There is theory, and then there is practice. It is relatively easy to develop theories, strategies, explanations, constructs, or simple rules-of-thumb for conducting foreign policy. It is quite another thing to know which of these abstract options is a government’s optimal choice. What is the best way for the United States, China, or Zimbabwe to advance its interests in the world? How should these countries deal with Iran? North Korea? Sub-Saharan Africa? Which strategy is the right one? Are the best short-term options consistent with long-term goals? Should material interests alone guide policymakers, or should ethical and humanitarian impulses be factored in?

There’s another problem. Even if a policymaker could divine the optimal foreign policy response, there’s the small matter of executing it. What if the policy is imperfectly implemented? How do domestic, bureaucratic, and cognitive constraints affect policymaking decisions?

The goal of this course is to offer an introduction into the world of policymaking, diplomacy, and statecraft. A good policymaker must have the analytic tools necessary to respond to external events or forward the national interest. That alone is insufficient, however. There are two other components to the crafting of foreign policy. First, the policymaker must have a grasp of the domestic and bureaucratic environment in which policy is being crafted, and recognize how that environment affects both private and public actions. Second, the policymaker must also learn the various arts associated with the policymaking process. The most brilliant foreign policy architect in the world will have no influence unless s/he can make a coherent presentation at a National Security Council briefing, a congressional hearing, or write a concise but accurate briefing paper.

To that end, this course is designed to test the analytic portion of policymaking as well as the interpersonal skills needed to further one’s views. There will be a series of exercises designed to test your mettle in different policy settings – and you will be graded on your performance.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

I expect the following if you take this class:
You will keep abreast of current events in American foreign policy. This includes reading a daily newspaper or three (the New York Times, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, etc.) plus the Economist.

In class, you will turn off or mute your cell phone – and any other electronic device that makes noise. If your phone rings in class, I will make you sing a song of my choosing – and bear in mind I have a soft spot for maudlin ballads.

I expect your full participation. This means you should have read the assigned material before the class date. I place a high degree of importance on class participation. This does not mean talking for talking's sake, it means making incisive observations that display original thinking. Oh, and I will call on you on occasion, just to be mean.

Your grade will be based on the following:

- **A grand strategy paper.** You will be asked to prepare a national security strategy for a country of your choosing. This strategy paper should detail the strategic environment for your country, what its goals should be, and what resources, strategies, and tactics will be brought to bear in order to achieve desired ends. This will count for 30% of your grade.

- **An op-ed on an issue of your choosing.** This exercise will count for 15% of your grade.

- **A final paper.** You will prepare a policy options memorandum outlining a menu of possible options to deal with a problem of my choosing. The memo should delineate all of the feasible options, assess their likelihood of success, and offer a clear set of actionable recommendations. Your analysis will be based on information you have gleaned from the class, as well as additional research on your own on the country or issue in question. This will count for 30% of your grade.

- **Class participation.** This will count for 25% of your grade.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**


PART I: Introduction

1) You, me, and everyone we know (9/9)

2) Political science and foreign policy (9/14)

George, Bridging the Gap, pp. 1-31.

Ross, Statecraft, preface and chapter one.


3) Strategy and statecraft (9/16)

Drezner, Avoiding Trivia, chapters 1, 3-4 and 9.

Gelb, Power Rules, chapter 5.


4) A Power Audit (9/21-9/23)

Gelb, Power Rules, chapter 4.


APSA Task Force report on standing

## PART II: The Modes of Statecraft

### 1) Deterrence, honesty and reputation (9/28)


### 2) Alignment, balancing, bandwagoning, and ‘soft balancing’ (9/30)


**OCTOBER 5th: NO CLASS**

### 3) Does regime type matter? Is regime change possible? (10/7)


4) **Multilateralism, minilateralism, bilateralism, and unilateralism (10/14-10/19)**


Moises Naim, “Minilateralism” in Foreign Policy.

Stuff from Global Governance

5) **Diplomacy, legitimacy and communication (10/21)**


Ross, *Statecraft*, chapter eight.

6) **Private diplomacy (10/26)**


**Case study: The Israel-Palestinian conflict (10/28)**

Ross, *Statecraft*, chapter twelve


7) **Public diplomacy (11/2)**

Christopher Ross, “Public Diplomacy Comes of Age,” *The Washington Quarterly* 25 (Spring 2002): 75-83.


11/5, 2:00 PM: OP-ED SUBMISSION DUE ➔ PLEASE HAND INTO KAREN MOULLING (Cabot 411)

**PART III: The tools of Statecraft**

1) **Agenda-setting (11/4)**


2) **Military statecraft (11/9-11/11)**


George, *Bridging the Gap*, chapters 71-88.


2) Economic statecraft (11/16-11/18)


11/20, 2:00 PM: GRAND STRATEGY DOCUMENT DUE ➔ PLEASE HAND INTO KAREN MOULLING (Cabot 411)

3) Inducements (11/23-11/25)


George, *Bridging the Gap*, 61-70.


4) **What the f#$% is “soft power” anyway?** (11/30)


**PART IV: Grand strategy, revisited**

1) **Evaluating the Obama administration (12/2)**


2) **A pressing policy issue: global warming (12/7)**


3) Policy simulation → our very own Copenhagen (12/9)

12/14, 2:00 PM: POLICY OPTIONS PAPER DUE → PLEASE HAND INTO KAREN MOULLING (Cabot 411)