

Political Science 3209G: Special Topics Comparative Foreign Policy (Summer 2023)

An examination of foreign policy in a comparative context. The course begins with an overview of different theories which attempt to understand foreign policy — especially foreign policy decision-making. Section 2 takes a detailed look at a select number of foreign policy theories. Section 3 focusses on Canada’s foreign policy — especially this country’s foreign policy decision-making. And the course concludes with a series of “deep dives” into various foreign policy case studies. The cases studies for this year involve: (i) the proliferation of nuclear weapons, (ii) the special case of Iran’s alleged proliferation efforts, (iii) the issue of ballistic missile defence (with particular reference to Canada), and (iv) the global reaction to Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine.

Instructor / Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Mark Yaniszewski

E-Mail: myanisce@uwo.ca

Contact

Since this is a Distance Education course, there are no formal office hours. Instead, e-mail will be the primary method of contact except for more complex consultations (e.g., discussing the writing assignment) when phone or video conferencing are an option. In any event, e-mails will be answered within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekend — although in practice most e-mails will be answered much, much faster than this.

- Please use your UWO e-mail account when communicating with the instructor as the University’s anti-spam software may treat e-mails from other accounts as spam.
- Students should check their UWO e-mail regularly for messages, updates, and other

important information from the instructor.

Distribution of Marks

Students will be graded on the basis of the following components:

- Midterm Examination = 30%
- Writing Assignment = 35%
- Final Exam = 35%

Midterms and Exams

Midterms and exams for this course may be held remotely using the University's **Proctortrack** software. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

Lecture Format

Lectures will be delivered as asynchronous video files. The instructor will, however, endeavour, as much as possible, to maintain the structure and format of a conventional course. Additional materials (e.g., maps, charts, and diagrams associated with individual lectures) will also be posted to **Owl** on a regular basis. In most cases, lectures will be posted at a rate faster than would normally be the case with a live, in-person class. Although there is some guidance as to pacing, students can best judge for themselves how fast to access this material.

Writing Assignment

A detailed list of topics and requirements will be posted separately to the course website.

The writing assignment is due by **Friday July 14th at 11:59 pm (EST)**. Completed assignments must be uploaded to the course dropbox by this deadline. Late assignments will be accepted until **Friday July 21st at 11:59 pm (EST)**. Late assignments must be uploaded to a (second) course dropbox by this deadline. **Late assignments are automatically penalized by a reduction of 15% and assignments not submitted by this time will automatically receive a grade of 0%.**

Note that the -15% late penalty is a flat rate penalty. Papers five minutes late, one day late, five days late, or any variation therein receive the same penalty. These penalties will only be waived in the case of illness (or similar serious circumstances) and will require proper documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). Otherwise, extensions will not normally be granted (e.g., forgetting to back-up your files before your hard drive crashes or having the dog eat your homework and so on does not constitute a legitimate excuse for not completing the assignment on time).

Copyright

The copyright for the intellectual property created for this Western University course, including, but not limited to, audio, video, and/or written lectures, handouts, exams and tests, assignments, and all other materials created for this course, is held by the instructor. These materials are designed for the personal use of students registered in this course only and may not be recorded or used or reproduced or otherwise be re-transmitted in any other form or for any other purpose without the express written consent of the instructor. Providing these materials to a third party, including, but not limited to, a third party website, constitutes a violation of the instructor's intellectual property rights and/or a violation of the Canadian Copyright Act. Individuals in violation of these intellectual property and/or copyright restrictions will be prosecuted and may be subject to academic and/or civil penalties. By participating in this course, all parties agree to be bound by these conditions as well as by any or all relevant Western University regulations and any or all provisions of the Canadian Copyright Act.

Lectures and Course Readings

Below is the list of topics that will be covered this term. It is recommended that students read the associated course readings before they download the associated lecture.

Note that there is no textbook for this course. Instead, most readings are available direct from the publisher or through the library's e-journal/e-book collection. (If you are having trouble accessing these readings, consult the instructor or any reference librarian.) In addition, some readings are posted to the course website under the "Fair Use" heading.

Section 1

The Study of Foreign Policy

Section 1: Unit 1 — Course Introduction

(No readings)

Section 1: Unit 2 — Comparative Foreign Policy: Foundations

Laura Neack, *Studying Foreign Policy Comparatively: Cases and Analysis*, 4th ed. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), pp. 1-14.

[\[Available in the "Fair Dealing" folder of the course website\]](#)

Section 1: Unit 3 — Comparative Foreign Policy: Unresolved Questions

Klaus Brummer, "Toward a (More) Critical FPA," *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (January 2022), pp. 1-11.

By June 23rd, you should reach this point in the schedule.

