

X. Course Schedule

Unit I: Systems Level (third image) Theories -- examine state behavior by looking at the international system. At this level of analysis the nature of the system and the distribution of state power within it shift as states struggle to protect and advance their interests. The key variable is the power of the state within the system. Analysis at this level would look at the threats and opportunities faced by the United States in a post 9/11 environment and the calculations of the national interest related to them. It assumes that states similarly situated in the international system would behave in like ways.

Week #1: Course Overview and Introduction

Sessions on Tuesday, Jan. 31 & Thursday, February 2, 2017

Read: Shimko, The Foreign Policy Puzzle: entire book of 155 pages

Choice: Make your team selection on Moodle by Feb 7.

End of Add/Drop period: February 7, 2017

Week #2: Post 9/11 American Strategic Thinking

Sessions on Tuesday, February 7 & Thursday, February 9, 2015

Due: Team A Essay #1, Team B critiques

Read: Jack Levy, "Theories and Causes of War." Chapter 2 in *The Handbook on the Political Economy of War*, (pp. 13 - 33)

Read: Why Did The United States Invade Iraq? Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1 - 48)

Read: Gaddis, "A Grand Strategy of Transformation," *Foreign Policy* 133 (Nov/Dec 2002): 50-57.

Read: *National Security Strategy 2002*

Read: *Bush West Point Speech*, June 2002

Week #3: What The United States Was Thinking

Sessions on Tuesday, February 14 & Thursday February 16, 2017

Due: Team B Essay #1, Team A critiques

Read: Why Did The United States Invade Iraq? Chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 50-100)

Read: Richard Ned Lebow, "Fear, Interest, and Honor: Outlines of a Theory of International Relations," *International Affairs* 2, 3 (2006) 9 (pp. 431-448)

Read: Mearsheimer, John J; Walt, Stephen M., "An Unnecessary War," *Foreign Policy* 134 (Jan/Feb 2003): 50-59

Read: John J. Mearsheimer (2005), "Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq War: Realism Versus Neo-conservatism" posted on [Open Democracy](#) (6 pages)

Week #4: Geopolitical Distribution of Power

Session on Tuesday, February 21 (Thursday, February 23, 2017 NO CLASS Prof. Oglesby will be at ISA)

Due: Team A Essay #2, Team B critiques (on-line)

Read: Mandelbaum, Mission Failure: Intro and Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1 - 133)

Week #5: Overreach

Sessions on Tuesday February 28 & Thursday, March 2, 2017

Due: Team B Essay #2, Team A critiques

Read: Why Did The United States Invade Iraq? Chapter 10 (pp. 201-244)

Read: Mandelbaum, Mission Failure: Chapters 4 & 5 (pp. 133 - 234)

Unit II: State and Societal Level (second image) Theories: examine the foreign policy behavior of states by looking at the conditions and processes within them. Regime type matters. Some cultures or ideologies may be particularly warlike. Causation for war might be found in economic imperatives of certain kinds of states, in their domestic political institutions, cultures, religions or ideologies. The focus is internal and on the particularities of the state in question. It assumes that differences inside states account for differing actions by states similarly situated in the international system.

Week #6: Oil, Israelis, Neocons -- Oh My!

Sessions on Tuesday, March 7 & Thursday, March 9, 2017

Due: Team A Essay #3, Team B critiques

Read: Jack Snyder, Robert Shapiro and Yaeli Bloch-Elkon (2006), "Free Hand Abroad: Divide and Rule at Home," unpublished paper on Moodle (25 pages)

Read: Why Did The United States Invade Iraq? Chapters 5 - 8 (pp. 101 - 166)

Read: Norman J. Ornstein & Thomas E. Mann, "When Congress Checks Out," *Foreign Affairs*, 85. 6 (Nov/Dec 2006): 67.

