

Foreign Policy in Theory and Practice – Poli 2530
Dalhousie University

Class Time and Room: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 – 4:00pm, McCain Auditorium 1

Instructor: **David Seekings** David.Seekings@dal.ca

Instructor's Office: Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building, Room 365

Office Hours: By appointment

Assistant: TBA

Assignments / assessment

Mid-term Exam	25%	February 25
Policy Paper	35%	March 27
Final Exam	40%	Exam period (see below)

Exams

The mid-term exam will be held in class on **February 25** (first class after Reading Week). For the midterm exam, you will be responsible for all of the ideas and issues raised in lectures and required readings, up to the date of the exam.

The final exam will be scheduled by the University Registrar. Do not make work or travel plans until after you know the official dates and times for all of your final exams. If you will be obliged to be absent from the final exam for some compelling reason (e.g., serious illness or injury, death in your immediate family), you must elaborate that reason in a letter to the Chair of the Department, in advance of the scheduled exam; the Chair will render a decision on the matter.

For the final exam, you will be responsible for all of the ideas and issues raised in lectures and in the required readings, through the entire semester.

Policy Paper

The policy paper will be due on **March 27**.

For this assignment you are asked to select one of the topics below and, using the format provided, develop clear, concise and realistic policy options and recommendations for how the issue should be address by the government or international body identified.

While this is not a formal research essay, **all of your work must be supported by evidence and academic research**. This is **not an opinion paper**, you are expected to do **extensive research** to develop your options and recommendations.

Paper topics:

1. *US-Iranian relations*- For this topic you will want provide a brief background of relations between the two countries and how they have developed over time, focusing in particular on recent changes and developments. Based on this information you should develop policy options and recommendation for the US government on how it should proceed in its relations with Iran.
2. *Ongoing instability in the Central African Republic (CAR)* - Provide advice to the United Nations' Security Council on how it should respond to the ongoing instability in the CAR. Develop options and recommendations considering the local circumstances, background issues and any other relevant factors that might impact the feasibility of the Security Council taking action.
3. *Developing export markets for Canadian energy*- For this topic you will want to look at where Canada should focus its efforts in the next few years in building markets for its energy exports. The primary issue you will want to look at is if Canada should focus on North America and the US market, or look abroad to other markets. Develop clear options and consider the benefits or challenges of these in making your recommendation to the Canadian government.
4. *Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea*- Provide advice to the US government on how it should best approach the ongoing disputes in the South China Sea. You may choose to look at the issue in general or focus on a particular dispute between China and one of the other impacted countries. You will need to explain the dispute and how it came about, as well as any considerations the US government should look at in determining how it should approach the issue.
5. *Other issues*- students, with permission of the professor, may choose another current issue on which to write a policy paper. If you are going to choose your own topic, you must have this approved by the professor by **March 13**.

The paper must be organized in the following sections, with headings below clearly stated:

1. Executive summary: a very brief summary (200 words max) of your entire paper, highlighting the most important points from each section.
2. Statement of the issue/problem: a concise (2 or 3 paragraph) high level overview of the issue or problem that needs to be addressed. Your policy options and recommendations will be aimed at solving or addressing this problem.
3. Background: provide the context for the issue by identifying the actors involved, how the issue has come about, the key elements of the issue and why you think the issue matters.
4. Policy options: provide 2 or 3 feasible policy options for addressing the issue that include the advantages and disadvantages of each option, as well as factors that might impact (positively or negatively) the likelihood of successfully implementing the option. When developing your options try to consider what major opposition or counterpoints might be raised against each option and address them as best as possible

5. Recommendation: select one of your proposed options and recommend why that option should be pursued above the others. Outline a plan for how that option should be implemented.
6. References: While this is not a formal essay, your paper should still be well supported by appropriate evidence and literature throughout, with complete references and a bibliography.

Remember that the purpose of this paper is to provide clear and concise analysis and advice, so you should strive to be as succinct and to the point as possible.

