

Pol 845 Foreign Policy Analysis Course Outline Spring 2012 A. Moens (moens@sfu.ca) 778-782-4361

This course offers an overview of decision making theory in foreign policy. The focus is on analyzing the processes and outcomes of foreign policy. Themes include rational actor decision-making, bounded rationality, incrementalism, cognitive psychology, small group dynamics, organizational studies, and management styles.

The literature used in this course is based mostly on American foreign policy. While a considerable amount deals with diplomatic and security policy, case studies in economic, aid, and other policies are emerging. The course tends to focus on the executive branch, but is open to perspectives that focus on the role of the legislative branch in foreign policy and the role of interest groups and NGOs. In consultation with the professor, students can write their research paper on the foreign policy process of another country using the analytical tools developed by U.S. foreign policy literature.

Course Organization

During the weeks we spend on literature and topical analysis there will be required readings each week. I will lead the questions and everyone's participation in the discussion is required. The background readings are not required for seminar discussion, but are intended to provide a lead for your research paper.

Early in the semester (after week 3) you will begin to research your own paper and will present your proposal and draft paper to the seminar both in writing and orally. Active input from all of us during these discussions is required and graded. The final draft of your paper will be your second presentation.

Evaluation

Informed participation 30%; Research Proposal/draft paper 20%; Research Paper (5,000 words max.) 50%

Course Readings

We will use one core text for the first two seminars and for reference: Alexander George, *Presidential Decision making in Foreign Policy* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1980) (note: students need not buy this book but will borrow copies from the Professor. Deposit is \$20 per student which will be fully refunded when the book is returned in good order at the end of the semester)

Most readings will be drawn from Journals available online with special emphasis on the following: *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Studies Review*, *Political Psychology*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *World Politics*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Leadership Quarterly*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Diplomatic History*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Policy Review*, *Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions*.