COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY:
Comparing U.S. and E.U. Foreign Policy Responses to Transnational Security Challenges

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy

Political Science RPOS 350
Fall Semester 2016
Monday and Wednesday, 5:45 PM – 7:05 PM, SS0131

Professor: Irina A. Chindea
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Office: Milne 121A
Office Hours: take place in the Contact Office (Humanities B-16)
   Monday: 3:15 PM — 4:15 PM
   Wednesday: 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM.

Course Description: In today's global environment violent non-state actors (e.g., terrorist and criminal networks), cyber-insurgents and cyber-activists as well as massive flows of illegal immigrants pose transnational, non-traditional security challenges undermining the ability of state institutions to govern in countries all over the world. In this context, this course surveys the ways in which violent non-state actors, cyber-criminals and illegal immigrants have an impact on domestic, regional and international security. In addition, the class compares the policy responses of the European Union and the United States to these security challenges.

In the first part, we will address in comparative perspective the foreign policy making processes of the European Union and the United States. Part of the discussion on the foreign policy of the EU, we will tackle the key issues that have beset European unification since its early days, and that have become more acute with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992. More specifically, we will debate whether the European Union has a coherent common security and defense policy vis-à-vis both traditional and transnational security threats; the extent to which the EU is a credible security and foreign policy actor in the international arena; and whether EU institutions have the ability to respond to and withstand the manifold transnational security challenges of the 21st century.

To answer these questions, in the second part of the course, we will focus on a number of case studies that will allows us to explore the way EU institutions have responded to traditional and transnational security threats since the inception of the European integration project until the present. We will also trace and compare the EU foreign policy responses to those of the United States vis-à-vis similar transnational threats and international crises such as the Arab Spring, the civil war in Syria, the situation in Ukraine, the rising profile of drug cartels, terrorist organizations, and cyber activist groups (e.g., Anonymous).
The goals of the course are to:

1. Have you learn how to differentiate among traditional and non-traditional security threats, and among various types of violent non-state actors (i.e., insurgents, terrorists, militias, warlords, criminal organizations). This distinction is important in an increasingly global context in which violent non-state actors morph from one type into another. These “identity mutations” create confusion among government officials who are increasingly challenged in their efforts to respond to the threats posed by non-state armed groups.

2. Introduce you to the origins of the European Union and the main theoretical debates that explain the integration process and the persistence of the European experiment in supranational governance. In this context, we will track the sources, historical evolution and institutional settings of the EU’s common foreign, security and defense policies since the end of the Second World War to present, and the way in which the European Union has responded to traditional and non-traditional security challenges since its foundation.

3. Introduce you to the process of U.S. foreign policy making by focusing on the various sources (e.g., external, societal, governmental) and causal mechanisms involved in the formulation of American foreign policy.

4. Identify current EU and U.S. foreign policy priorities, and the evolution of core objectives in the context of a changing international security environment.

5. Identify key actors and forces that inform and constrain EU and U.S. foreign policy decision-making and implementation.

6. Provide you with an in-depth understanding of the commonalities and differences in the foreign policy decision-making processes in the United States and the European Union.

Course Requirements: There are four requirements for this class.

a. Attendance and active participation will count 15% towards your final grade.

b. Take-home memo assignment for the week of August 29-31, 2016: 5%

c. Take home mid-term exam: 35%.

d. Final Exam: 45%.

Important Dates:

- Mid-term Exam: Wednesday, October 19th, 2016
- Final Exam: Monday, December 19th, 2016 – 5:45 PM to 7:45 PM.

Readings: There is one required book for this course and it is available at the bookstore.


Besides the textbook, the rest of the readings for this course are either available on Blackboard (under Course Materials) or can be accessed using the University Libraries online databases (http://library.albany.edu/db/). The readings posted on Blackboard are marked on the syllabus with BB next to them. The articles available on-line through the University Libraries online
databases are marked as Electronic Resources (ER). The readings assigned from the textbook are marked with KD (Keukeleire and Delreux).

**Academic Integrity:** Assignments that you submit for this course will be reported to Judicial Affairs if any evidence of academic dishonesty is detected. To avoid such an unpleasant occurrence and its consequences (e.g. failing the course), please familiarize yourself with the undergraduate bulletin’s descriptions of cheating and plagiarism. You can find it at: [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html). If you have any questions about plagiarism, proper citation or any other issues involving academic integrity, please do not hesitate to come and see me. The penalties for plagiarism and cheating are severe, and it is better to clarify them as soon as they arise rather than to make a mistake in this area.

**Accommodations:** “Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in any Department of Literacy Teaching and Learning class, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (BA-120, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations.” For the University’s policy, please see [http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml). If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this course, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

August 29, 2016: Course Introduction

– Discuss Syllabus, Course Organization, Grading, and Class Policies

August 31, 2016: No class meeting.

**Take home memo assignment due no later than Friday, September 2nd at 5:00 PM. The memo is to be submitted through Blackboard. You can email me a back-up copy within the deadline.**

*Based on the readings assigned below and your general knowledge of the world, please write a two page double-spaced (12 Times New Roman) memo in which you brief the incoming President of the United Stated on the three most important foreign policy challenges he or she is most likely to face during their administration. Please make sure to end the memo with a short paragraph in which you provide your recommendations on how to best tackle these challenges. The memo is worth 5% of your grade and contributes towards your overall participation score.*

**The State of the World: Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Challenges (Part 1)**


“Inequality and Globalization: How the Rich Get Richer as the Poor Catch Up,” by François Bourguignon, Foreign Affairs, Vol. 95, No.1, January/February 2016 (ER)
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2015-12-14/inequality-and-globalization

September 5, 2016: No class – Labor Day.

September 7, 2016: The State of the World: Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Challenges (Part 2)


September 12-14, 2016: Non-State Actors in International Politics


September 19-21, 2016: European Union Foreign Policy: A Historical Overview

The Foreign Policy of the European Union, by Stephan Keukeleire and Tom Delreux, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, Chapter 1: The Nature of EU Foreign Policy: 11-34. (KD)

The Foreign Policy of the European Union, by Stephan Keukeleire and Tom Delreux, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, Chapter 2: European Integration and Foreign Policy: Historical Overview: 35-60. (KD)


September 26-28, 2016: The EU’s Foreign Policy System: Actors and Policy Making


October 3, 2016: No class - Rosh Hashanah.

October 5 - 10, 2016: The U.S. Foreign Policy Making


The Politics of United States Foreign Policy, by Jerel A. Rosati, and James M. Scott, 5th edition, Chapter 10: Congress and Interbranch Politics: 291-322. (BB)


October 12, 2016: No class - Yom Kippur.
October 17, 2016: The Evolution of the Transatlantic Relationship


[https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/obama-and-europe](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/obama-and-europe)

October 19, 2016: TAKE HOME MID-TERM exam.

October 24-26, 2016: Al Qaeda, ISIS and the Evolution of EU and U.S. Responses to Terrorism


[https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/isis-not-terrorist-group](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/isis-not-terrorist-group)


October 31, 2016: Warlords, Insurgents and The Intervention in Afghanistan


November 2-7, 2016: Iraq - Foreign Intervention and Civil War


November 9, 2016: The Arab Spring and the Intervention in Libya


“Assessing (In)security after the Arab Spring: The Case of Libya,” by Brian McQuinn, *Political Science & Politics*, October 2013, Vol. 46, No. 4, 716-719. (ER)

November 14-16, 2016: The Syrian Civil War and the Rise of ISIS


“Putin's Power Play in Syria: How to Respond to Russia’s Intervention,”” by Angela Stent, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 95, No. 1, January/February 2016 (ER)

“ISIS and the Third Wave of Jihadism,”” by Fawaz A. Gerges, *Current History*, December 2014 (ER)


November 21, 2016: The Crimean Crisis


“Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West’s Fault: the Liberal Delusion that Provoked Putin,” by John Mearsheimer, Foreign Affairs, September/October 2014. (ER)


“Not-So-Smart Sanctions: The Failure of Western Restrictions Against Russia,” by Emma Ashford, Foreign Affairs, Vol. 95, No. 1, January/February 2016 (ER)

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russian-federation/2015-12-14/not-so-smart-sanctions

November 28-30, 2016: Organized Crime and Responses to OC-Related Violence


December 5, 2016: Going Cyber: Cyberwar, Cyber-Insurgents and Hacktivists


https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/digital-counterinsurgency


**December 7-12, 2016: Immigration Issues in the EU and the U.S. Conclusions.**


Thinking Beyond Boundaries: Transnational Challenges to U.S. Foreign Policy, Edited by Hugh Liebert, John Griswold, and Isaiah Wilson III; Chapter 3: Disorder at the Border? Immigration and Homeland Security by Hugh Liebert and Lee Robinson: 43-51. (BB)


**December 19, 2016: Final Exam – 5:45 PM to 7:45PM**