

Political Science: Presidential Decision Making in Foreign Policy

Fall 2015

University of Notre Dame

Class Meetings: T/Th 12:30-1:45 in DeBartolo 232

Instructor: Kathryn Boehlefeld

Email: boehlefeld.1@nd.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4pm and by appointment

Office: Library Carrel 911

Introduction

The Leader of the Free World—The President of the United States of America. More than any other individual or institution, the President enjoys the greatest overall influence within the world of U.S. Foreign Policy. The impressive array of formal roles and informal powers from Commander in Chief of the largest and best equipped military in the world to the duties as the Head of State allow the President to wield considerable power and allows him to remain the only actor with the potential to impact every type of foreign policy issue.

This course has three overarching objectives. First, students will be introduced to a number of theories, concepts and frameworks related to foreign policy and the role of the president. Second, students will be given a solid foundation of the substance of U.S. foreign policy from 1945-present, meaning students will develop a strong understanding of 11 different presidential leadership styles: Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush Sr., Clinton, Bush Jr., and Obama. The final objective is to identify and analyze how particular factors shape presidential foreign policy management within and across administrations.

Prerequisite and Recommendations

This is a challenging upper level course designed primarily for POLS majors and minors with a strong interest in international politics. Students should hold a junior or senior standing. It is also strongly recommended that student complete the Introduction to International Relations Course before enrolling.

Good political science students keep up with breaking events. Staying informed allows one to make better sense of class examples and allows for richer discussion. Monitoring the news will also help students draw linkages between the course material and the “real world.” Students are recommended to reference the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, or the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Washington Post (go to <http://www.washingtonpost.com> click on “News” and then click on “Nation” and “World” Under “Nation” click “National Security”

New York Times (go to <http://www.nytimes.com> click on “U.S.” and “World”)

Class Format

Classes will be a combination of lecture and discussion. During lectures, students are encouraged to ask questions or make comments about the material. Students should also be prepared to answer questions and offer opinions regarding class material. Regular and thoughtful participation will be rewarded.

During discussions, everyone's active and thoughtful participation is absolutely essential and expected. To ensure the quality of these class periods, everyone is expected to do three things. First, all assigned readings on the issue under discussion should be read carefully before class. Second, copies of these readings should be brought to class as reference material for discussion and group exercises. Third, some time should be spent prior to class considering any questions or guidelines that the instructor may have highlighted at the previous meeting.

Course Policies

Assigned Readings

There are two textbooks assigned to this course.

- (1) Greenstein, Fred (2009) *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Barack Obama*. 3rd Ed. Princeton University Press. Princeton.
- (2) Strong, Robert A. (2005) *Decisions and Dilemmas: Case Studies in Presidential Foreign Policy Making Since 1945*. 2nd Ed. Routledge.

Additional assigned readings will be accessible through the course website on Sakai. Assigned readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

Academic Integrity

All students must abide by the Notre Dame Honor Code: "As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty." Details are available at <http://www.nd.edu/~hnr/code/docs/index.htm>. Please note that academic dishonesty (including plagiarism and unauthorized multiple submissions of work for assignments) will not be tolerated and will be punished severely.

Students with Disabilities

I am strongly committed to working with students who have any disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that they are able to fully participate in class activities. If you feel you require a "reasonable accommodation," please follow the process through <http://www.nd.edu/~osd/>.

Classroom Etiquette and Computer Policy

Students are to arrive in class on time. *Two tardy arrivals are equivalent to one class absence*. Students are to remain for the entire session unless excused by the professor beforehand or confronted with a serious personal emergency. Cell phones and other electronic devices that make noise must be *turned off* or set to vibrate during class. No one should talk while someone else is speaking. Overall, classroom dialogue and behavior

should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Often laptops and tablets distract from classroom participation as students do non-class related activities while in class. However, due to the increasing preference for students to use electronic copies of articles and take digital notes, laptops and tablets are not banned. BUT, if the instructor catches students using laptops and tablets for nonclass related activities, she reserves the right to treat that class period as an absence for that student.

Unannounced Quizzes

The instructor reserves the right to conduct pop quizzes if it becomes grossly apparent through class discussions that students are not completing the assigned readings on a regular basis. These quizzes will replace 5% of the participation grade.

Late Policy

All assignments are due on Sakai by 5pm on the due date. Submissions after 5pm will be considered late. Late assignments lose 1/2 letter grade for each day late.

Graded Requirements

There are two graded components to the course. The first course requirement is *participation*. Components of this grade include: (a) regular and thoughtful participation in class lectures and discussions, (b) regular attendance (no more than three absences). Failure to fulfill one of these expectations satisfactorily will significantly reduce the participation grade, which is worth 25 percent of the final course grade. General grading will follow the following scale:

A = regular and thoughtful participation

B = occasional and thoughtful participation

C = regular attendance, but little or no thoughtful participation

D = less than regular attendance

F = little or no attendance

The second course requirement is a series of written assignments culminating in *research paper* of 15 pages. The paper and accompanying assignments are worth 75 percent of the final course grade, with the following breakdowns:

Five possible research questions	5%
Research Proposal	10%
Paper Outline	5%
Rough Draft of Paper	5%
Peer Editing Assignment 1	10%
Peer Editing Assignment 2	10%
Final Paper	30%

A detailed assignment description, specific due dates, and other important information is included in the assignment guide at the end of the syllabus.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Section 1: Introduction to Foreign Policy and Theories of Decision Making

Week 1: Intro and Foreign Policy Basics

August 25: Introduction
No assigned readings

August 27: Constitutional Powers of the President
Constitution of the United States of America
Federalist Paper No. 69

Week 2: Theories of Decision Making

September 1: Politics and the Bureaucracy
Rosati, Jerel A. and James M. Scott. *The Politics of United State Foreign Policy*. Chapters 3 and 4.

