

# United States Foreign Policy

Sam Houston State University  
Department of Political Science



POLS3381.01  
CRN 22238  
Spring Semester 2016



## About This Course

How do we *explain* U.S. foreign policy? What types of forces contribute to the decisions we observe? This course (3.0 credits) introduces a levels-of-analysis framework that can be used to explain foreign policy. While this framework may have implications for normative questions (i.e., "What *should* the president do in situation X?"), our focus will be on explaining/understanding as a precursor to prescribing. In other words, if we look at something like U.S. policy toward Iran, we could spend a bunch of time arguing about what policy *should* be. Instead, we're going to take policy as we find it and attempt to explain/understand why it is the way that it is.

### The Game Plan

We will develop and utilize a levels-of-analysis framework that attempts to explain U.S. foreign policy using individual, state, and system factors. Throughout the term, we will illustrate concepts and theories and put our analytical tools to the test using current events, case studies, and a multiple-week simulation.

### Course objectives

- ◆ Gain factual knowledge about the study of international relations (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- ◆ Learn fundamental principles, generalizations and theories of international relations
- ◆ Improve critical thinking and writing skills



## Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All of the readings will be available online (via URLs or through Blackboard).

Please purchase the following:

[1] Student user license for our course simulation: Statecraft (\$35) at <http://www.statecraftsim.com>. [Note: I will talk more about this during the first few course sessions.]

Please consider purchasing a subscription to *The Wall Street Journal*. Throughout the semester, we'll be making a number of references to current U.S. foreign policy. Everything will be clearer if you are knowledgeable about current events. If you click on [wsj.com/studentoffer](http://wsj.com/studentoffer), a 15-week subscription is only \$15. It includes a print subscription as well as online and digital (phone/tablet) access.

## Requirements

### Exams (45%)

This course is divided into three sections with an exam (15%) at the end of each. I will distribute specific details two weeks before each exam. See the schedule below for exam dates.

### Analytical Essays (40%)

At three points during the semester, you will be asked to use course materials to analyze a current event. You will respond to a specific prompt and write an essay of no more than 2,000 words (not including references).

### Simulation (15%)

There will be a number of components to the simulation grade. These will be explained during class on January 20. There will also be an opportunity to earn extra credit points by achieving simulation goals.

# Course Policies

## Deadlines

All assigned work must be completed and submitted by due date/times indicated. There is no grace period. I will not accept the excuse that “there was an issue with Blackboard.” It is your responsibility to ensure that you leave yourself enough time to post/submit your assignment before the deadline. Everything that comes in after is late, and penalties will start to accrue as follows:

LATE	PENALTY
1 min-24 hours	10%
24-48 hours	30%
48-72 hours	50%
72+ hours	100%

In addition, we will utilize Turnitin to upload the assignments to the course Blackboard site. When you complete the upload, you will receive a receipt via email. If you do not receive a receipt, I strongly advise you to log in to Blackboard to confirm that your document uploaded properly. I will only entertain “technological error” excuses if they are accompanied by your upload receipt!

## Determining the Final Grade

Your running grade will always be available on the course Blackboard website. The final letter grade will be strictly determined as follows.

PERCENT EARNED	LETTER GRADE
90 - 100%	A
80 - <90%	B
70 - <80%	C
60 - <70%	D
0 - <60%	F

## Dr. Jason Enia



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Weds. 1-2PM

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. I have a *zero-tolerance* approach to these issues: **Any student found guilty of any instance of academic dishonesty will fail the course.** In addition, SHSU may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. If you have any questions, ask!

## During Class

Please be in class on time. Put electronic devices on vibrate or silent. If you choose to partake in other activities on your electronic device(s) during class, you do so at the risk of being severely embarrassed. Overall, our time is short; please do not waste it.

## Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and

shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

## Disability Services

It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.



