

# POLS-Y 366 CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS

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**Instructor:** [Salih Yasun](#)  
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**Time:** TuTh, 10.00 - 11.15 AM  
**Office Hours:** TBA

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**Notes:** Images obtained from [Vox News](#) and [Ifri](#) websites.

**Course Description** Why do states go to war? Are the current conflicts insolvable? How can we explain the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine? This course focuses on understanding the current foreign policy problems from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. We begin the course by discussing the mainstream approaches to understand foreign policy problems. Then we devote discussions on specific themes and regions. Students are expected to write original papers and to contribute classroom debates. Prior to each week the instructor will provide students with questions from the readings that we will focus on during the classroom debates.

**Course Objectives:** This course has several objectives or learning outcomes. The first is an introduction to the study of mainstream approaches to international relations, including realism, liberalism and constructivism.. The second is using this theoretical approach to practice our own research skills. The third is engaging in case studies to understand the dynamics of current foreign policy problems. While achieving these goals, we will engage with the empirical evidence, strengthen our foundational skills on reading and critical writing.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance:10% Two essay format quizzes (40% total, each: 20%) Essay:50%.

The essay includes Includes:

- A Proposal (Single Page),
- The First Revision,
- The Final Paper (15-20 pages).

Students are required to write a final paper for this course on a foreign policy issue based on the literature that we cover. Students will first write a single-page proposal, a draft and a final paper. The instructor will provide the students with feedback on their proposals and drafts. Students are recommended to follow the feedback. For the essay assignment, the instructor will grade the final papers only. However, a failure to deliver proposals or revisions may lead to the deduction in points.

**Grading Scale:** A+ = 100; A = 94-99; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ =77-79; C = 73-76; C- =70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59.

**Required Books:** *Analyzing Foreign Policy*, by Derek Beach and Rasmus Brun Pedersen. Bloomsbury Academic, 2012. ISBN: 1352008068

*The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Very Short Introduction*, Bunton, Martin, 2013, OUP Oxford. ISBN:9780199603930

All other readings are posted in [CANVAS Files](#).

**Late Work Policy:** Work turned in after the deadline will receive a maximum of 90% of the prescribed grade for that assignment. From two until five days it will receive a maximum of 50% of the grade. A grade not turned in five days after the deadline will receive 0% of the prescribed grade for that assignment.

**COVID-19 Note:** If students are not able to complete their assignment because they are sick due to COVID-19 or because they take care of family members are sick, they should inform the instructor as soon as possible. I will make the necessary arrangements so that students will not lose points due to the health restrictions.

**Plagiarism:** All work should be your original product, unless explicitly noted otherwise. Any materials you reference or take from others should be properly cited. Cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication in any form will not be tolerated, regardless of any justification. For more detailed information see the Student Responsibilities section of [the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct](#). Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. The minimum consequence is failing the assignment. In a case of more serious offense, a student may fail the course. Students should NOT present work from other courses in this class (i.e., using pieces of previous papers you have done is considered plagiarism). I may use the services of Turnitin.com to check for originality of your written work. T

**Counseling and Psychological Services:** For information about services offered to students by CAPS: <https://www.iun.edu/counseling-services/>

**Students with Disabilities:** Indiana University is committed to creating a learning environment and academic community that promotes educational opportunities for all individuals, including those with disabilities. Course directors are asked to make reasonable accommodations, upon request by the student or the university, for such disabilities. It is the responsibility of students with documented physical or learning disabilities seeking accommodation to notify their course directors and the relevant campus office that deals with such cases in a timely manner concerning the need for such accommodation. Indiana University will make reasonable accommodations for access to programs, services, and facilities as outlined by applicable state and federal laws. Student Support Services location: HH 239, (219) 980-6798, Student Support Services online: <http://www.iun.edu/student-support/index.htm>

**IU's Sexual Misconduct Policy:** As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to create a positive learning environment for all students. IU policy prohibits sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, sexual exploitation, and dating and domestic violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. If you are seeking help and would like to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with the Office of Counseling Services at 219-980-6741. It is also important that you know that University policy requires me to share certain information brought to my attention about potential sexual misconduct, with the campus Deputy Sexual Misconduct Title IX Coordinator or the University Sexual Misconduct Title IX Coordinator. In that event, those individuals will work to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. Protecting student privacy is of utmost concern, and information will only be shared with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. I encourage you to visit <https://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu> to learn more.

**Online Course Materials:** The faculty member teaching this course holds the exclusive right to distribute, modify, post, and reproduce course materials, including all written materials, R Codes, study guides, lectures, assignments, exercises, and exams. While you are permitted to take notes on the online materials and lectures posted for this course for your personal use, you are not permitted to re-post in another forum, distribute, or reproduce content from this course without the express written permission of the faculty member. Any violation of this course rule will be reported to the appropriate university offices and officials, including to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct.

