College of Charleston

POLITICAL SCIENCE 362
CASE STUDIES IN FOREIGN POLICY

Dr. Guoli Liu
Fall 2009
Maybank Hall 207, Tuesday and Thursday 1:40-2:55 pm
Office: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 103
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:45-11:45 am, and by appointment
Telephone: 843-953-5883; E-mail: Liug@cofc.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will consist of a survey and evaluation of a variety of theoretical approaches to the study of foreign policy and practice in applying these approaches to various foreign policy issue areas. We will examine many significant historical and contemporary cases in foreign policy making and implementation. In addition, it focuses on both substance and patterns of foreign policy making in China, Russia, and the United States. Included is a critical examination of the patterns of interaction among states on a regional and global basis. We will carefully study cases that both illustrate important principles operating in the international system and that exemplify important concerns in the contemporary environment. The cases provide you with the opportunity to apply international relations concepts to real-world situations, with the hope that in doing so you will come to better understand current and enduring problems facing the international system. The case studies will introduce you to the wide variety of issues and actors of world politics. Were policymakers trying to make rational choices? Were they trying to balance power concerns on a regional or global basis? Were they more responsive to external threats or opportunities, or to internal political pressures at home? We are going to address these and other theoretical concerns through the case study method. This course strongly promotes critical thinking and encourages active intellectual engagement.

COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING POLICY

You are expected to (1) complete and study carefully all required reading; (2) address significant questions and articulate well-informed positions on key issues, (3) conduct independent research for a paper, (4) write one case study paper, and (4) present your papers to the class.

You will be evaluated on the basis of your work on one significant research paper (20%) and presentation (10%), one case study paper (10%) and presentation (10%), active class participation including two written reports (20%), and a comprehensive final exam (30%). Class participation is graded based on the quality, quantity, substance, and relevance of your
contribution to the class, as well as the courtesy and professionalism you show to other students. Requirements for the papers will be explained in detail in class.

The research paper should be between 12-14 pages (double-spaced, regular margins, in 12 point font). By Thursday, September 17, 2009, you should submit a prospectus for the research paper. In this prospectus each student is to describe the topic of the prospect paper, the principal sources to be utilized, and the international relations theory literature to which your paper relates. The prospectus will be returned to you with comments by the following week. A detailed outline with annotated bibliography is due on Tuesday, October 20. The annotated bibliography should summarize each book or article and assesses its value for the topic under discussion. The final paper is due in class on Tuesday, November 12. The paper must demonstrate significant research; it is to make reference to broad theoretical and comparative work; and it is to be adequately documented following the political science guide to referencing (http://polisci.cofc.edu/PDF/POLSCitationGuide5-16-6.pdf).

As the lectures and classroom discussions are an essential part of the course, attendance is mandatory. A class sign-up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class. You are allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences during the semester; additional absences, unless you can clearly prove personal emergencies or illnesses, will result in grade penalties.

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Any student with a diagnosed learning or psychological disability which impedes your carrying out required course work, or which requires accommodations such as extended time on examinations, should advise me during the first two weeks of the course so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Academic honesty is very important! When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed the Honor Code. I expect you to abide to the code and it is the only way to maintain the integrity and value of your degree. You will fail this course if you have found to have cheated on an exam or plagiarized any portion of your paper. I will turn the case of Honor Code violation to the Honor Board and vigorously pursue further disciplinary action. Everyone must highly value academic integrity and abide to the Honor Code.

REQUIRED READINGS


COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Introduction to Case Studies
   Snow, Preface.
   Allison and Zelikow, Preface and Introduction.
   Carter, Preface and Introduction.
   **(Deadline for completing the reading, August 27)**

2. The Rational Actor Model
   Allison and Zelikow, Chapters 1-2.
   (September 3)

3. Organizational Behavior Model
Allison and Zelikow, Chapters 3-4.  
(September 10)

4. Governmental Politics Model
Allison and Zelikow, Chapters 5-7.  
(September 15)

5. China’s Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice
Lanteigne, Introduction and Chapters 1-4.  
Shambaugh and Yahuda, Chapters 2, 3 and 6.  
Chen Jian, the entire book.  
Liu, the entire book.  
Shirk, the entire book.  
(September 22)

The analysis paper is due in class on Thursday, September 24.

6. Managing Sino-American Crisis
Swaine and Zhang, the entire book.  
Lanteigne, Chapter 5.  
(September 29)

7. Enduring Dynamics of International Relations
Snow, Chapters 1, 3-4.  
(October 6)

8. Sovereignty and Intervention
Snow, Chapter 2.  
Carter, Chapters 1-3.  
(October 15)

9. National Security and Defense Policy
Carter, Chapters 4-8.  
Snow, Chapters 10-12.  
(October 22)

10. Trade and Economic Globalization
Carter, Chapters 9-12.  
Snow, Chapters 7-9.  
(October 29)

11. Transnational Issues and Multilateral Policy
Research presentation will begin on Tuesday, November 12.

12. Asia in World Politics
   Sutter, the entire book.
   Shambaugh and Yahuda, Chapters 4-5.
   (November 14)

13. Russia in World Politics
   Tsygankov, the entire book.
   Zimmerman, the entire book.
   (November 20)

14. Regional Powers and Transregional Linkages
    Lanteigne, Chapters 6-7.
    Shambaugh and Yahuda, Chapters 7-16.
    (December 1)

15. Conclusion and Prospects

Final Examination: Thursday, December 10, 2009, 12:00-3:00 pm.

Additional required readings (mostly journal articles) will be assigned in class. The course outline could be adjusted to best serve the needs of the class.