## Course Schedule, Spring 2016

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Read Before Class
1	Jan. 13	Course introduction; syllabus		1. Course syllabus
	Jan. 15	What do we mean by “explaining” foreign policy?; A tour through the levels of analysis		
<b>Explaining US Foreign Policy using Individual and Group Characteristics</b>				
2	Jan. 18	***No class—MLK Day***		
	Jan. 20	Introduction to the individual level of analysis; Statecraft simulation overview		
	Jan. 22	The rational actor model and its cognitive limitations		1. <a href="#">Beach (2012) “Understanding the Choice Situation” Analyzing Foreign Policy, pp. 95-105.</a>
3 Sim0	Jan. 25	Leaders’ operational codes—do belief systems matter?		1. <a href="#">Beach (2012) “Understanding the Choice Situation” Analyzing Foreign Policy, pp. 105-111.</a> 2. Walker & Schafer (2007) “Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson as Cultural Icons of U.S. Foreign Policy” <i>Political Psychology</i> .
	Jan. 27	Statecraft simulation setup [Sim0]		1. Statecraft simulation manual (available via the Statecraft website)
	Jan. 29	Perception, misperception, and analogies in foreign policy decision making	Simulation manual quiz 1 must be completed by 1/31 at 5pm	1. <a href="#">Beach (2012) “Understanding the Choice Situation” Analyzing Foreign Policy, pp. 111-115.</a> 2. Dallek (2010) “The Tyranny of Metaphor” <i>Foreign Policy</i> . 3. Shachtman (2013) “Time to Abandon ‘Munich’” <i>Foreign Policy</i> .
4 Sim1	Feb. 1	Heuristics—the role of mental shortcuts		1. Mintz (2004) “How Do Leaders Make Decisions?: A Poliheuristic Perspective” <i>JCR</i> . 2. Brulé (2005) “Explaining and Forecasting Leaders’ Decisions: A Poliheuristic Analysis of the Iran Hostage Rescue Decision” <i>ISP</i> .
	Feb. 3	Statecraft simulation time		
	Feb. 5	What effects do individual personality traits have on foreign policy decision making?	Simulation manual quiz 2 and turn memo must be completed by 1/31 at 5pm	1. Gallagher & Allen (2014) “Presidential Personality: Not Just a Nuisance” <i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i> . 2. Kaplan (2015) “Obama’s Way: The President in Practice” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> .
5 Sim2	Feb. 8	What happens when individuals make foreign policy decisions in groups?; Statecraft simulation time		1. Badie (2010) “Groupthink, Iraq, and the War on Terror: Explaining US Policy Shift toward Iraq” <i>FPA</i> . 2. Feaver (2013) “Has Obama Succumbed to Groupthink?” <i>Foreign Policy</i> .
	Feb. 10	Exam 1 review		
	Feb. 12	Exam 1	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 2/14 at 5pm	

## Explaining US Foreign Policy by Focusing on the Rules and Processes of the State

6 Sim3	Feb. 15	Introduction to the state level of analysis; introduction to institutions as the rules of the game		
	Feb. 17	How much foreign policy power does the president actually have?; Statecraft simulation time		1. Hastedt (2015) "Presidency" in <i>American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, &amp; Future</i> , pp. 175-189.
	Feb. 20	Who has the president's ear? The role of advisors in foreign policy decision making	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 2/21 at 5pm	1. Hastedt (2015) "Presidency" in <i>American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, &amp; Future</i> , pp. 189-200. 2. Destler (2012) "How National Security Advisors See Their Role," in <i>The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: Insights &amp; Evidence</i> , pp. 209-222.
7 Sim 4	Feb. 22	What role does Congress play in U.S. foreign policy?		1. Hastedt (2015) "Congress" in <i>American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, &amp; Future</i> , pp. 143-171. 2. Lindsay (2012) "The Shifting Pendulum of Power," in <i>The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: Insights &amp; Evidence</i> , pp. 223-238.
	Feb. 24	Two-level games in foreign policy, part 1; Statecraft time	Analytical essay 1 due via Bb by 12pm	1. Putnam (1988) "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games" <i>International Organization</i> 42(3): 427-460.
	Feb. 26	Two-level games in foreign policy, part 2	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 2/28 at 5pm	
8 Sim 5	Feb. 29	Bureaucracies, part 1		1. Hastedt (2015) "Bureaucracies" in <i>American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, &amp; Future</i> , pp. 201-229.
	Mar. 2	Bureaucracies, part 2		1. Jervis (2012) "Why Intelligence and Policymakers Clash," in <i>The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: Insights &amp; Evidence</i> , pp. 267-284.
	Mar. 4	The CIA and the hunt for Bin Laden	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 3/6 at 5pm	1. During the session, I'll be showing as much as possible of <i>Manhunt: The Search for Bin Laden</i> . For now, it's available here: <a href="https://youtu.be/w0616_aTuHc">https://youtu.be/w0616_aTuHc</a> and if you have HBO, you can access it through HBO Go/Now.
9	Mar. 7	***No class—Spring Break***		
	Mar. 9	***No class—Spring Break***		
	Mar. 11	***No class—Spring Break***		
10 Sim 6	Mar. 14	The role of interest groups in foreign policy making (Note: We will not be meeting face-to-face, but I will have a lecture video posted on the course Bb site.)		1. Hastedt (2015) "Interest Groups" in <i>American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, &amp; Future</i> , pp. 122-129. 2. McCormick (2012) "Ethnic Interest Groups in American Foreign Policy," in <i>The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: Insights &amp; Evidence</i> , pp. 67-87.
	Mar. 16	Statecraft simulation time		
	Mar. 18	***No class—Enia @ ISA Conference***	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 3/20 at 5pm	
11 Sim 7	Mar. 21	Review for exam 2		
	Mar. 23	Exam 2		
	Mar. 25	***No class—Good Friday***	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 3/27 at 5pm	