Your paper should be **between 1500 and 2000 words**, which generally works out to be **7-8 pages**, double-spaced, with normal fonts and margins. **Papers that go beyond 2000 words will not be accepted, except with the professor's specific, explicit permission.**

General policies concerning assignments, deadlines, and grades

The University Calendar makes plain that "[s]tudents are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances (e.g. the death of a close relative) may an instructor extend such deadlines." **Late term papers will be assessed a penalty of one mark (out of 35) per day.** If you miss the term paper deadline on account of illness, you must hand it in within one week of your return to class, with a copy of a medical certificate, per academic regulations in the Dalhousie Calendar.

Papers not submitted directly to the professor must be submitted in person to the Political Science office (if the office is open, hand the paper to the secretary, and ask to have it stamped with date and time; if the office is not open, put the paper in the after-hours drop-box). Neither the professor nor the Department can assume responsibility for papers submitted by mail, fax, or email. Do not submit papers to teaching assistants.

Plagiarism (intentionally or unintentionally representing other people's ideas as your own) is a serious violation of academic ethics, and will be taken very seriously in this class. You can (and should) get information on what plagiarism is, how you can avoid it, and what the relevant university and departmental policies are, at <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>. Please also take note of the formal notice of university policy with respect to academic integrity posted on the course website.

The grading thresholds for this course are:

90-100 = A+	85-89.9 = A	80-84.9 = A-
77-79.9 = B+	73-76.9 = B	70-72.9 = B-
65-69.9 = C+	60-64.9 = C	55-59.9 = C-
50-54.9 = D	50 > F	

Required Text

Smith, S., Hadfield, A. & T. Dunne. (2012). Foreign Policy: Theories, actors and cases. 2nd edition, Oxford University Press.

Lectures and readings

I Introduction

January 7 - Chapter 1, Valerie N. Hudson: The History and Evolution of Foreign Policy Analysis

II Theories of International Politics

January 9 – Realism, Chapter 2, William C. Wohlforth: Realism and Foreign Policy

January 14 – Liberalism, Chapter 3 - Michael W. Doyle: Liberalism and Foreign Policy

January 16 – Constructivism, Chapter 4 - Trine Flockhart: Constructivism and Foreign Policy

January 21 - Post-structuralism, Chapter 5 - Lene Hansen: Discourse analysis, post-structuralism and foreign policy

III Foreign Policy Analysis

January 23- Actors & Structures, Chapter 6 - Walter Carlsnaes: Actors, Structures, and Foreign Policy Analysis

January 28- Decision Making, Chapter 7 - Janice Gross Stein: Decision Making: Rational, Psychological, and Neurological Models

January 30 - Behaviour, Chapter 8 - Christopher Hill & Elisabetta Brighi: Implementation and Behavior

February 4 – National Security, Chapter 10 - Brian C. Schmidt: The Primacy of National Security

February 6 – Guest lecture

February 11 – Economy, Chapter 11 - Michael Mastanduno: Economic Statecraft

February 13 – Media, Chapter 9 - Piers Robinson: The Media and Public Opinion

STUDY BREAK: FEBRUARY 17-21, NO CLASSES

February 25- MIDTERM, IN CLASS

February 27 –Chapter 12 - Michael Barnett: Duties Beyond Borders

IV Case Studies

March 4 – Chapter 14 - Graham Allison: The Cuban Missile Crisis

March 6 – Chapter 16- Yuen Foong Khong: Neoconservatism and the Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy

March 11 – Chapter 15 - Lloyd Axworthy: Canada and Anti-personnel Landmines

March 13 – Chapter 17 – Rosemary Foot: China and the Tian’anmen Bloodshed of June 1989

March 18 – Chapter 18 – Amrita Narlikar: India and the World Trade Organization

March 20 – Chapter 23 – Amelia Hadfield: Energy and Foreign Policy, EU-Russia Energy Dynamics

March 25 – Chapter 19- Arlene B. Tickner: Rising Brazil in South America

March 27 – Chapter 20 – Matt McDonald: Australia and Global Climate Change

April 1- Chapter 24- Lisbeth Aggestam: New Actors, New Foreign Policy: EU and Enlargement

April 3 – EXAM REVIEW