Week #7: Deep Dive into American Political Culture

Sessions on Tuesday, March 14 & Thursday, March 16, 2017

Due: Team B Essay #3, Team A critiques

Read: Harvey, "President Al Gore and the 2003 Iraq War: A Counterfactual Critique of Conventional "W"isdom," (entire monograph of 38 pages)

Read: Lebow, Review Essay on Frank P. Harvey. *Explaining the Iraq War: Counterfactual Theory, Logic and Evidence*. (pp. 1-5)

Week #8: America's Civic Religion I

Sessions on Tuesday, March 21 & Thursday, March 23, 2017

Due: Team A Essay #4, Team B critiques

Read: McDougall, The Tragedy of U.S. Foreign Policy (pp. 1 - 167)

Saturday March 25, 2017
Spring Recess Begins

Week #9: America's Civic Religion II

Sessions on Tuesday, April 4 & Thursday, April 6, 2017

Due: Team B Essay #4, Team A critiques

Read: McDougall, The Tragedy of U.S. Foreign Policy (pp. 167 - end of book)

Unit III: Individual level (first image) theories -- focus on the people and their organizations who make the foreign policy decisions within states. It examines the beliefs and personalities of leaders as well as the ways they perceive the world. Individual worldview and perceptions, governmental roles and intergovernmental politics offer explanations for different foreign policy behaviors of states in similar international positions and with similar domestic circumstances.

The nature of the bureaucracy is at a way point between levels II and I. We will consider it in this unit as the "deep state."

Week #10: Cognitive Bias: Warping Perceptions of Interests, Threats, Tools

Sessions on Tuesday, April 11 & Thursday, April 13, 2017

Due: Team A Essay #5, Team B critiques

Read: Yetiv, National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens: entire book (pp. 1 -119)

Withdraw with "W" Deadline: April 17, 2017

Week #11: Why Intelligence Fails: Perception/Misperception

Sessions on Tuesday, April 18 & Thursday, April 20, 2017

Due: Team B Essay #5, Team A critiques

Read: Why Intelligence Fails: Chapters 1, 3 & 4

Read: Kevin Woods, James Lacey, and Williamson Murray, "Saddam's Delusions: The View From the Inside," *Foreign Affairs*, 85. 3 (May/Jun 2006): 2.

Read: Woods and Stout, "Saddam's Perceptions and Misperceptions: The Case of 'Desert Storm'," *Journal of Strategic Studies* (2010) 33:1, (pp. 5-41)

Week #12: Individuals: The Personal Element I

Sessions on Tuesday April 25 & Thursday, April 27, 2017

Due: Team A Essay #6, Team B critiques

Read: Jonathan Renshon, "Stability and Change in Belief Systems: The Operational Code of George W. Bush," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 52, no. 6 (2008): 820-849.

Watch: George W. Bush: The Iraq War Decision on *Frontline*

Read: Rothkopf, "Inside The Committee That Runs The World," *Foreign Policy*, 2011, (pp. 1-11)

Read: Select a Bush Administration decision-maker of your choice and research the appropriate memoir, biography or insider stories to evaluate the evidence of powerful personal elements driving the decision to go to war.

Week # 13: Individuals: The Personal Element II

Sessions on Tuesday, May 2 & Thursday, May 4, 2017

Due: Team B Essay # 6, Team A critiques

Watch: "The War Behind Closed Doors" on *Frontline*

Listen: Conversation with James Mann (2008), author of The Rise of the Vulcans: Bush's War Cabinet

Read: Mark Bowden, "Tales of The Tyrant," *Atlantic Magazine*, May, 2002, (pp. 1-29)

Read: Select a Bush Administration decision-maker of your choice and research the appropriate memoir, biography or insider stories to evaluate the evidence of powerful personal elements driving the decision to go to war.

Week #14: Forecasting Trump

Sessions on Tuesday, May 9 & Thursday, May 11, 2017

Read: Michael J. Glennon, (2014) "National Security and Double Government," *Harvard National Security Journal* / Vol. 5, pp. 1 -113

Other Readings TBD

Final Papers Due before Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at noon.