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Fall 2015

DIPL 3116/7116 The Washington Seminar on Global Policy Challenges

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**The Washington Seminar on
Global Policy Challenges
DIPL 3116/7116**

**Seton Hall University School of Diplomacy
and International Affairs
Washington Program**

**Fall Semester 2015 —
Professor Catharin Dalpino**

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1/23/19

This seminar examines the causes, consequences and possible solutions to global policy challenges of the 21st century, with an emphasis on their treatment in US foreign policy. Adopting a multi-disciplinary approach, the course will cover such issues as terrorism; the challenges posed by failing or rogue states; human rights; climate change; a variety of contagions, from epidemics to several forms of trafficking; and a changing world economy. The course will examine these and other issues from both substantive and practical approaches, and consider the possibilities and limitations to affect their outcome through US foreign policy. Readings, lectures and seminar discussion will be supplemented with meetings with practitioners from Washington-based institutions that currently address these global policy challenges.

Course Objectives

This course is intended to help students:

- o Analyze shifts in the international community that give rise to new threats and issues;
- o Understand the current US foreign policy apparatus and the workings of key international organizations intended to address these challenges;
- o Explore and assess the roles of non-governmental actors in these forward-looking issues;
- o Be able to produce analyses of these issues from multiple perspectives, and to formulate policy recommendations.
- o Strengthen verbal presentation and policy debate skills, in class discussion, student presentations, and interchange with guest speakers.

Course Requirements, Readings and Grading

Students are expected to attend all classes and to complete the readings and assignments on time. Readings will be available online and/or distributed in class. Because this is a Washington-based course, and intended to examine that policy environment, a variety of resources will be utilized: government documents, think tank policy briefs, and advocacy briefs, as well as more academic materials. Supplemental readings will be distributed throughout the semester.

Beyond assigned readings, students are encouraged to keep abreast of current events that pertain to global issues. A broad range of information, in print or online, on global policy issues can be found in internationally-oriented newspapers and weeklies (*New York Times*; *Financial Times*; *The Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, etc); the websites of think tanks (Council on Foreign Relations; Brookings Institution; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Heritage Foundation, as well as institutions that specialize in regions or functional issues); journals that specialize in foreign policy (*Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy* and a wide range of others) and blogs that cover foreign affairs (such as *The Cable*, operated by *Foreign Policy* magazine). Since the issues covered by the course are often the subject of heated debate, random internet findings should be treated with caution and possible partisan views should be taken into account. The instructor is happy to consult with students on resources at any time. The remarks of guest speakers should be considered resources and may be cited in class papers and other exercises, unless the speaker specifies that some or all of his or her remarks are off the record.

The course is structured around a variety of exercises designed to strengthen student analytical, writing and verbal presentation abilities. Class participation is critical and is three-pronged: attendance, ability to discuss assigned readings, and ability to integrate current international events into the discussion.

Formal course exercises are as follows:

- o A short (2-3 pages) paper analyzing the impact of a current global policy issue, following a template provided by the instructor. Due September 25, 15% of grade.
- o An in-class, open-book midterm examination, to test students' ability to analyze a variety of global policy issues and their impact on the international community. October 16, 30% of final grade.
- o A final paper and in-class presentation, in which students will track a single global policy issue through the US foreign policy process (which includes relevant international organization), illuminating various institutional perspectives and culminating in a set of policy recommendations. Students will make in-class presentations based on their papers on December 4. Guidelines for this exercise will be provided, and students should clear their topics with the instructor. The paper will count for 30 of the final grade and the presentation will count for 10%.
 - o 15% of the final grade will be based on the student's class participation.

The short paper and final paper are due in class on the day specified, or by midnight on that day, emailed to the instructor at profdalpino@earthlink.net. If you choose to email your paper as an email attachment, please be sure to put your name on the paper itself - not just on the email!

University Policy

Students at Seton Hall University who have a physical, medical, learning or psychiatric disability, either temporary or permanent, may be eligible for reasonable accommodations at the University as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In order to receive such accommodations, students must identify themselves at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), provide appropriate documentation and collaborate with the development of an accommodation plan. The DSS phone number is 973-313-6003. Further information can be obtained at <http://studentaffairs.shu.edu/dss/>.