Section 2

Detailed Theoretical Exemplars

Section 2: Unit 1 — *Groupthink* and the Bay of Pigs Crisis

Jean-Frédéric Morin and Jonathan Paquin, *Foreign Policy Analysis: A Toolbox* (Cham,

Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan/Springer Nature, 2018), pp. 101-125.

[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website]

[Pay particular attention to pages 101-110 and skim the rest.]

Troy E. Smith, “The Road to High-Quality Decision-Making: Understanding Cognition and the Phenomenon of Groupthink,” *American Intelligence Journal*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (2016), pp. 70-73.

[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website]

Section 2: Unit 2 — Bureaucratic Politics and the Cuban Missile Crisis (Part I — Background)

Arthur I. Cyr, “The Cuban Missile Crisis after Fifty Years,” *Orbis*, Vol. 57, No. 1 (Winter 2013), pp. 5-19.

By June 30th, you should reach this point in the schedule.

Section 2: Unit 3 — Bureaucratic Politics and the Cuban Missile Crisis (Part II — Policy Analysis)

Jean-Frédéric Morin and Jonathan Paquin, *Foreign Policy Analysis: A Toolbox* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan/Springer Nature, 2018), pp. 101-125.

[Available in the “Fair Use” folder of the course website]

[Pay particular attention to pages 110-125 and skim the rest.]

Eliot A. Cohen, “Why We Should Stop Studying the Cuban Missile Crisis,” *National Interest*, No. 2 (Winter 1985-1986), pp. 3-13.

Jean-Yves Haine, “The Cuban Missile Crisis, the Russia-Ukraine War and Nuclear Risks,” *NDC Policy Brief*, No. 20 (December 2022), pp. 1-4.

<<https://www.ndc.nato.int/news/news.php?icode=1779>>

Michael Dobbs, *Why We Should Still Study the Cuban Missile Crisis*, Special Report No. 205 (Washington: United States Institute of Peace, 2008), pp. 1-12.

<<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep12221>>

Section 3

Foreign Policy Decision-Making in Canada

Section 3: Unit 1 — The Executive

Alex Marland and Richard Nimijean, “Rebranding Brand Trudeau,” *Political Turmoil in a Tumultuous World: Canada Among Nations 2020*, eds. David Carment and Richard

Nimijean (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan/Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2021), pp. 55-76.

[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website]

By July 7th, you should reach this point in the schedule.

Midterm

Saturday July 8th

2:00 to 4:00 pm (London ON time)

A detailed template (covering the exact format of the midterm) will be posted to OWL approximately a week before the scheduled test date.

Section 3: Unit 2 — Parliament

Philippe Lagassé, “Improving Parliamentary Scrutiny of Defence,” *Canadian Military Journal*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (Summer 2022), pp. 20-27.

Go to the journal website (<http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/cmj-landingpage-en.html>) and browse to the appropriate issue.

Section 3: Unit 3 — The Foreign Service Bureaucracy

NB: While the following two, short readings focus on the US State Department, the issues discussed are very similar to those faced by Canada’s foreign service bureaucracy.

Thomas D. Boyatt, “What If I Disagree?” *Foreign Service Journal*, Vol. 88, Nos. 7+8 (July-August 2011), pp. 18-20.

Go to the journal website (<https://afsa.org/fsj-archive>) and browse to the appropriate issue.

Robbie Gramer, “Are Special Envoys All That Special?” *ForeignPolicy.com* (June 1, 2021), pp. 1-4.

[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website]

Section 3: Unit 4 — The Provinces

Christopher J. Kukucha, “From Kyoto to the WTO: Evaluating the Constitutional Legitimacy of the Provinces in Canadian Foreign Trade and Environmental Policy,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (March 2005), pp. 129-152.

[Focus on pp. 129-144 of this reading.]

By July 14th, you should reach this point in the schedule.

Section 4

Deep Dives and Policy Case Studies

Section 4: Unit 1 — Nuclear Proliferation: Causes

Scott D. Sagan, “The Causes of Nuclear Proliferation,” *Current History*, Vol. 96, No. 609 (April 1, 1997), pp. 151-156.

Section 4: Unit 2 — The Global Reaction to Nuclear Proliferation

Ernest J. Moniz and Sam Nunn, “The Return of Doomsday,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 98, No. 5 (September-October 2019), pp. 150-161.

Richard Fontaine, “Welcome to the New Age of Nukes,” *ForeignPolicy.com* (November 9, 2022), pp. 1-4.

[\[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website\]](#)

Nicholas L. Miller, “Why the War in Ukraine Won’t Spark a Nuclear Proliferation Cascade: Arguments to the Contrary Overlook the Complexity of Nuclear Decision-Making,” *ForeignPolicy.com* (October 17, 2022), pp. 1-4.

[\[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website\]](#)

By July 21th, you should reach this point in the schedule.

