

# **LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**

## **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Political Science 3619, 2021F**

### **Foreign Policy of Major Powers**

<p>Dr. L Paquette E-mail: <a href="mailto:laure.paquette@lakeheadu.ca">laure.paquette@lakeheadu.ca</a></p>
--

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, you will understand and explain foreign policy decision-making of countries members of major international organizations. This will include a familiarity with:

- ▶ the theoretical introduction of foreign policy decision-making of major powers
- ▶ the demonstration of specific cases of stand alone foreign policy decisions of major powers
- ▶ the analysis of specific cases of stand alone foreign policy decisions for major powers
- ▶ the demonstration of specific cases of bilateral foreign policy decisions for major powers
- ▶ the analysis of specific cases of bilateral foreign policy decisions for major powers
- ▶ the demonstration of specific cases of multilateral foreign policy decisions for major powers
- ▶ the analysis of specific cases of multilateral foreign policy decisions for major powers
- ▶ the demonstration of specific cases of stand alone foreign policy decisions for groups of states
- ▶ the analysis of specific cases of stand alone foreign policy decisions for groups of states
- ▶ the demonstration of specific cases of bilateral foreign policy decisions for groups of states
- ▶ the analysis of specific cases of bilateral foreign policy decisions for groups of states
- ▶ the demonstration of specific cases of multilateral foreign policy decisions for groups of states

- ▶ the analysis of specific cases of multilateral foreign policy decisions for groups of states
- ▶ the decision making processes in various countries;

It will also include the development of your capacity the capacity for the analysis of those decisions and the skills necessary for intervention in those processes or institutions.

You will consider such questions as:

- ▶ How does a major power make a decision about its foreign policy?
- ▶ Does the same major power use different decision-making if the foreign policy issue is economic or not?
- ▶ What options does a major power have in making its foreign-policy decisions?
- ▶ How well do the various theories on decision-making work when it comes to foreign policy?
- ▶ What about the theories specific to foreign policy?

You can find more information in the “Learner Outcomes” section below.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

Using role play simulation and individual written exercises, the course content will answer the following questions for cases of foreign policy decision making made at the United Nations’ Security Council and the IMF.

*For the process of decision making:*

- What are the main characteristics?
- How are the Security Council and NATO organized?
- What are its terms of reference?
- What are its procedures?
- How effective are they?
- What are the main issues?
- What is each organization’s history

*For a specific major power:*

- What are the main issues of its foreign policy?
- What is the history of those issues?
- What is the top priority of its foreign policy?
- Where is the foreign policy located in the political spectrum?
- What is the major power’s role in the world?

*For the decision-making process:*

- What is the type of decision-making?
- What are the procedures?
- What are the deadlines?
- What types of arguments or facts can be used?
- Who are the decision-makers?
- What are the actions that can be taken?

*In the course of the analysis, you will be able to answer the following questions:*

- Who are the significant political actors in the organization or countries involved, individuals or groups?
- How does the analyst distinguish between significant and insignificant actors?
- What influence do various actors have on a particular action?
- What are the resources on which the processes rest? Which are scarce? Which are essential? How do political actors manage them?
- What factors favor which political actors?

## **TEXTS AND READINGS**

- Readings as indicated on the course calendar on Courselink, to be retrieved through Zotero;
- extra material on COURSELINK, including instructional videos; and
- all available relevant material, and supplementary and further supporting information found through your own research.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

To support your learning the Course Content, you will be provided with:

- classroom instruction;
- access to research materials and instructor-prepared worksheets;
- opportunities to participate in role-playing exercises; and
- individual and group written assignments.

## **TYPICAL COURSE SCHEDULE**

***NOTE: THIS COURSE SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE BECAUSE OF HOLIDAY SCHEDULES, UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES OR OTHER REASONS WITHOUT NOTICE.*** Periodic topical talks from the librarians at Paterson Library is part of the course. Consult the course calendar available on COURSELINK for details.

Week 1-2	Introduction to the course structure and requirements, theory
----------	---

	and history of foreign policy decision making
Week 3-6	UN Security Council and security foreign policy of permanent members
Week 8-11	NATO Atlantic Council
Week 12	Optional assignment

## LEARNER OUTCOMES

In this course, you will learn:

- ***independent critical thinking*** through the use of research and written assignments;
- ***social awareness*** by requiring that you know the foreign policies of the countries studied, how those policies are advocated by different actors, and how it affects peace and business in the world; and
- ***leadership*** through the team work required of role play simulations.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- ***collect authoritative information about*** a foreign policy issue and the process by which it is decided;
- ***identify*** its history, position on the political spectrum, main supporters, of particular countries' foreign policy;
- ***develop*** independent critical thinking through the use of various assignments and examinations;
- ***develop*** social and environmental awareness by requiring that the student know the social and environmental policies of the countries and/or issues studied, how those policies are advocated in international decision-making and organizations;
- ***develop*** leadership by requiring students to take the initiative in the study of various issues for international decision-making, familiarizing themselves with the ways in which international decisions are made, and experiencing those processes through role-play simulations;
- ***identify and assess*** the mains issues in the international system;
- ***identify*** the type of electoral system and process for each branch;
- ***distinguish*** between significant and insignificant political actors, and what influence each wields;
- ***identify and assess*** resources needed for the polity to function (including identifying which ones are scarce), and what factors affect the functioning of the policy; and
- ***apply*** these skills research and analyze foreign policy decision making.

## GRADING

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MARK
UN Security Council and security foreign policy	50
NATO Atlantic Council	50

Bonus Assignment if applicable	Up to +5% of final grade
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## **ASSESSMENT AND ROLE OF THE INSTRUCTOR**

I believe that you learn only through what you yourself say, do, write or read, so I will use classroom time as much as possible to help you learn what you cannot learn any other way on your own.

My responsibilities on this course are to:

- design the course and course requirements;
- set clear expectations for you to meet;
- coach you during your course work (developing strategies, role plays);
- help you prepare for components listed in the “Grading” section above, as well as exams and classroom participation; and
- resolve any conflicts or answer any questions regarding student activities in the course.

My performance is assessed through:

- formal student evaluations done at the end of the course;
- informal short discussions from time to time during the class;
- interactions (talk and e-mail) with individual or groups of students; and
- ongoing monitoring of your performance and that of other students in the class in all your work.

I commit to:

- ongoing reflection on my practice as a teacher;
- creativity, innovation and experimentation in the classroom;
- taking chances and making mistakes while I try to find the best way for you to learn; and
- being accountable to you and other students regarding these commitments.

## **IF YOUR WORK IS LATE...**

If there is no date stamp each page of any late assignment (available from the Department secretary or from the Lakehead University Security Services office), the applicable date/time penalties will be assessed based on when I receive the assignment.

Late penalties are as follows:

- 50 percentage points deducted for submissions up to 24 hours late;
- 100 percentage points deducted for later;

ONLY if I have not completed grading for all assignments handed in. Once all assignments are handed in are graded, I will not accept late assignments.

Less participation in class work will result in a lower participation grade. However, if you are responsible for a significant task as part of group work, and you do not fulfill that task, you will fail the course.

## **CHEATING**

When you registered at Lakehead University, you agreed to follow the University's *Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures* (you can find a version online here <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>, but it's your responsibility to ensure if this is the most up-to-date version). Handing in any work under your name where you are not the author (either by yourself or part of a group) is considered academic fraud.

Handing in the same piece of work, or a significant part of the same piece, for more than one course without the written permission of the professors or departments concerned is considered academic fraud. Any professor who discovers academic fraud and does not apply for sanctions under the Procedures is negligent in his/her professional obligations.