

MC 327 – Comparative Analysis of Foreign Policy
James Madison College
Michigan State University
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Hours: Mon and Wed 1:30-3,
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Class meetings: Mon and Wed, 8:30-9:50 A.M.
Class location: 342 Case Hall

Course Description

The title of this course suggests both a substantive topic and a method. Substantively, we are going to discuss foreign policy – the actions states make in relations to each other and the process states go through to determine their policies. Thus, both process **and** policy are important topics. Methodologically, we will approach our subject matter comparatively. In other words, we want to see how the models and explanations we develop in a general way to understand the phenomenon of foreign policy can be applied to multiple settings – across time and place – and how subjecting our models to various settings can improve general theorizing about foreign policy.

In some respects, the goals of this course do not differ much from the goals of a course in U.S. Foreign Policy like MC 326. In that course, models and explanations are developed to study the behavior of one state across foreign policy issues and over time. We are essentially doing the same thing here but with a few twists: 1) we are going to reinforce the ideas of theoretical and model development with a goal of applying them rigorously throughout the semester; 2) we are going to study three different parts of the world in an attempt to test the general models, see what types of differences exist, and understand why those differences may or may not matter; and 3) we are going to use the United States as a foil to set these case studies against. While I do not presume that you have taken a course in U.S. foreign policy, I do expect at least a basic level of familiarity with American politics and the role of the United States in the world – a topic we will study in relation to each of our cases. In addition to studying China, Turkey, and Germany, you will be able to apply your skills as an analyst through an independent study of another country's foreign policy. At the end of the course, you should have honed your skills in analyzing both policy and policy-making and increased your empirical understanding of three very important parts of the world.

There are four primary units of the course, although the goal is to see and build connections within and across topics. The first section will provide the theoretical and analytical tools to assess the remaining units. We will discuss the place of foreign policy within the field of international relations and whether there can be a truly comparative analysis of foreign policy. We will then explore a variety of theoretical lenses used to understand comparative foreign policy. The Hill text provides a range of theoretical and empirical examples. I have also assigned a number of articles to supplement the text. Class time will be spent discussing and critiquing how well the theoretical perspectives allow us to study foreign policy. It is important to obtain a good working knowledge of these tools and concepts as we will use them to study the other

topics in the course, and you will need to apply them in your paper and on exams. Class discussion of these topics is encouraged and expected.

The next three units provide us with an opportunity to test the concepts introduced in part one. Nearly any set of countries could have been selected, but I have chosen three for their ability to highlight the theoretical concepts and to demonstrate the importance of these regions for contemporary international politics. I also selected the topics with an eye towards variation: in region, in domestic political system, in history. For the most part, similar themes are highlighted in each case study: an historical background to inform the contemporary situation, an examination of the foreign policy apparatus, an analysis of security, economic, and other foreign policy issues, and an understanding of how the country relates to its neighbors and the world as a whole.

Some consider China to be the next superpower and potential rival to American hegemony. It is also struggling to adapt to this role while making sure some things do not change domestically. Turkey sits at a crossroads of the world – in the many senses of that word. It is a historically fascinating country that currently highlights many key concerns of world politics such as religion, natural resources, culture, and military security. Germany is selected as a representative of a European democracy. While we must necessarily talk about European foreign policy as a whole when discussing German foreign policy, we must also take care to understand the domestic politics of a country that has undergone significant changes over the course of the past sixty years. While these three units cannot fully satisfy our knowledge of comparative foreign policy, they do provide a useful lens for understanding how the topic matters and provide us with an in-depth examination of how and why these countries are major international actors in the 21st century.

Required Readings (please obtain the appropriate editions)

Make sure to do the reading for the session for which it is assigned. The reading load is heavy especially early in the semester, and is designed to provide both background information on the topics, as well as different perspectives on empirical and theoretical issues in foreign policy analysis. Please keep on track with it.

1. Yong Deng and Fei-Ling Wang (eds.). 2005. *China Rising*.
2. Scott Erb. 2003. *German Foreign Policy*.
3. Lenore G. Martin and Dimitris Keridis (eds.). 2004. *The Future of Turkish Foreign Policy*.
4. Christopher Hill. 2003. *The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy*.
5. Denny Roy. 1998. *China's Foreign Relations*.
6. A number of journal articles. Most are available on-line and on reserve in the Madison Library. The copy of the syllabus posted on ANGEL will have direct links to the readings. The goal of making them available on-line and on reserve is to minimize the cost of making a course pack. They are all important and part of the required reading.
7. Regular reading of a periodical with good international coverage, especially of China, Turkey, and Germany (or Europe as a whole). The *Economist* is preferred as it provides the most extensive regular coverage of all of the regions we are studying this semester. The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* should also be read consistently. *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *International Security*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, and

International Studies Quarterly are recommended journals with more sustained coverage of many of the topics we are studying. Knowledge of current events is expected for the exams and class discussions.