Section 4: Unit 3 — The Reaction to Iran’s Nuclear Program

Kenneth N. Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 91, No. 4 (July-August 2012), pp. 2-5.

“Iran and the Bomb: Would a Nuclear Iran Make the Middle East More Secure? [Debate]” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 91, No. 5 (September-October 2012).

- Colin H. Kahl, “One Step Too Far,” pp. 157-161.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Waltz Replies,” pp. 161-162.

Danielle Pletka, “Why Does Israel Keep Assassinating Iranian Officials? Because It Works.” *ForeignPolicy.com* (July 29, 2022), pp. 1-4.

[\[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website\]](#)

Section 4: Unit 4 — Canada and Ballistic Missile Defence

Boris Toucas, “Ballistic Missile Defense: Proceed with Caution,” *Arms Control Today*, Vol. 47, No. 9 (November 2017), pp. 13-17.

Martin Senn, “Spoiler and Enabler: The Role of Ballistic-Missile Defence in Nuclear

Abolition,” *International Journal: Canada’s Journal of Global Policy Analysis*, Vol. 67, No. 3 (Summer 2021), pp. 747-764.

Section 4: Unit 5 — The Reaction to Russia’s Invasion of the Ukraine

Howard W. French, “Why the World isn’t Really United Against Russia,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 245 (Summer 2022), pp. 4-8.

Shivshankar Menon, “The Return of Nonalignment,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 245 (Summer 2022), pp. 34-35.

Raphael S. Cohen and Gian Gentile, “The Myth of America’s Ukraine Fatigue,” *ForeignPolicy.com* (January 2, 2023), pp. 1-4.

[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website]

Jan Dutkiewicz and Dominik Stecula, “Why America’s Far Right and Far Left Have Aligned Against Helping Ukraine,” *ForeignPolicy.com* (July 2, 2022), pp. 1-9.

[Available in the “Fair Dealing” folder of the course website]

By July 28th, you should reach this point in the schedule.

Final Exam Period (July 31st to August 3rd) The Exam date will be determined by Registrar

A detailed template (covering the exact format of the final exam) will be posted to OWL approximately a week before the scheduled test date.

Important Notices

Students must complete all course requirements. Failure to do so (e.g., missing an examination without cause) will subject the student to the relevant Departmental and University regulations (e.g., possibly failing the course.)

Final examinations will be held during the regular examination period as set by the Registrar’s Office. Except in the case of serious medical (or similar) problems, substitute examinations will normally not be given.

Plagiarism

Students must also note that it is a serious academic offense to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses or to pass off another person's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism). The University of Western Ontario “Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy” defines plagiarism as follows:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required: (i) to pass a brief oral examination on their assignment before a final grade is assigned and/or (ii) provide and electronic copy of their assignment so that their work can be checked using plagiarism-checking software (e.g., Turnitin.com). As stated in the University of Western Ontario “Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy:”

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

If students have any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism, there are various resources available to them including (but not limited to) the Student Development Centre and the instructor (e.g., during office hours). If in doubt — ASK!!!

As a general guide consider the following. When you make a direct quote — Yes, you need a footnote. When you closely paraphrase ideas (e.g., following a text that someone else wrote while changing a small number of words) — Yes, you need a footnote.

What about basic facts and dates? Do you still need a footnote? Say, for example, you are asked to write a paper on the Franco-Prussian War and you have never heard about that particular conflict. And then you write in your paper that the war started in 1870 and that France was led by Louis Napoleon. Would you need a footnote for that sort of information? No. Generally, basic facts and dates are covered by the “Common Knowledge Exception.” If you picked up any general history of that conflict, they would all relate how the war started in 1870 and that France that led by Louis Napoleon. (Another way to think of the “Common Knowledge Exception” is to call it the “Rule of Three” — if a basic fact is reported in three separate general academic sources, you need not provide a footnote.)

At the same time, if one general source was particularly influential in helping you write a section of your paper (even if you did not need to footnote specific passages from it directly), you can add a footnote like the following.¹

¹ The following paragraph is based on P. Jones, *History of the Franco-Prussian War* (Toronto: Penguin Press, 1999), pp. 20-25.

And what about material covered in class (e.g., basic facts and dates). Generally this material falls under the “Common Knowledge Exception” (i.e., no footnote needed), HOWEVER if students really want to use material from the lectures they should go back to original sources whenever possible — especially where specific facts or data are presented or if the words of individual theorists or other experts are presented. For example, imagine the instructor states in class that “some historians consider Louis Napoleon’s strategy during the war to be similar to that used by Alexander the Great.” If you wanted to use that idea in your lecture, you should ask the instructor “which historians said this” and “where did that idea come from” BEFORE you use it in your paper. In other words, you always want to go back to the original source rather than rely solely on the material covered in class. For one thing, as a conscientious academic, you want to make sure that your professor has not made a mistake!