POLSC 384 Comparative Foreign Policy

Zachary Shirkey Class Room:

212-772-5503 Class Time:

zshirkey@hunter.cuny.edu Office Hours:

1724A HW

Course Description

This course’s aim is to examine overarching reasons as to why different states have different foreign policies. The goal is not to catalog and study the foreign policy of a great many states, though of course examples will be used, but rather to think about the theoretical reasons why different states would go about their interactions with other states in different manners. Theories of state behavior will be drawn from many overarching international relations frameworks including but not necessarily limited to realism, liberalism, and constructivism. The class itself will be a mixture of lecture and discussion.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to complete all the readings and to attend classes. The class format will be a mix of that of a seminar and lecture format. Class discussion of the readings will be a major component of the method of instruction. **Students must complete the readings for each class prior to class.** The graded assignments are a research paper, two article summaries, a presentation of one of those summaries, and a final exam. The paper consists of three elements: a proposal; a literature review; and a completed version. **Late assignments will be docked at least a full letter grade (e.g., from a B to a C) and assignments that are more than a day late may be subject to additional penalties. No late assignments will be accepted after the final. No extra credit will be given.** College requirements mandate that Credit / No Credit forms must be signed before the final is handed out and that students have completed all graded assignments to receive credit. The overall grade will be broken down as follow:

Two Article Summaries 10% each (20% total)

Article Presentation 10%

Research Paper 40% total

* Paper proposal 5%
* Draft of Literature Review 10%
* Completed Paper 25%

Final Exam 30%

Learning Outcomes

Students will be expected to read on average roughly 90 pages a week of scholarly texts and comprehend various potential causes of differences in states’ foreign policies including power differentials, societal culture and religion, regime type, history, institutional culture, and individuals.

In short writing assignments, students should explain how the concepts covered relate to each other and determine which are most compelling given the internal logic of those theories and the available evidence.

Students will also be able to critique of scholarly articles in writing and present these critiques orally.

In a substantial research paper students will generate appropriate research hypothesis about the causes of a recent foreign policy decision by a country of their choosing. Their argument will be based on the theoretical material covered. In exploring their hypothesis, students will be required to make a causal argument about the origins of the policy, situate that argument in the scholarly literature, and locate sufficient evidence to test that hypothesis. Students will be expected to use only appropriate scholarly sources and to cite those sources correctly.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

“In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

* 1. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
	2. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>”

Incompletes and Credit/No Credit

To be eligible for a grade of incomplete, students must have reached an agreement to that effect with the professor prior to the final exam. No grade of incomplete will be awarded without documentation of a health issue, mental health issue, or some other legitimate obstacle to completing the course in a timely manner. Said health issues can affect either the student or a family member under the student’s care. All work must be completed within a year.

In accordance with Hunter College policy, to be eligible for Credit/No Credit students must have completed all assignments and take the final exam.

Missed Classes Because of Religious Observances

Students who miss class because of religious observances are entitled to reasonable accommodations to make up missed assignments and missed material. Students should contact the instructor prior to the missed class to inform the instructor about the absence, work out how missed assignments will be made up, and determine how missed material can be learned.

Course Materials:

There are no books to purchase. All readings are available on Blackboard.

Course Schedule:

**Introduction**

Th Aug 28: Lecture

*Introduction and Why Study Comparative Foreign Policy*

Th Sep 4: Discussion

*Why Would Different States Have Different Foreign Policies?*

* James Rosenau. 1968. “Comparative Foreign Policy: Fad, Fantasy or Field?” *International Studies Quarterly* 12: 296–329.
* Jean A. Garrison, et al. 2003. “Foreign Policy Analysis in 20/20: A Symposium,” *International Studies Review* 5(2): 155–202.

**Are there Realist Theories of Foreign Policy?**

M Sep 8: Lecture **Paper Assignment Handed Out**

*Realist Theories of Foreign Policy (I)*

* Michael Mastanduno, David Lake, and John Ikenberry. 1989. “Toward a Realist Theory of State Action,” *International Studies Quarterly* 33: 457–74.
* Polansky, David. 2016. “Drawing Out the Leviathan: Kenneth Waltz, Hobbes, and the Neorealist Theory of the State,” *International Studies Review* 18(2): 268–89.

Th Sep 11: Discussion

*Realist Theories of Foreign Policy (II)*

* Brian C. Schmidt and Michael C. Williams. 2008. “The Bush Doctrine and the Iraq War,” *Security Studies* 17(2): 191–220.
* Schweller, Randall L. 2004. “Unanswered Threats: A Neoclassical Realist Theory of Underbalancing,” *International Security* 29(2): 159-201.