8. Any other readings as assigned.

Evaluation (every assignment must be successfully completed to pass the course)

1. Midterm Exam. An in-class exam based on the readings and lectures for parts I and II of the course. In class on Wednesday, March 1. **25% of grade**
2. Final Exam. An in-class exam during the assigned time of finals period. **30% of grade**
3. Term Paper. The paper assignment will allow you to study the foreign policy of one or more countries other than those directly studied in the course. I will provide a detailed explanation of the assignment, its various components, and its grading criteria early in the semester. **35% of grade (includes all components)**
4. Participation. I expect that there will be ample opportunities for discussion in class and that students will take advantage of those opportunities. While at certain times there will be more lecturing than at others, I will make time in each session for questions and discussion. Students should come to class each day with their questions or thoughts on the reading or on previous course material. While attendance is not a formal part of your grade, you can't earn participation points if you are not there. Missing more than 2 or 3 class meetings is not advised, and attendance may be used as a factor in determining borderline grades. The early time of class may be a struggle for some – feel free to bring beverages as needed – but you are expected to be there on time. Your performance on exams will suffer if you don't both attend lectures and read the required material. I expect that while we might all disagree on certain issues throughout the semester that all discussions will be civil and everyone should respect each other. **10% of grade**

For the exams, you are responsible for both the lecture material and the assigned readings (even those not discussed in class). There will be no make-ups without *prior* permission based on an *extremely* good reason.

Honors Option: For those interested in an Honors Option, please see me by the end of the first week of classes to make arrangements. There will be extra meetings and assignments (reading and written), and students will be held to a higher standard on all facets of the course. A minimum course grade of 3.5 is also required to receive honors credit.

The topic for the Honors Option: The foreign policies of “small” states. To begin with, all students participating in the Honors Option should obtain a copy of:

Jeanne A.K. Hey. 2003. *Small States in World Politics: Explaining Foreign Policy Behavior*.

There will also be a few additional essays.

Academic Honesty: Of course, no form of academic misconduct (on papers and exams) will be tolerated. All violations will face the harshest penalties allowed under MSU policy (which, at the minimum, is a 0.0 for the course). In part, the JMC’s Student Handbook reads:

The faculty recognize that it is the responsibility of the instructor to take appropriate action if an act of academic dishonesty is discovered. It is further understood that a student may appeal a judgment of academic dishonesty to the Student-Faculty Judiciary. The Faculty Assembled recommend that in cases involving proven academic dishonesty, the student should receive, as a minimum, a 0.0 in the course and that a record of the circumstances, sanctions, and any appeal, be placed in the student's confidential file. (In accordance with University policy, the record may be made available to faculty if such information is deemed necessary in the discharging of their respective responsibilities). The individual faculty member or the Dean may recommend further action, including dismissal from the University, to the Student-Faculty Judiciary. If a second case of academic dishonesty should occur, the recommendation is that the faculty, through the Office of Academic Affairs, should seek the student's dismissal from the College and the University.

That said, virtually all violations can be avoided if you speak to me first. Not waiting until the last minute to finish assignments helps to avoid most problems.

Schedule

Within each unit, some minor adjustment can be made to the course schedule based on our progression through the material. I'll announce any changes in class. I may also send out email to the class – be sure to check your accounts regularly. Feel free to come see me at any point if you wish to talk more about the course. I am generally around and available even outside of office hours. I will answer email questions, but I will also ask to talk with you in person for subjects that cannot be treated appropriately electronically.

Part I: What is Foreign Policy? What is Comparative Foreign Policy?

Monday, January 9 – Welcome and Introduction. Review of IR Theory.

Wednesday, January 11 – The Comparative Method and the Purpose of CFP

Reading: Hill, chapters 1 and 2

Arend Lijphart. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review*. 65(3): 682-693.

Monday, January 16 – MLK Holiday – no class

Wednesday, January 18 – The Influence of People

Reading: Hill, chapter 3

Margaret G. Hermann and Charles F. Hermann. 1989. "Who Makes Foreign Policy Decisions and How: An Empirical Inquiry." *International Studies Quarterly*. 33: 361-387.

Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack. 2001. "Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In." *International Security*. 25(4): 107-146.

Monday, January 23 – The Role of Bureaucracies

Reading: Hill, chapters 4 and 5

Wednesday, January 25 – Making Decisions and Understanding Change

Reading: Hill, chapter 6

Thomas J. Volgy and John E. Schwarz. 1991. "Does Politics Stop at the Water's Edge? Domestic Political Factors and Foreign Policy Restructuring in the Cases of Great Britain, France, and West Germany." *Journal of Politics*. 53(3): 615-643.