**Explaining US Foreign Policy by Focusing on Structural (Systemic) Constraints and Incentives**

12 Sim8?	Mar. 28	Introducing the system level of analysis; What is the nature of the international system?		
	Mar. 30	If the system is anarchic, so what?; Statecraft time		1. Mearsheimer (2001) "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" excerpt from <i>The Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , pp. 31-50.
	Apr. 1	Foreign policy options in an anarchic system: balancing, bandwagoning, buck passing	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 4/3 at 5pm	1. Mearsheimer (2001) <i>The Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , pp. 138-167
13 Sim9?	Apr. 4	Cooperation in an anarchic environment—what's so difficult?		1. Jervis (1978) "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma" excerpted pp. 335-349.
	Apr. 6	Working within different systemic polarities—a bipolar versus multipolar system; Statecraft time	Analytical essay 2 due via Bb by 12pm;	1. Ayers (2012) "The Balance of Power" in <i>Routledge Handbook of American Foreign Policy</i> . 2. Jervis (2001) "Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?" pp. 36-60.
	Apr. 8	Working within different systemic polarities—foreign policy constraints and opportunities in a unipolar system	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 4/10 at 5pm	1. Ikenberry, Mastanduno, & Whoforth (2009) "Unipolarity, State Behavior, & Systemic Consequences," excerpted
14 Sim10?	Apr. 11	Do economic realities act as a systemic constraint?		1. TBD.
	Apr. 13	What are norms? What role do they play in foreign policy?		
	Apr. 15	Norms and the non-use of nuclear weapons; Statecraft time		1. Tannenwald (1999) "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use," <i>IO</i> , pp. 433-468.
15	Apr. 18	Debating the taboo—does it still exist? If so, how important is it?	Simulation turn memo must be completed by 4/17 at 5pm	1. TV Paul TBD. 2. <a href="#">Burr &amp; Kimball (2015) "Seven Decades After Hiroshima, Is There Still a Nuclear Taboo?" Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.</a>
	Apr. 20	Employing the levels of analysis: The Syria Case, part 1		1. <a href="#">Enia &amp; Brown (2015) "Red Lines, Game Changers, &amp; Genies: President Obama &amp; Chemical Weapons in Syria" Part A</a>
	Apr. 22	Employing the levels of analysis: The Syria Case, part 2		1. <a href="#">Enia &amp; Brown (2015) "Red Lines, Game Changers, &amp; Genies: President Obama &amp; Chemical Weapons in Syria" Part B</a>
16	Apr. 25	Buffer session		
	Apr. 27	Course conclusions		
	Apr. 29	Review for exam 3	Analytical essay 3 due via Bb by 12pm	
17	May 2	Exam 3		<i>Note: Exam 3 takes place during our scheduled final exam period from 1pm-3pm. However, the exam covers course material from 3/28 and will be weighted the same as exams 1 and 2.</i>