**Changes in and Levels of Power**

M Sep 15: Lecture **Paper Proposal Due**

*Rising Powers vs. Declining Powers (I)*

* Charles F. Doran. 2005. “Explaining Ascendancy and Decline: The Power Cycle Perspective,” *International Journal* 60(3): 685–701.
* Richard Ned Lebow and Benjamin Valentino. 2009. “Lost in Transition: A Critical Analysis of Power Transition Theory,” *International Relations* 23(3): 389–410.

Th Sep 18: Discussion

*Rising Powers vs. Declining Powers (II)*

* Saori N. Katada, Cynthia Roberts, and Leslie Elliot Armijo. 2017. “The Varieties of Collective Financial Statecraft: The BRICS and China,” *Political Science Quarterly* 132(3): 403–33.
* Andres Malamud. 2011. “A Leader Without Followers? Growing Divergence Between the Regional and Global Performance of Brazilian Foreign Policy,” *Latin American Politics and Society* 53(3): 1–24.

M Sep 22: Lecture

*Middle Powers (I)*

* David Hundt. 2011. “Middle Powers and the Building of Region Order: Australia and South Korea Compared,” *Korea Observer* 42(1): 69–94.
* Andrew F. Cooper and Emel Parlar Dal. 2016. “Positioning the Third Wave of Middle Power Diplomacy: Institutional Elevation, Practice Limitations,” *International Journal* 71(4): 516–28.

M Sep 29: Discussion

*Middle Powers (II)*

* Paul Gecelovsky. 2009. “Constructing a Middle Power: Ideas and Canadian Foreign Policy,” *Canadian Foreign Policy/La Politique etrangere du Canada* 15(1): 77–93.
* Robert W. Murray and John McCoy. 2010. “From Middle Powers to Peacebuilder: The Use of the Canadian Forces in Modern Canadian Foreign Policy,” *The American Review of Canadian Studies* 40(2): 171–88.

Th Oct 2: Lecture

*Small Powers (I)*

* Annette Baker Fox. 1959. *The Power of Small States: Diplomacy in World War II*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters One and Seven: 1–9 and 180–88.
* Giorgi Gvalia, David Siroky, Bidzina Lebandidze, Zurab Iashvili. 2013. “Thinking Outside the Bloc: Explaining the Foreign Policies of Small States,” *Security Studies* 22(1): 98–131.

M Oct 6: Discussion

*Small Powers (II)*

* Miriam Fendius Elman. 1995. “The Foreign Policies of Small States: Challenging Neorealism in Its Own Backyard,” *British Journal of Political Science* 25(2): 171–217. **Skim the case study**.
* Anders Wivel and Kajsa Ji Noe Oest. 2010. “Security, Profit, or Shadow of the Past? Explaining the Security Strategies of Microstates,” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 23(3): 429–53.

**History and State Building**

Th Oct 9: Lecture and Discussion

*Reputation*

* Mark Crescenzi, Jacob Kathman, and Stephen Long. 2007. “Reputation, History, and War,” *Journal of Peace Research* 44(6): 651–67.
* Barbara Walter. 2006. “Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but Not Others,” *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2): 313–30.

Th Oct 16: Lecture

*Habit versus Learning*

* Ted Hopf. 2010. “The Logic of Habit in International Relations,” *European Journal of International Relations* 16(4): 539–61.
* Lars-Erik Cederman. 2001. “Back to Kant: Reinterpreting the Democratic Peace as a Macrohistorical Learning Process,” *American Political Science Review* 95(1): 15–31.

M Oct 20: Discussion

*Rivalry and State Building*

* David Dreyer. 2010. “Issue Conflict Accumulation and the Dynamics of Strategic Rivalry,” *International Studies Quarterly* 54(3): 779–95.
* Cameron G. Theis. 2005. “War, Rivalry, and State Building in Latin America,” *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3): 451–65.

Th Oct 23: Lecture

*State Building and Development*

* Brian D. Taylor and Roxana Botea. 2008. “Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World,” *International Studies Review* 10(1): 27–56.
* Douglas Lemke. 2003. “Development and War,” *International Studies Review* 5(4): 55–63.

**Ideas and Identity**

M Oct 27: Discussion

*Values, Culture, and Ideology*

* Mark L. Haas. 2014. “Ideological Polarity and Balancing in Great Power Politics,” *Security Studies* 23(4): 715–53.
* Brian C. Rathbun et al. 2016. “Taking Foreign Policy Personally: Personal Values and Foreign Policy Attitudes,” *International Studies Quarterly* 60(1): 124–37.