Lastly, in keeping with Seton Hall University policy, all forms of dishonesty, whether by act of omission, or including but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and knowingly furnishing false information to the University are prohibited and may result in University sanctions or suspension or expulsion. Statements on academic conduct may be found at <http://www.shu.edu/offices/community-development/community-standards/community-standards.cfm> and <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

Class and Readings Schedule

PART I: GLOBAL POLICY ISSUES

1. **September 4: Old Order, New Order, No Order?**

How should we describe the international community and the US foreign policy climate in the 21st century? Is the Cold War truly past or emerging in a new form? Is the Westphalian system of nations an artifact of the past, or holding its own against emerging non-state forces?

- "Mr. X" (George Kennan), "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 25 (July 1947), pp. 566-582, <http://slantchev.usd.edu/courses/nss/documents/kennan-sources-of-soviet-conduct.html>

- Vinay Bhargava, "Introduction to Global Issues," in World Bank Group, *Global Issues for Global Citizens: Introduction to Key Development Challenges*, The World Bank, Washington, DC, 2006, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/7194/374520Global0iOR0OFFICIALOUSE0ONLY.pdf?sequence=1> (The entire book can be downloaded but you are only required to read the introduction; however, it is worth keeping this volume on hand.)

2. **September 11: Terrorism and Counter-terrorism after September 11**

When does a "boots on the ground" approach work and when should it be avoided? Is it possible to win a war against terrorism? How do recent extremist groups depart from the post-September 11 Al Qaeda model?

- Central Intelligence Agency, *National Strategy for Combating Terrorism*, 2003 February 2003, <https://www.cia.gov/news-information/cia-the-war-on-terrorism/>
- Daniel Byman, "The State of Terror: ISIS Storms Across Iraq," *Slate*, June 13, 2014, http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/foreigners/2014/06/isis_storms_across_iraq_what_would_a_jihadist_state_look_like.html

3. **September 18: Fragile States, Failing States and Societies in Conflict**

Unstable states can be a danger not only to themselves but also to their neighbors and, ultimately the international community. However, the international community has often applied a "fire engine" approach to such states, addressing them only when they have reached (or gone beyond) a dangerous tipping point. Are more preventive policies possible?

- Kendall Lawrence, "The World's Ten Most Fragile States 2014," *Fragile States Index*, Fund for Peace, Washington, DC, 2014, <http://library.fundforpeace.org/fsi14-fragile10> (Browse other elements of the Fragile States Index as well.)
- Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators," Woodrow Wilson Center Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity, available at http://www.brookings.edu/press/books/chapter_1/statefailureandstateweaknessinatimeofterror.pdf
- Michael O'Hanlon, "Obama's Weak and Failing States Agenda," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Fall 2012), pp. 67-80, <http://csis.org/files/publication/twq12FallO'Hanlon.pdf>

4. **September 25: Political Instability, Democracy and Human Rights (Short impact analysis papers due)**

At the end of the Cold War, the United States and other Western nations adopted stronger policies to promote democracy and human rights. The results have been mixed at best, and there have been episodic rifts between the advanced democracies and "soft authoritarian" states on the cultural bases of rights and the advantages and disadvantages of democracy.

- Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 76, No. 6, (Nov/Dec 1997), <http://msuweb.montclair.edu/~lebelp/FZakariaIlliberalDemocracy1997.pdf>
- Choose two country reports in the State Department's most recent Annual Human Report, available at www.state.gov. They should be from two different regions; one should be an advanced economy and the other should be a middle-income or least-developed economy. What differences in the protection of rights do you note in these two countries? Be prepared to discuss the two cases in class.

5. **October 2: The Environment and the Impact of Climate Change**

In contrast to some foreign policy issues, climate change has a more than existential tie to

US domestic policy and the lives of everyday citizens. As a result, this issue has attracted considerable partisan friction in domestic American politics, a factor that complicates foreign policy.

- David Goldwyn, "The Harmonization of US National Security and Climate Goals," Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, July 22, 2014, <http://www.brookings.edu/research/testimony/2014/07/22-us-energy-climate-security-goldwy>

- David Shorr, "Think Again: Climate Treaties," *Foreign Policy*, March 17, 2014, http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/03/17/think_again_climate_treaties

6. October 9: Contagions: The Impact of Epidemics on Foreign Policy

From the Middle Ages on, epidemics have been a hallmark of globalization. However, international policy responses to them can vary widely.

