

PSC641: American Foreign Policy (Spring 2015)

Prof. Douglas M. Gibler

Office address: 311 ten Hoor Hall

Email: dmgibler@bama.ua.edu

Web: <http://dmgibler.people.ua.edu/>

Class meeting time and place: 2pm-4:30pm (23 ten Hoor Hall)

Office Hours: TR 1:15pm-2pm and by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to a graduate-level study of United States Foreign Policy in the contemporary era. We will review the social science understandings of various policy concerns and then apply those ideas, discussing how the United States can make its foreign policy most effective. Topics covered include promoting international cooperation, advancing change in international politics, and dealing with conflict. We conclude the course with a discussion of the national interest and the governmental budget.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, each student should be able to:

- Differentiate among various conceptions of policymaking
- Apply the cost-benefit approach to leader decision-making
- Understand basic findings related to foreign policy
- Understand a basic formal model of leader behavior

In addition to learning the course material on democratization and international conflict, after successful completion of the activities in this course, students should also be able to

- Critically discriminate between reliable and less reliable information in their decision-making
- Understand the scientific method and critically evaluate scientific information
- Develop effective written communication skills.
- And develop skills in working together in team activities.

Course Requirements

- Attendance and Discussion (20%)
- Presentations (20%)
- Bibliographies (10%)
- Term paper (50%)

Attendance at class lectures is mandatory; an attendance sheet will be passed out daily. Attendance AND participation in discussions are required to gain a thorough knowledge of the topics discussed during lectures. Students will be graded on their preparedness and the quality of their comments during discussions.

Students are expected to take leadership of the discussion for the majority of the course. A group of three students each week will prepare a short paper (1-2 pages, single-spaced) that discusses the findings and implications associated with each week's recommended readings. The group will also cover 5-6 other related readings that the group thinks is important. Both the short bibliography and the short paper should be distributed to the class via email by Monday afternoon at 4pm. The group will also be responsible for stating what they think are the principle conclusions of each particular literature. These will be starting points for the discussion each week.

The term paper is a research design on a particular topic of interest. Those who have completed a statistics class are expected to provide conclusions from their research design and develop a paper that has the potential for publication.

Email Policy

Email is a convenient way to continue contact between professor and student outside of class. Students should take advantage of this opportunity but should also do so in a professional manner. I will not reply to emails that do not include a salutation (Dear Prof or Hello Dr.). I will not reply to emails that are hastily written and filled with grammatical errors and misspellings. I will also not respond to emails that ask for answers to questions that can easily be found on the syllabus or the class blog. Last, if you have a question regarding lectures or assigned material that you just cannot seem to master, then ask a question in class, come to me during office hours, or post a question on the blog for other students to answer. Email is best for 1-2 sentence responses, and conceptual questions do not lend themselves well to email.

Cell Phones and Laptops

Cell phones are a distraction to both the professor and to fellow students, even if the phone is only used for texting. You should **TURN YOUR CELL PHONES OFF!** before entering the classroom. Laptops are also not allowed in my classroom.

Cheating and Plagiarism

I and take academic integrity very seriously and will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. There are very serious penalties for cheating at UA that could have consequences far beyond your college career. Cheating of any form is a really stupid thing to do so don't try, and if you have any doubts about what cheating is, ask me, examine the UA policies (see below), or better still, take this tutorial on plagiarism that was developed by UA's libraries: Play-it-safe. (Please plug in speakers or headphones before starting this tutorial.) The Code of Academic Conduct in the University of Alabama Undergraduate Catalog defines plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty as follows:

- Plagiarism: representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own
- Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information
- Fabrication: presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material
- Misrepresentation: falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts.

Although authors occasionally indulge in plagiarism intentionally, most often writers plagiarize unintentionally. Many do not realize that indirect quotations, which result from paraphrasing and summarizing material, also require acknowledgement of the author and the source of the idea. A direct quotation of an authors exact words is the only footnoted material that requires the use of quotation marks, but both direct and indirect quotations must be footnoted. Any idea or statement that is not the authors own must be documented. Remember- the following require the use of a citation:

- Any material directly quoted from another's work
- Any information that is summarized or paraphrased
- Any idea derived from a known source
- Any fact or data that is not common knowledge and is borrowed from anothers work

Material that is common or general knowledge does not have to be footnoted, unless the wording is taken directly from a particular source. A general rule is that if a fact can be found in five or more sources, it is considered to be common knowledge and does not have to be documented. See Anthony C. Winkler and Jo Ray McCuen, *Writing the Research Paper; A Handout* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979).