Monday, January 30 – The Effects of the International System

Reading: Hill, chapters 7 and 8

Wednesday, February 1 – How do the pieces all come together and for what end?
 Reading: Hill, chapters 9-11

Part II: China

Monday, February 6 – Setting the stage
 Reading: Roy, chapters 1-3
 Deng and Wang, chapter 2

Wednesday, February 8 – Foreign Policy Process
 Reading: Roy, chapter 4
 Deng and Wang, chapters 4 and 5

Monday, February 13 – Military Policy
 Reading: Roy, chapter 6
 Deng and Wang, chapter 3

Wednesday, February 15 – China and the Global Political Economy
 Reading: Roy, chapter 5
 Deng and Wang, chapter 6

Monday, February 20 – China and Its Neighbors
 Reading: Roy, chapter 8
 Deng and Wang, chapter 9

Wednesday, February 22 – China and the World
 Reading: Roy, chapter 7
 Deng and Wang, chapters 7 and 8

Monday, February 27 – Current and Future Issues
 Reading: Roy, chapters 9 and 10
 Deng and Wang, chapters 10 and 11

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, March 1

Spring Break – March 6 – 10 – No Classes

Part III: Turkey

Monday, March 13 – Setting the Stage

Reading: Martin and Keridis, chapters 1-3

Wednesday, March 15 – Foreign Policy Process

Reading: Martin and Keridis, chapters 12, 13, and 15

Philip Robins. 2003. *Suits and Uniforms: Turkish Foreign Policy Since the Cold War*. Read chapter 2: Players and Process. On reserve in the Madison Library.

Monday, March 20 – Turkey, the United States, and the War in Iraq

Reading: Martin and Keridis, chapters 4 and 6

Wednesday, March 22 – Relations with Europe

Reading: Martin and Keridis, chapters 5, 7, and 14

Monday, March 27 – Relations with Russia and Central Asia

Reading: Martin and Keridis, chapters 8 and 11

Wednesday, March 29 – Relations with the Middle East

Reading: Martin and Keridis, chapters 9 and 10

Part IV: Germany

Monday, April 3 – Setting the Stage

Reading: Erb, chapters 1-2

Susanna Schrafstetter. 2004. "The Long Shadows of the Past: History, Memory and the Debate over West Germany's Nuclear Status, 1954-69." *History and Memory*. 16(1): 118-145.

Wednesday, April 5 – Understanding Unification

Reading: Erb, chapters 3-4

Monday, April 10 – Germany and the EU

Reading: Erb, chapter 5

Matthias Kaelberer. 2005. "Deutschmark Nationalism and Europeanized Identity: Exploring Identity Aspects of Germany's Adoption of the Euro." *German Politics*. 14(3): 283-296.

Wednesday, April 12 – Germany, NATO, and regional security

Reading: Erb, chapter 6

Beverly Crawford. 1996. "Explaining Defection from International Cooperation: Germany's Unilateral Recognition of Croatia." *World Politics*. 48(4): 482-521.

Monday, April 17 – Germany, the United States, and the War in Iraq

Reading: Erb, chapter 7

Wilhelm Haumann and Thomas Petersen. 2003. "German Public Opinion on the Iraq Conflict: A Passing Crisis With the USA or a Lasting Departure?" *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. 16(3): 311-330.

Sebastian Harnisch. 2004. "German Non-Proliferation Policy and the Iraq Conflict." *German Politics*. 13(1): 1-34.

Wednesday, April 19 – Germany and the Idea of a European Foreign Policy

Reading: Wolfgang Wagner. 2005. "From Vanguard to Laggard: Germany in European Security and Defence Policy." *German Politics*. 14(4): 455-469.

Christian Schweiger. 2004. "British-German Relations in the European Union after the War on Iraq." *German Politics*. 13(1): 35-55.

David P. Calleo. 2003. "Transatlantic Folly: NATO vs. the EU." *World Policy Journal*. 20(3): 17-24.

Michael Baun. 2005. "Germany and Central Europe: Hegemony Re-examined." *German Politics*. 14(3): 371-389.

Monday, April 24 – Models for the Future

Reading: Erb, chapter 8

Regina Karp. 2005. "The New German Foreign Policy Consensus." *The Washington Quarterly*. 29(1): 61-82.

Marco Overhaus. 2005. "German Foreign Policy and the Shadow of the Past." *SAIS Review*. 25(2): 27-41.

Wednesday, April 26 – Conclusion and Review

Final Exam: Friday, May 5, 7:45 AM – 9:45 AM