

IR 333
FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS
SPRING 2009

Pınar Bilgin

room: FEASS A328B

e-mail: pbilgin@bilkent.edu.tr

Internet: <http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~pbilgin>

office hours: Tuesday 10:30-12:00, Thursday 16:30-18:00

Aims

This course is about the making and implementation of foreign policy in theory and practice. It will cover theoretical literature on foreign and security policy-making as well as case studies. The course has been designed to introduce students to the basics of Foreign Policy Analysis as a sub-field of International Relations.

Specifically, the course aims to generate familiarity with the origins and development of Foreign Policy Analysis, and contending approaches to the analysis of the foreign and security policies of various actors at multiple levels.

Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- ✚ demonstrate familiarity with the history and language of Foreign Policy Analysis as a sub-field of International Relations;
- ✚ distinguish between descriptive, evaluative and analytical approaches to foreign and security policy analysis;
- ✚ distinguish between problem-solving and critical approaches to foreign and security policy analysis;
- ✚ identify and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these alternative approaches;
- ✚ analyse given foreign policy cases

Teaching

This course is designed to encourage **active learning**. Research has shown that students retain 10 % of what they read; 26 % of what they hear; 30 % of what they see; 50 % of what they see and hear; 70 % of what they say; 90 % of what they say and do. The assumption behind the design of this course is that learning is more effective if students learn themselves by faculty guidance than if they sit passively and receive content from the instructor. Thus, you should expect me to be lecturing some weeks when the topic is rather new and/or complicated. Other weeks, I will provide a basic overview of that week's topic, offer you contending perspectives on the issues concerned, and seek to generate a discussion structured around a set of questions based on the reading(s) for that week. The aim is to encourage you to think independently and critically whilst remaining firmly grounded in the factual and/or theoretical knowledge provided by the readings.

You will be given a list of required texts for each week. Needless to say you are expected to prepare for every class. You will be given the necessary guidance and feedback to help you develop your presentation and argumentation skills. What you should remember at all times is that good discussions depend on serious preparation by students.

You are required to attend all the classes (in accordance with the University regulations). If you cannot attend please let me know beforehand, or contact me (immediately) afterwards to provide a "legitimate" excuse for your absence. Attendance will be taken and absences will be noted. If you have any problems regarding the reading material or with the course in general, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can try and address the problem.

Assessment

30 % participation (This will take the form of participating in class discussions. During these discussions, you will be expected to demonstrate:

- + evidence of effective listening
- + evidence of reading and private study
- + development of discussion skills)

20 % first mid-term examination (20 March 2009)

20 % second mid-term examination (21 April 2009)

30 % final examination (date tba)

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Foreign Policy Analysis

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), pp.1-12.

Week 3: Foreign policy in a globalising world

Rosemary Foot, 'China and the Tian'anmen bloodshed of 1989' in Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases, Steve Smith, Amelia Hadfield, Tim Dunne, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), chapter 17.

Week 4: Individual level of analysis: rationality and foreign policy

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 2.

Week 5: Individual level of analysis: beliefs, perception and misperception

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 3.

Week 6: State level of analysis: small-group decision-making

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 4.

I. Mid-term examination (20 March 2009)

Week 7: State level of analysis: culture and identity

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 5.

Week 8: State level of analysis: Domestic Politics

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 6.

Week 9: Two levels combined: the case of the Cuban missile crisis

Graham Allison, 'The Cuban Missile Crisis', in Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases, Steve Smith, Amelia Hadfield, Tim Dunne, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), chapter 12.

Week 10: State level of analysis: public opinion and the Media

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 7.

II. Mid-term examination (21 April 2009)

Week 12: System level of analysis: power and position, the case of the United States

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 8.

Week 13: System level of analysis: power and position, the case of other powers

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 9.

Week 14: Foreign policy in a globalising world

Laura Neack, The New Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), chapter 10.

Final examination (date tba)