- Laurie Garrett, "You Are Not Nearly Scared Enough About Ebola," *Foreign Policy*, August 14, 2014, http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/08/14/you_are_not_nearly_scared_enough_ebola_vaccine_west_africa_outbreak

- Alexandra F. Kendall, "US Response to the Global Threat of HIV/AIDS: Basic Facts," Congressional Research Service, Report 3R41645, June 15, 2012, <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41645.pdf>

- Richard Schabas and Neil Rau, "Ebola: Can We Learn from SARS?" *The Globe and Mail*, August 27, 2014, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/ebola-can-we-learn-from-sars/article20211486/>

7 October 16: Midterm examination (In class and open book)

PART II: GLOBAL POLICY INSTRUMENTS

8. October 23: The Response of National Governments to Global Issues

Is the proliferating portfolio of global threats and issues a serious mismatch for the continued system of the nation-state? How do national governments assess global issues? What are their strengths and weaknesses in addressing them?

- James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, "Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community 2015," Statement for the Record, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, January 26, 2015, http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Unclassified_2015_ATA_SFR_-_SASC_FINAL.pdf

- Martin Wolf, "Will the Nation-State Survive Globalization?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 80, No. 1 (Jan/Feb 2001), <http://srliedel.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/wolf-fa-2001.pdf>

- Edward Marks, "A 'Next Generation' State Department," *American Diplomacy*, March 2010, http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/item/2010/0103/oped/op_marks.html

9. October 30: International Organizations and International Law: Central or Sidelined?

The preference for using multilateral institutions in US policy can vary according to the

political administration, but in general international organizations are rising in profile since the end of the Cold War. Does their impact match their new image?

- Moises Naim, "The G-20 Is a Sad Sign of Our Uncooperative World," *Financial Times*, February 15, 2013, available at <http://carnegieendowment.org/2013/02/15/g20-is-sad-sign-of-our-uncooperative-world/fgvs>

- Council on Foreign Relations, "The Role of the United Nations in American Foreign Policy" (Interview with Richard Holbrooke), April 22, 2005, <http://www.cfr.org/world/role-united-nations-american-foreign-policy/p8094>

10. November 6: Global Civil Society: Can It Ever Counter-Balance Governments?

International NGO's are increasingly active in global affairs. But are they effective? And are they always an unalloyed good?

- Ronald Deibert and Rafal Rohozinski, "Good for Liberty, Bad for Security? Global Civil Society and the Securitization of the Internet," in Deibert, Palfrey, Rohozinski, Zittrain (eds), *Access Denied*, MIT, 2007, <http://access-opennet-net/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/accessdenied-chapter-6.pdf>

- Jessica Matthews, "Power Shift: The Age of Nonstate Actors," *Foreign Affairs*, 76:1 (January-February, 1997)

11. November 13: Old Media, New Media and the Digitalization of Global Affairs

New forms of media may aid policymakers but they also put unprecedented pressure on them.

- Clay Shirkey, "The Political Power of Social Media," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 1 (January-February 2011)

- Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen, "The Digital Disruption: Connectivity and the Diffusion of Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 89, No. 6 (November-December 2010)

- Piers Robinson, "The CNN Effect: Can the News Media Drive Foreign Policy?" *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 25 (1999), http://orb.essex.ac.uk/gv/gv905/extras/Robinson_cnn_effect.pdf

12. November 20: Economic Instruments and Issues: Following the Money

Economic power can be wielded in a variety of ways, ranging from the maintenance of a currency regime to the application of economic sanctions. However, even this power is affected (and at times eroded) by non-state forces, and by changes in the global economy.

- Robert Zoellick, "The Currency of Power," *Foreign Policy Magazine*, November 2012 http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/10/08/the_currency_of_power

- Chrystia Freeland, "The Rise of the New Global Elite," *The Atlantic*, January, 2011, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archives/2011/01/the-rise-of-the-new-global-elite/308343

(No class November 27 - Thanksgiving Holiday)

- 13. December 4: Student Project Presentations**
- 14. December 11: Course evaluation and conclusion.**