Class Schedule

We will follow this general schedule for the course. Note that required readings for each week are listed here; specific due dates are also noted.

Part I: Background on US Foreign Policy

- Week 1 (January 13th)—Syllabus handout, course description, and readings assigned
- Week 2 (January 20th)—**Constraints Amid the Policymaking Process**
 Read: Benjamin O. Fordham (2008), [Economic Interests and Public Support for American Global Activism](#), *International Organization* , Vol. 62, No. 1 (Winter, 2008), pp. 163-182.
 BE Goldsmith, Y Horiuchi (2012) In search of soft power: does foreign public opinion matter for US foreign policy? *World Politics*. doi:[10.1017/S0043887112000123](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043887112000123)

Part II: Promoting International Cooperation

- Week 3 (January 27th)—**Encouraging Trade**

Read: Hankla, C. R. and Kuthy, D. (2012), Economic Liberalism in Illiberal Regimes: Authoritarian Variation and the Political Economy of Trade. *International Studies Quarterly*. doi:[10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00753.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00753.x)

DY Kono, GR Montinola (2014), Foreign Aid, Time Horizons, and Trade Policy. *Comparative Political Studies*. doi:[10.1177/0010414014556048](https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414014556048)

DY Kono (2008) Democracy and trade discrimination. *The Journal of Politics*. doi:[10.1017/S0022381608080985](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022381608080985)

- Week 4 (February 3rd)—**Fostering Economic Development**

Read: Blattman, Christopher, Nathan Fiala, and Sebastian Martinez Bustos (2014) Generating skilled self-employment in developing countries: Experimental evidence from Uganda. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. doi:[10.1093/qje/qjt057](https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjt057)

William Easterly (2009) *Can the West Save Africa?* *Journal of Economic Literature* 47(2).

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. (2005). "Institutions as a fundamental cause of long-run growth." *Handbook of Economic Growth* 1: 385-472. doi:[10.1016/S1574-0684\(05\)01006-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1574-0684(05)01006-3)

- Week 5 (February 10th)—**Establishing and Maintaining Governance**

Read: Paul K. Huth, Sarah Croco, and Benjamin J. Appel (2011). Does International Law Promote the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes? Evidence from the Study of Territorial Conflicts since 1945. *American Political Science Review*, 105, pp 415-436. doi:[10.1017/S0003055411000062](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055411000062)

DW Hill (2010) Estimating the effects of human rights treaties on state behavior. *The Journal of Politics*. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022381610000599>

Simmons Beth and Zachary Elkins (2004) The Globalization of Liberalization: Policy Diffusion in the International Political Economy. *American Political Science Review* 98:1 (February) 171-189. doi:[10.1017/S0003055404001078](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055404001078)

Part III: Advancing Change

- Week 6 (February 17th)—**Aid, Human Rights, and Repression**

Read: B Bueno De Mesquita, A Smith (2009) A political economy of aid. *International Organization*. doi:[10.1017/S0020818309090109](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818309090109)

Milner, Helen and Dustin Tingley (2013) The choice for multilateralism: Foreign aid and American foreign policy. *The Review of International Organizations*. doi:[10.1007/s11558-012-9153-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-012-9153-x)

Gibler, Douglas M. (2008) United States Economic Aid and Repression: The Opportunity Cost Argument, *The Journal of Politics*, April, pp 513 - 526 doi:[10.1017/S002238160808047X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S002238160808047X)

Barry R. Posen (1996) *Military Responses to Refugee Disasters*, *International Security*. 21:1, 72-111

- Week 7 (February 24th)—No class this week due to ISA meeting

- Week 8 (March 3rd)—**Managing Weapons Proliferation**

Read: Matthew Fuhrmann. "Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements." *International Security* 34.1 (2009): 7-41.

doi:[10.1162/isec.2009.34.1.7](https://doi.org/10.1162/isec.2009.34.1.7)

SD Sagan (2011) [The causes of nuclear weapons proliferation](#) *Annual Review of Political Science*

E Gartzke, DJ Jo (2009) Bargaining, nuclear proliferation, and interstate disputes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. doi:[10.1177/0022002708330289](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002708330289)

M Fuhrmann, TS Sechser (2014) Signaling Alliance Commitments: Hand-Tying and Sunk Costs in Extended Nuclear Deterrence. *American Journal of Political Science*.

