PSCI 282: Comparative Foreign Policy: Selective Countries/Issues
Fall, 2019
RCH 309 Thursday 2:30 pm - 4:20 pm

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Office Hours: Thursday 11: 30 am-12:20 pm

TA: Office: HH 346 Office Hours (TBC)

Course Description: This course examines the comparative foreign policy in relation to specific countries and issues. In many respects the course follows the model of a generic course on comparative foreign policy, with a focus on big, middle and small states. Where it is different is in its focus on specific issues relating to each country. In terms of the United States, the focus will be on the issue of individual presidential leadership and worldview. In terms of the European Union, the focus is on the issue of soft power. Moving to a broader theme of coalitions in foreign policy, the focus will be on the differences between alliances (NATO) and clubs (BRICS). On China, the focus will be on sovereignty and defence of territory. On India and Brazil the focus will be on the search for status. Moving to another general theme, in relation to the concept of middle powers, the focus starts with Canada but moves to some other countries notably Australia and Turkey. With regard to other non-traditional middle powers, including South Africa, South Korea, and especially Mexico, the focus will be on the hold of geography. And finally, the focus on small states will be on the duality of vulnerability and resilience. In all the cases, however, the focus will be on the range of agency. With an orientation towards global governance (following the rules set out or imposed in the global system) and self-help (with a focus on autonomy) an evaluation will be made of the countries under review.

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:
Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you are using Turnitin in your course:

Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo for more information.
Texts:

There is no single text for the course. Readings come from various forms of articles. Some of these can be accessed via the University of Waterloo’s library system. Please use the links outlined below and search using the journal/media title.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Two tests, with short questions identifying and giving significance of specific terms in different thematic/country components of the course – 25% each – **50% October 24 and November 28.**

Participation in Discussion Groups including the communication of the one page outline (as below) and short verbal presentation of the paper – **25%**.

A paper between 6-8 pages (12 point font 1.5 lines) – **25%**
A one page outline of this paper will be presented in the Discussion groups (and sent electronically by 10:00 pm the night before). The final paper will be handed in either in class or the drop box in the Political Science Department (by 4:30 pm) on **November 21** (except for students doing presentations in Week 12 who if wanted can have a week extension till **November 28**).

Week 1 – September 5

**Overview of the Course**

A focus on the major countries and issues covered by the course, as well as student responsibilities.

**Introduction to Foreign Policy**

One view of foreign policy by Christopher Hill, “What is to be done? Foreign policy as a site for political action”
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/internationalRelations/pdf/CJHwhatistobedone.pdf> OPTIONAL EXTRA READING.

Concepts of Realism/Geo-politics and Global Governance/Rules based approach in the context of Comparative Foreign Policy (BACKGROUND MATERIAL)

Lawrence Finkelstein, “What is Global Governance” *
<http://maihold.org/mediapool/113/1132142/data/Finkelstein.pdf>

Overview of John Mearsheimer’s Great Power Politics
<http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/StructuralRealism.pdf> (see also for the China lecture)
Week 2 – September 12

The US as a Pivotal Actor with a mix of foreign policy traditions:
The role of Individuals/Presidential World Views – 4 traditions and Trump


For more detail about the evolution of the Trump foreign policy


Week 3 – September 19

The European Union, with a focus on the tools/constraints the EU has in terms of foreign policy leverage

A normative/material force in global governance; constraints from national interests and inter-governmentalism; the impact of economic vulnerability; consolidation or fragmentation

A good basic overview of the EU < https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-does-european-union-work>

A positive view of the EU’s global role  < https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/07/17/europe-is-back/>

For a more cautionary image of the EU’s leverage <
https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2019/0708/EU-as-world-power-Brussels-has-the-tools-but-does-it-have-the-will>
Week 4 – September 26

Testing alliances and clubs: tensions in NATO and BRICS

Some background on NATO
< https://qz.com/1585657/nato-70-four-charts-that-explain-the-alliance/>

One of many media accounts of NATO’s crisis

Some background on the BRICS
< https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/07/five-questions-about-the-brics-nations/>

A more recent assessment about the club


Week 5 – October 3

China and the defence of sovereignty and territory. Why are these interests so important, and what does this say about the meaning of national interest (see again Mearsheimer).

On Chinese foreign policy generally see different (short) views
< http://www.chinafile.com/conversation/where-chinas-foreign-policy-headed>

On the debate about sovereignty and territory see
< https://thediplomat.com/2019/05/does-china-really-respect-sovereignty/>


Week 6 – October 10

Brazil and India and the search for status. Why is status so important, and what does this say about the meaning of status?
Changing images of Brazilian foreign policy

https://blog.oup.com/2017/05/brazil-global-aspirations-foreign-policy/


Different images of Indian foreign policy: an insider view

A more critical view
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/05/20/troubles-aplenty-foreign-policy-challenges-for-next-indian-government-pub-79161>

Week 7 – October 17 STUDY BREAK

Week 8 – October 24 1ST TEST (excluding week 6 material) *

Week 9 – October 31

The nature of Middle Powers. Is this concept still important, and what meaning does its evolution from traditional MPs such as Australia to non-traditional MPs such as Turkey possess?

Background of Australia as a middle power

http://www.spain-australia.org/files/documentos/45_PB208_Australia_as_a_middle_power.pdf

Political Constraints


Background of Turkish foreign policy

http://www.hscentre.org/policy-unit/turkeys-neo-ottomanism-engaging-pivitol-middle-power/
A lengthy but interesting view of recent Turkish foreign policy

https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaip1904.pdf

**Week 10 – November 7**

The impact of geography, with reference to potential middle powers such as Mexico, South Korea, or South Africa. How does the regional positioning constrains foreign policy, and what is the impact?

An analysis of MIKTA, an initiative to bring middle powers together

https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/mikta-where-middle-powers-proudly-meet>

Constraints on Republic (South) Korea, the first contribution is most relevant

< http://www.keia.org/sites/default/files/publications/jukas_chapter_1_intro.pdf>

Constraints on South African foreign policy

https://www.iiss.org/blogs/analysis/2019/02/south-africa-foreign-policy-ramaphosa

A short but up to date article on constraints on Mexican foreign policy

< https://theglobalamericans.org/2019/02/amlos-cautious-foreign-policy/>

**Week 11 – November 14**

The features of vulnerability and resilience in the foreign policy of small states. What are the structural disadvantages of being small?

Background on Small Sates in World Politics < https://www.diplomacy.edu/small-states-diplomacy>

Vulnerability and Resilience of Iceland < https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/11/01/hey-just-wanted-to-make-sure-you-heard-how-great-iceland-is/>

Vulnerability and Resilience in the Caribbean

< https://www.caribbean-council.org/caribbean-foreign-policy-changing-world/>
Week 12 – November 21

Resilience in the foreign policy of countries such as Qatar or Singapore, and other small states. Why is resilience so important, and what does this resilience say about the meaning of being small?

Status and Foreign Policy Change in Small States: Qatar’s Emergence in Perspective

A critical look at Qatar

Background articles on Singapore foreign policy


<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/47506/>

Week 13 – November 28

SECOND TEST (including Week 6 material) **

Late Policy:

Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5 points out of a grade of 100 for the first five days after either November 21 or November 28 (that is to say, until November 26 or December 3), and 5 points per week after that unless an extension has been given on individual medical or compassionate grounds or on a collective basis.