Th Oct 30: Lecture **Literature Review Due**

*National Roles*

* Cameron G. Theis. 2017. “Role Theory and Foreign Policy Analysis in Latin America,” *Foreign Policy Analysis* 13(3): 662–81.
* Cristian Cantir and Juliet Kaarbo. 2012. “Contested Roles and Domestic Politics: Reflections on Role Theory in Foreign Policy Analysis and IR Theory,” *Foreign Policy Analysis* 8(1): 5–24.

M Nov 3: Discussion

*Identity and Images*

* Ole Holsti. 1962. “The Belief System and National Images,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 6: 244–52.
* Jeff Spinner-Halev and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse. 2003. “National Identity and Self-Esteem,” *Perspectives on Politics* 1(3): 515–32.

Th Nov 6: Lecture

*Religion*

* Friedrich Kratochwil. 2005. “Religion and (Inter-)National Politics: On the Heuristics of Identities, Structures, and Agents,” *Alternatives* 30(2): 113–40.
* Erin K. Wilson. 2014. “Theorizing Religion as Politics in Postsecular International Relations,” *Politics, Religion & Ideology* 15(3): 347–65.

M Nov 10: Discussion

*Religion and Conflict*

* Isak Svensson. 2007. “Fighting with Faith: Religion and Conflict Resolution in Civil Wars,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(6): 930–49.
* Marco Nilsson. 2018. “Causal beliefs and war termination: Religion and rational choice in the Iran-Iraq War,” *Journal of Peace Research* 55(1): 94–106.

Th Nov 13: Lecture and Discussion

*Role of Ethnic Diasporas*

* Yossi Shain and Aharon Barth. 2003. “Diasporas and International Relations Theory,” *International Organization* 57(3): 449–79.
* Charles King and Neil J. Melvin. 2000. “Diaspora Politics: Ethnic Linkages, Foreign Policy, and Security in Eurasia,” International Security 24(3): 108–38.

**Regime Type and Governmental Institutions**

M Nov 17: Lecture

*Democratic Peace*

* John Oneal, Bruce Russett, and Michael Berbaum. 2003. “Causes of Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885–1992,” *International Studies Quarterly* 47(3): 371–93.
* David Lektzian and Mark Souva. 2009. “A Comparative Test of Democratic Peace Arguments, 1946-2000,” *Journal of Peace Research* 46(1): 17–38.

Th Nov 20: Discussion

*Democratic Peace: Criticism*

* Erik Gartzke and Alex Weisiger. 2013. “Fading Friendships: Alliances, Affinities, and the Activation of International Identities,” *British Journal of Political Science* 43(1): 25–52.
* Patrick J. McDonald. 2015. “Great Powers, Hierarchy, and Endogenous Regimes: Rethinking the Domestic Causes of Peace,” *International Organization* 69(3): 557–89.

M Nov 24: Lecture and Discussion

*Other Effects of Democracy*

* Michael Colaresi. 2012. “A Boom with Review: How Retrospective Oversight Increases the Foreign Policy Ability of Democracies,” *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 671–89.
* Douglas M. Gibler and Steven V. Miller. 2013. “Quick Victories? Territory, Democracies, and Their Disputes,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57(2): 258–84.

M Dec 1: Lecture

*Regime Accountability, Risk Acceptance, and Trust*

* Brian C. Rathbun. 2011. “The ‘Magnificent Fraud’: Trust, International Cooperation, and the Hidden Domestic Politics of American Multilateralism after World War II,” *International Studies Quarterly* 55: 1–21.
* Sarah Croco. 2011. “The Decider’s Dilemma: Leader Culpability, War Outcomes, and Domestic Punishment,” *American Political Science Review* 105(3): 457–77.

Th Dec 4: Discussion

*Autocracies*

* James Raymond Vreeland. 2008. “Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture,” *International Organization* 62(1): 65–101.
* Jeff. D. Colgan and Jessica L. P. Weeks. 2015. “Revolution, Personalist Dictatorships, and International Conflict,” *International Organization* 69(1): 163–94.

M Dec 8: Lecture

*Institutional Culture*

* Jack Snyder, 1984. “Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984,” *International Security* 9(1): 108–46.
* Michael Horowitz, Rose McDermott, and Allan Stam. 2005. “Leader Age, Regime Type, and Violent International Relations,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(5): 661–85.

Th Dec 11: Discussion

*Individuals*

* Todd Sechser, 2004. “Are Soldiers Less War Prone than Statesmen?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(5): 746–74.
* Michael Horowitz and Allan Stam. 2014. “How Prior Military Experience Influences The Future Militarized Behavior of Leaders,” *International Organization* 68(3): 527–59.

M Dec 15: Review **Final Paper Due**

**Final Exam During Exam Week**