doi:[10.1111/ajps.12082](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12082)

Part IV: Dealing with Conflict

- Week 11 (March 12th)—**Spreading Democracy**

Read: Enterline, A. J. and Michael Greig, J. (2008), The History of Imposed Democracy and the Future of Iraq and Afghanistan. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 4: 321347.

doi:[10.1111/j.1743-8594.2008.00074.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1743-8594.2008.00074.x)

Treisman, Daniel (2014) Income, Democracy, and Leader Turnover. *American Journal of Political Science*. doi:[10.1111/ajps.12135](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12135)

KS Gleditsch, MD Ward (2006) Diffusion and the international context of democratization. *International Organization*. doi:

D.M. Gibler and J.Tir. Settled Borders and Regime Type: Democratic Transitions as Consequences of Peaceful Territorial Transfers. *American Journal of Political Science*. 54(4):951-968. 2010. doi:[10.1111/j.1540-5907.2010.00473.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2010.00473.x)

D.M. Gibler and Jaroslav Tir. Territorial Peace and Democratic Clustering. *The Journal of Politics*. *The Journal of Politics*. 76(1): 27-40. 2014. doi:[10.1017/S0022381613001059](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022381613001059)

- Week 12 (March 24th)—**Economic Sanctions**

Read: Lektzian, David and Glen Biglaiser. (2012) Investment, Opportunity, and Risk: Do US Sanctions Deter or Encourage Global Investment? *International Studies Quarterly*, doi:[10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00761.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2012.00761.x)

Christian von Soest and Michael Wahman. Not all dictators are equal: Coups, fraudulent elections, and the selective targeting of democratic sanctions. *Journal of Peace Research*. doi:[10.1177/0022343314551081](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343314551081)

Navin A. Bapat and Bo Ram Kwon (2015) When Are Sanctions Effective? A Bargaining and Enforcement Framework. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0020818314000290>

- Week 13 (March 31st)—**Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism**

RA Pape (2003) The strategic logic of suicide terrorism. *American political science review*, 2003. doi: with the [counter by Ashworth, et al.](#) and the [response by Pape](#). The web [counter-counter-response](#) is also useful.

Read: Collard-Wexler, Simon, et al., (2013) Do Foreign Occupations Cause Suicide Attacks? *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, doi:[10.1177/0022002713478558](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002713478558)

John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart. [The Terrorism Delusion: Americas Overwrought Response to September 11](#). *International Security* 37, no. 1 (Summer 2012): 81-110.

Gartzke, Erik (2013) The myth of cyberwar: Bringing war in cyberspace back down to earth. *International Security*. doi:[10.1162/ISEC.a.00136](#)

- Week 14 (April 7th)—**Military Strength and Conflict Avoidance**

Read: Bremer, Stuart. 1992. Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36 (2): 309-41.
doi:[10.1177/0022002792036002005](#)

AB Downes, TS Sechser (2012) The illusion of democratic credibility. *International Organization*. doi:[10.1017/S0020818312000161](#)

H Buhaug (2005) Dangerous Dyads revisited: democracies may not be that peaceful after all. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. doi:[10.1080/07388940590948547](#)

- Week 15 (April 14th)—**Using Military Force**

Read: [The Myth of Air Power in the Persian Gulf War and the Future of Warfare](#), Daryl G. Press, *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 2 (Fall, 2001), pp. 5-44

DR Lake (2009) The limits of coercive airpower: NATO's victory in Kosovo revisited. *International Security*,. doi:[10.1162/isec.2009.34.1.83](#)

[Testing the Surge: Why Did Violence Decline in Iraq in 2007?](#) Stephen Biddle, Jeffrey A. Friedman and Jacob N. Shapiro, *International Security*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (SUMMER 2012), pp. 7-40

Part V: Conclusions

- Week 16 (April 21st)—**Revisiting the National Interest**

Read: Come Home, America: The Strategy of Restraint in the Face of Temptation, Eugene Gholz, Daryl G. Press, and Harvey M. Sapolsky, *International Security*, Spring 1997, Vol. 21, No. 4, Pages 5-48, doi:[10.1162/isec.21.4.5](#)

Don't Come Home, America: The Case against Retrenchment, Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, and William C. Wohlforth, *International Security* 2013 37:3, 7-51, doi:[10.1162/ISEC.a.00107](#)