September 3: Personal Power
Greenstein, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 3: Historical Background and Intro to the Research Paper

September 8: World War I, World War II, and the Origins of the Cold War
Kissinger, Henry (1994) *Diplomacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Chapters 8 and 12

September 10: Conducting Library Research
Van Evra, Stephen (1997) *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Pp 7-21
Recommended:
George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennet (2005) *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Chapters 4-6.

Section 2: Presidential Case Studies

Week 4: Truman

September 15: The Truman Administration
Greenstein, chapter 3 and pp. 237-241
Due: Research Questions

September 17: The Hiroshima Bomb
Strong, chapter 1

Week 5: Eisenhower

September 22: The Eisenhower Administration
Greenstein, chapter 4 and pp. 241-244

September 24: Arms Control
Strong, chapter 2

Week 6: Kennedy

September 29: The Kennedy Administration
Greenstein, chapter 5 and pp. 244-245

October 1: The Cuban Missile Crisis
Allison and Zelikow (1999) *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, Chapter 6
Due: Research Proposal

Week 7: Johnson

October 6: The Johnson Administration
Greenstein, chapter 6 and pp. 246-248

October 8: Southeast Asia
Strong, chapter 3

Week 8: Nixon and Ford

October 13: The Nixon and Ford Administrations
Greenstein, chapters 7-8 and pp. 248-253

October 14: the Era of Detente
Strong, chapter 4

FALL BREAK

Week 9: Carter

October 27: The Carter Administration
Greenstein, chapter 9 and pp. 253-255

October 29: Panama Canal Treaties
Strong, chapter 5

Week 10: Reagan

November 3: The Reagan Administration
Greenstein, chapter 10 and pp. 256-259
Due: Outline for Research Paper

November 5: The Iran-Contra Affair
Strong, chapter 6

Week 11: H.W. Bush

November 10: The HW Bush Administration
Greenstein, chapter 11 and pp. 260-262

November 12: Invasion of Panama
Strong, chapter 7

Week 12: Clinton

November 17: The Clinton Administration
Greenstein, chapter 12 and pp. 262-267
Due: Rough Draft of Research Paper

November 19: Northern Ireland
Strong, chapter 8

Week 13: Peer Editing

November 24:
No assigned readings
Due: Peer Editing Assignment 1

November 26: NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14: W Bush

December 1: The W Bush Administration
Greenstein, chapter 13 and pp. 267-272

December 3: 9-11
Strong, chapter 9
Due: Peer Editing Assignment 2

Week 15: Obama

December 8: The Obama Administration
Greenstein, chapter 14 and pp. 272-273

December 10: Syria

Kriner, Douglas (2014) "The Contemporary Presidency: Obama's Authorization Paradox: Syria and Congress's Continued Relevance in Military Affairs." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 44.2, pp. 309-327.

Week 16: Final Paper Due

Final Research Paper

The major assignment for this course is a research paper. Throughout your time at Notre Dame, you've learned a lot about *what* political science is. Now, you are going to learn *how* political scientists work. More practically, by the end of the semester, you should have a paper that can be used as a graduate school writing sample, a good start on a senior thesis, and/or the beginnings of a publishable piece of research. The writing process has been broken down into a series of shorter assignments that will be due over the course of the semester.

Assignment List and Due Dates

Five possible research questions	September 14
Research Proposal	October 1
Paper Outline	November 1
Rough Draft of Paper	November 17
Peer Editing Assignment 1	November 24
Peer Editing Assignment 2	December 3
Final Paper	December 17

Five Possible Questions

For this assignment, compose five potential research questions. Remember, “why” or “under what conditions” questions make more interesting research questions than “how” or “what” questions.

Research Proposal

For this assignment, narrow down your research question to one of the five questions from the previous assignment. Next, come up with at least two possible answers to your questions. Write at least one paragraph explaining why each constitutes a possible answer to your question. After that, think about how you would test to see which of these answers explains your question. Write 1-2 paragraphs explaining how you plan to test your explanation. Finally, put together a preliminary bibliography of literature and data sources you intend to use (must have at least 10 sources).

Paper Outline

This assignment asks that you put together a 1-2 page outline of your research paper.

Rough Draft of Paper

Write a rough draft of your research paper. While there is no page requirement for this draft, it should include all of the major sections of your paper and your argument with supporting evidence should be clear. This does not need to be as polished as your final draft will be, but your peers will be able to provide better feedback the more complete it is. Please read through your paper before submission to ensure that there are no typos, misspellings, or other grammatical errors.

Peer Editing Assignments 1 and 2

No political scientists should ever publish research without having other scholars read and comment on their work. In this assignment, you will read and comment on one another's papers. You should provide 1-2 pages of double spaced written comments for two of your peers. Additional guides will be given out closer to the due date.

Final Paper

The final paper should be a formal, polished version of your work that incorporates the commentary you received from your peers. It should be well organized, logical and have a consistent argument throughout.

Final Paper Specs:

- no less than 15 pages in length (not including the bibliography)
- 12 pt font, double spaced
- you may use whatever citation style you like, as long as it is used properly
- a bibliography containing at least 15 sources, of which 5 may come from in class readings.
- Free of grammatical errors, typos, misspelling and mechanical errors (Read it over!)