What determines a state’s foreign and security policy? Which domestic political factors matter, and how do they matter? How do features of the international system affect the foreign and security policies pursued by states? The purposes of this course are twofold. First, it aims to familiarize you with the major variables political scientists have identified as influencing foreign and security policy. Second, it aims to equip you with the necessary tools to conduct research and complete a research paper of your own.

The course begins by considering the utility of theories of international relations in explaining the foreign and security policy choices of individual states. Next, we consider the kind of research design and methodology we should employ when studying foreign and security policy. We then move to the substantive part of the course and read cutting-edge research conducted across ten categories of variables, ranging from the domestic to the supranational and the ideational to the material. Each session will be comprised of student-led presentations that summarize the material we’ve read and generate discussions of the research designs, findings, and methodologies employed therein. The empirical focus of the course is on security policy, broadly defined.

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Instructor: Dr. Amy Catalinac

Email: amy.catalinac@anu.edu.au

Office: Hedley Bull, 2.09.

Office Hours: Wed, 5-7pm, or by appointment.

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Course Objectives: In taking this course, students are expected to acquire:

1. An understanding of the major theories of international relations and how they can (and cannot) be used to study the foreign and security policies of individual states.

2. An understanding of the variables political scientists have identified as influencing foreign and security policy decisions.

3. The capacity to summarize and critically appraise the research designs, findings, and methodologies of cutting-edge research in the field.

4. The capacity to make an oral presentation on the research designs, methodologies, and conclusions of this research.

5. The capacity to conduct original research and write a research paper.
Course Requirements: This course depends heavily on your participation. You are expected to read the assigned material each week and come prepared to discuss the research designs, findings, and methodologies contained therein. Each session will be comprised of student-led presentations on the assigned material, followed by a discussion in which all students are expected to participate. The schedule of presentations will be decided in the first session. If you cannot attend the first session, please email me in advance. The number of times each student presents will depend on the number of students taking the course. Your performance in the presentations will comprise 30% of your grade for the course. In addition, you are required to complete an in-class, closed-book mid-term examination (on April 16, worth 30% of your grade), which will examine material taught in weeks 1-6 and a 2,500-3,000-word research essay (due May 30 at 11.59pm, worth 40% of your grade), in which you will identify a research question and answer it with evidence. See below for more details.

Grade Breakdown:

- Participation (presentations) ........................................... 30%
- Mid-term Exam ................................................................. 30%
- Research Essay ................................................................. 40%

Presentations: Your job is to put together a presentation with power point slides that summarizes the assigned material and raises questions for discussion. The schedule of presentations and the material to be covered in each presentation will be decided in or immediately after the first session. In your summary, you are expected to address the research question posed in the material, the answer offered by the author(s), any alternative answers that were considered, and the evidence the author presents in support of his/her claims. I want you to be especially attentive to the research design (how the author went about testing his/her hypothesized answer), as well as the data and methodology used. Your questions for discussion can focus on any aspect of the material you find interesting. In the weeks you are presenting, you may either bring your slides to lecture in a USB memory stick or send me your slides via email. If you choose the latter, you must email me your slides at least two hours before the session is scheduled to start. In addition, you are required to upload your slides to a shared drop box after you have presented, so that students can view your slides. To do this, all students need to register for a free dropbox account at www.dropbox.com. Please do this now. More details about the presentations will be given in the first session. Presentations will start in week 3.

Research Essay: Your task for the research essay is to think of a question related to the foreign or security policy of a state or group of states. The question should identify a puzzle, of which the answer is not obvious. You are to offer your own answer to this question, perhaps gleaned from the variables we study in the course but perhaps not, and provide evidence, gleaned from as many sources as you can, that your answer is correct. You are also expected to come up with other possible answers to your question and provide evidence that those answers are incorrect. You will be graded on your ability to identify a research question, construct an answer to that question, and provide evidence in support of your answer. The goal of the essay is to have you conduct some original research, so you will do better if you use primary material (for example, government documents, newspaper articles, interviews, government data, etc.).

The essay should be between 2,500-3,000 words and should be submitted via www.turnitin.com before 11.59pm on May 30. The IPS Guidelines for Undergraduate Assessment describes the rules regarding format, submission, referencing style, penalties for late submission, penalties for not
keeping within the word limit, and extension requests. Each of these policies will be followed in this course also, so please consult this guide.

**Required Texts:** There are no required textbooks for this course.

**Assigned Readings:** The assigned readings for each week have been scanned and are available on the course website. Supplementary material for each session is also noted. This is only for your reference and is not required.

**Important Dates:**

- Presentations ......................... (to be scheduled).
- Mid-term Exam ............................ Tuesday, April 16
- Research Paper Due ................. Thursday May 30 (11.59pm)

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**PART I: TOOLS FOR STUDYING FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**

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**Feb 19 (Week One): Theoretical (IR Theory and Foreign Policy Analysis)**

What is foreign and security policy? Can IR theory help explain the foreign and security policies of states? Which factors do these theories suggest matter most, system-level or unit-level factors? If we’re interested in foreign and security policy, why should we study East Asia? What country/set of countries are you most interested in, and why? What kind of questions are you most interested in, and why? Please read the assigned material and think about your answers to these questions.


**For Reference:**

Feb 26 (Week Two). Practical (research design, data, and methodology).

What is a good research question? How can we come up with possible answers? What are good strategies for evaluating the validity of those answers? What should we be doing, building theories of foreign and security policy or testing specific hypotheses about why a state chose a particular course of action at a particular time? What is an eclectic explanation, and is this what we should be aiming for? Please read the assigned material and think about your answers to these questions.


PART II: DRIVERS OF FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Mar 5 (Week Three). Supranational (material).


For Reference:


Mar 12 (Week Four). Supranational (ideational).


For Reference:


Mar 19 (Week Five). Regime Type.


For Reference:


Mar 26 (Week Six). Domestic Political Institutions.


For Reference:

Apr 16 (Week Seven). No Lecture. In-class mid-term exam.

Apr 23 (Week Eight). Public Opinion and the Media.


For Reference:


Apr 30 (Week Nine). Identities.


For Reference:


May 7 (Week Ten). Domestic norms and cultures.


May 14 (Week Eleven). Leaders, leadership style, and personality.


May 21 (Week Twelve). Bureaucracies and military organizations.


May 28 (Week Thirteen). Territory and Demography.


For Reference:
