PS 3280: Canadian Foreign Policy  
Osvaldo Croci  
Room SN 2036, Tuesday and Thursday: 10.30 – 11.45

Office hours: SN 2034  
Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 – 14:00  
Wednesday: 11:00 – 14:00

Description and objectives: This course introduces students to the study of Canadian foreign policy. The course first examines the international and domestic variables influencing the process of foreign policy-making. It then surveys the major issues-areas in Canadian foreign policy since the end of World War II, such as security and defence, trade and investment, and relations with the US and the EU. By the end of the course students should be able to discuss current Canadian international policies using appropriate concepts and theoretical tools as well as appreciate the politics that lead to their adoptions.

Prerequisites: Students should have already taken Political Science 2200 and 2800. Please note that this is not a correspondence or web-based course. Students are therefore expected to attend classes regularly (they will sign an attendance sheet), make their presentations as directed and participate in class discussions.

Textbooks

Course Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Report on the book The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar (Nov. 29)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Reports on assigned readings</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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Report on The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar, due on November 29 at the beginning of class. This book describes the Canadian decision(s) to become involved in Afghanistan. Since the book is written for the general public, it does not contain any theoretical discussion of, or even reference to, foreign policy making, but provides a very detailed and rich description of all the variables that affected the Canadian decision-process concerning the various stages of involvement in Afghanistan. In your report (a maximum of...
You should bring out the theoretical aspects of the book i.e. you should go from the empirical evidence presented in the book back to the underlying theory which strings the evidence together. You have, in other words, to uncover the theoretical aspects of the Canadian decision-making process on Afghanistan by identifying and discussing the relative role of the most relevant variables (individual, institutional, bureaucratic, systemic) which affected the decision-making process as well as characterize the latter (rational, bureaucratic, cognitive, etc.). The following are some, only some, of the questions you might wish to address when writing the report: What role did systemic factors play in the Canadian decision-making process? What was the role of domestic political considerations (elections, parliament, political parties, civil servants, various government departments, public opinion, etc.). What, if any, was the role of the belief systems of key individuals? How would you characterize the decision-making process? Was it rational? Was it affected by cognitive biases? Was it routine? Was it affected by rival bureaucracies?

Mid-term and final exams: a good exam addresses the question(s) asked in a direct manner and provides a logical, coherent, and well-organized answer which makes connections to theory when necessary and uses relevant empirical evidence to back up the points it makes.

Reports on assigned readings: These will serve as a guide to class discussion and shall be handed in at the beginning of each class. Later submissions will not be accepted. In one double-spaced typewritten page you are supposed to provide a concise summary of the main argument developed in the article you have read. The readings will be assigned in class.

The Department of Political Science likes to treat its students as responsible adults. That means that you are responsible for submitting assignments when they are due, making presentations when you are requested to do so, taking tests and exams when they are scheduled. If there are extenuating circumstances and you have a legitimate documented excuse I will be happy to make adjustments as prescribed in university regulations and following a request submitted in written form and including all relevant documentation. See also http://www.mun.ca/posc/undergraduate/planning/policies.php as well as http://www.mun.ca/posc/courses/policies.php

Course Outline

Sept. 8: Introduction

Sept. 13: Systemic or external constraints on foreign-policy
  • Textbook: pp. 1-49

Sept. 15: The relative power position of Canada in the international system
  • Textbook: pp. 50-83
  • Adam Chapnick, “The Canadian middle-power myth”, International Journal, spring 2000, pp. 188-206
  • Paul Gecelowsky, “Constructing a middle-power: ideas and Canadian foreign policy”, Canadian Foreign Policy, 15 (1), 2009: 77-93

Sept. 20: Canadian society and foreign policy
Sept. 22: Shifting central ideas in Canadian foreign policy
- Textbook: pp. 117-153
- Allan Gotlieb, “Romanticism and realism in Canada’s foreign policy”, Policy Options, 26 (2) February 2005: 16-27

Sept. 27: Prime Ministers and Canadian foreign policy
- Textbook: pp. 155-204

Sept. 29: Cabinet and Canadian foreign policy
- Textbook: pp. 205-226

Oct. 4: DFAIT and Canadian foreign policy
- Textbook: pp. 227-254

Oct. 6: Parliament and Canadian foreign policy
- Textbook: 255-279
Oct. 13: Foreign policy in a federal system: the provinces and Canadian foreign policy

- Textbook: pp. 280-303

Oct. 18: Québec and Canadian foreign policy

- Textbook: pp. 304-323

Oct. 20: Mid-term exam

Oct. 25: Models of Foreign Policy-Making


Oct. 27: Canada’s security and defence policy

Nov. 1: Canadian foreign policy and human security

Nov. 3: Canada, the UN, and peacekeeping

Nov. 8: Canadian International Trade Policies

Nov. 10: Canadian Foreign Investment Policies
Nov. 15: Canadian Overseas Development Aid Policies


Nov. 17: Canada and the US


Nov. 22: Canada and the EU


Nov. 24: Canada and the Arctic

- Franklyn Griffiths, “The shipping news: Canada’s Arctic sovereignty not on thinning eyes”, *International Journal*, 58 (2), Spring 2003: 257-282
- Rob Huebert, “The shipping news part II: how Canada’s Arctic sovereignty is on thinning ice”, *International Journal*, 58 (3), Summer 2003: 295-308

Nov. 29: In-class discussion of reports on *The Unexpected War*

Dec. 1: Conclusions