## Week 1: Introduction

**Tuesday, August 22th:** Introduction and Read the Syllabus in its Entirety

- **Readings:** The syllabus in its entirety
- **Optional:** Green, A. (2013) How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps. [Access here.](#)

**Thursday, August 24th:** Analyzing Foreign Policy

- Analyzing Foreign Policy Chapters 1 and 2.

## Week 2: IR Theories

**Tuesday, August 29th:**

- Analyzing Foreign Policy Chapter 3
- Stephen M. Walt, "Theory and Policy in International Relations: Some Personal Reflections," *Yale Journal of International Affairs* 7 (2012) CANVAS.
- Joseph R. Biden, Jr., "Why America Must Lead Again: Rescuing U. S. Foreign Policy After Trump," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, Issue 2 (March/April 2020): 64-76. CANVAS.

**Thursday, August 31st:**

- Morgenthau, Hans J. "Six principles of political realism." *Classic Readings of International Relations* (2006): 34-38. CANVAS.
- Douglas Brinkley, "*Democratic Enlargement: The Clinton Doctrine*" *Foreign Policy* 106 (1997). CANVAS.
- Alexander Wendt, "*Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics*" *International Organization* 46 (1992). CANVAS.

## Week 3: Bipolar, Unipolar or Multipolar: Rising Powers

**Tuesday, September 5th:**

- **Readings:** Analyzing Foreign Policy, Chapter 4.
- Robert Kagan, "*A Superpower, Like It or Not*" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, Issue 2 (March/April 2021): 28-38. CANVAS.

**Thursday, September 7th:**

- William J. Burns, "Assessing the Role of the United States in the World," Testimony: Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, February 27, 2019. CANVAS.
- The New Concert of Powers How to Prevent Catastrophe and Promote Stability in a Multipolar World. *Foreign Affairs*. March 2021

## Week 4: Domestic Level Factors

**Tuesday, September 12th:**

- Analyzing Foreign Policy, Chapter 5.

- Powlick, Philip J., and Andrew Z. Katz. "Defining the American public opinion/foreign policy nexus." *Mershon International Studies Review* 42.1 (1998): 29-61. CANVAS.

**Thursday, September 14th: Case Studies**

- Plagemann, J., Destradi, S. (2019). "Populism and Foreign Policy: The case of India." *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 15(2), 283-301. CANVAS.
- McFaul, Michael. "Putin, Putinism, and the Domestic Determinants of Russian Foreign Policy." *International Security* 45.2 (2020): 95-139. CANVAS.

**Week 5: Decision Making****Tuesday, September 19th: Decision Making**

- **Readings:** Analyzing Foreign Policy, Chapters 6 and 7.
- One Page Proposal due.

**Thursday, September 21st: Case Studies**

- Allison, G. T. (1969). Conceptual models and the Cuban missile crisis. *American Political Science Review*, 63(3), 689-718. CANVAS
- Butt, Ahsan I. "Why Did the United States Invade Iraq in 2003?." *Security Studies* 28.2 (2019): 250-285.

**Week 6: Security Policies and Diplomacy****Tuesday, September 26th: Security Policies**

- Analyzing Foreign Policy, Chapter 8.
- Rosato, S. (2003). The flawed logic of democratic peace theory. *American Political Science Review*, 97(4), 585-602.

**Thursday, September 28st: Diplomacy**

- Analyzing Foreign Policy, Chapter 9.
- Makdisi, Karim, and Coralie Pison Hindawi. "The Syrian chemical weapons disarmament process in context: narratives of coercion, consent, and everything in between." *Third World Quarterly* 38.8 (2017): 1691-1709.
- Sachs, Jeffrey. Diplomacy Remains the Only Option in Ukraine. *Project Syndicate*. March 9th, 2022. CANVAS.

**Week 7: Economic Foreign Policy and Aid Debates****Tuesday, October 3rd: Economic Policy**

- Analyzing Foreign Policy, Chapter 10.
- Tolleson, Jef. These Experiments Could Lift Millions out of Dire Poverty. *Nature*. June 22nd, 2022. CANVAS.

**Thursday, October 5th: Critical Perspectives on Aid**

- Coyne, Christopher J. *Doing Bad By Doing Good: Why Humanitarian Action Fails*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2013. Chapter 3, "Adaptability and the Planner's Problem" and Killing People with Kindness, Chapter 6. CANVAS.

### Week 8: Anti-Corruption Initiatives and Quiz

#### **Tuesday, October 10th: Anti-Corruption Initiatives: Do They Work?**

- Heilbrunn, J. R. (2004). Anti-Corruption Commissions: Panacea or Real Medicine to Fight Corruption. World Bank Institute. CANVAS
- Heeks, R., and Mathisen, H. (2012). Understanding success and failure of anti-corruption initiatives. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 58(5), 533-549. CANVAS

#### **Thursday, October 12th: Quiz.**

- Content TBA.

