs. 12/06

- Richard N. Haass, "The Age of Nonpolarity: What Will Follow U.S. Dominance," *Foreign Affairs* 87 (2008), 44-56.
- G. John Ikenberry, "The Future of the Liberal World Order," *Foreign Affairs* 90 (2011) 56-68.
- Arvind Subramanian, "The Inevitable Superpower: Why China's Dominance Is a Sure Thing," *Foreign Affairs* 90 (2011) 66-78.

**A Take-Home Final Examination will be due during finals week.
Additional information to be provided.**

**Mon. 12/10-
Sat. 12/15**