### Week 9: The Challenges of State Building

#### **Tuesday, October 17th: Challenges of State Building**

- Fukuyama, Francis. Political order and political decay: From the industrial revolution to the globalization of democracy. Chapter 1: Part I: The State. What is political development? pages 1-114. Macmillan, 2014. CANVAS.

#### **Thursday, October 19th: Weak States**

- Atzili, B. (2010). State weakness and "vacuum of power" in Lebanon. *Studies in Conflict Terrorism*, 33(8), 757-782.
- Murtazashvili, J. B. (2022). The Collapse of Afghanistan. *Journal of Democracy*, 33(1), 40-54.

### Week 10: The Old and the New Cold Wars

#### **Tuesday, October 24th: Cold War**

- Fukuyama, Francis. "The end of history?." *The National Interest* 16 (1989): 3-18.
- Tsygankov, Andrei P. "The sources of Russia's fear of NATO." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 51.2 (2018): 101-111.
- Paper draft due.

#### **Thursday, October 26th: Russia-Ukraine Conflict**

- Bielsky et al. The Roots of the Ukraine War: How the Crisis Developed? New York Times. April 21th, 2022.
- John Mearsheimer on why the West is principally responsible for the Ukrainian crisis. The Economist.
- Hurak, Ihor, and Paul D'Anieri. "The Evolution of Russian Political Tactics in Ukraine." *Problems of Post-Communism* 69.2 (2022): 121-132.
- Potočňák, Adam, and Miroslav Mares. "Donbas Conflict: How Russia's Trojan Horse Failed and Forced Moscow to Alter Its Strategy." *Problems of Post-Communism* (2022): 1-11.

### Week 11: The Middle East

#### **Tuesday, November 1st: Palestine-Israel Conflict**

- Bunton, M. (2013). *The Palestinian-Israeli conflict: A very short introduction*. OUP Oxford. Full book.
- [Watch: Here's How the Arab Spring Started and How It Affected the World 3.54 min.](#)

#### **Thursday, November 3rd: US Policy After the Arab Uprisings**

- Hashemi, Nader. The Arab Spring, U.S. Foreign Policy, and the Question of Democracy in the Middle East. *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*. January 2012.
- Abrams, Elliott. *Realism and Democracy: American Foreign Policy after the Arab Spring*. Cambridge University Press, 2017. Chapter 4: The Trouble with US Policy.

#### **Week 12: Terrorism in MENA and the Syrian War**

##### **Tuesday, November 8th: Terrorism**

- Lynch, M. (2018). The new Arab Order: Power and Violence in Today's Middle East. *Foreign Affairs*, 97, 116.
- Tessler, M., Robbins, M. D. (2007). What leads some Ordinary Arab Men and Women to Approve of Terrorist Acts against the United States?. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51(2), 305-328.

##### **November 10th: Syrian War**

- Corstange, D., York, E. A. (2018). Sectarian framing in the Syrian civil war. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(2), 441-455.
- Abboud, Samer. "Social Change, Network Formation and Syria's War Economies." *Middle East Policy* 24.1 (2017): 92-107.

#### **Week 13: NATO and UN: Strengths and Limitations**

##### **Tuesday, November 15th: NATO**

- Masters, J. (2019). The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). *Council on Foreign Relations*.
- Berdal, M., Ucko, D. (2009). NATO at 60. *Survival*, 51(2), 55-76.
- Borzillo, L. (2022). The Resurrection of Lazarus, or the Second Youth of NATO: The Consequences of the Russian Invasion on NATO. *Policy Report*, 17.

##### **Thursday, November 17th: The United Nations**

- Weiss, Thomas G., and Sam Daws. "World politics: continuity and change since 1945." eds.: *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Oxford 2007, S. 3 38 (2007).
- Diehl, Paul F., Jennifer Reifschneider, and Paul R. Hensel. "United Nations intervention and recurring conflict." *International Organization* 50.4 (1996): 683-700.

#### **Week 14: Thanksgiving Break**

#### **Week 15: Climate Change**

##### **Tuesday, November 29th: Climate Change and Conflict**

- Mitchell, Timothy. "Carbon democracy." *Economy and Society* 38.3 (2009): 399-432.
- Koubi, Vally. "Climate change and conflict." *Annual Review of Political Science* 22 (2019): 343-360.

- Chibani, Achref. Migrating to Adapt to Climate Change, Tunisians Lose Their Way of Life. *Wilson Center*, February 28th, 2022.

**Thursday, December 1st: Theoretical Approaches**

- Ostrom, Elinor. "A polycentric approach for coping with climate change." World Bank Publication Series.

**Week 16: Final Quiz and Paper Due****Tuesday, December 6th**

- Final Quiz

**Tuesday, December 8th**

- Final Paper Due