



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2023

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Public Opinion and Foreign Policy in the U.S.

Lecturer:

Dr. Amnon Cavari cavari@runi.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Adi Heller adi.heller1@post.runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
2668	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	232266800	English

Prerequisites

Prerequisite:

690 - Principles Of Statistics **OR** 689 - Principles Of Statistics

Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course Public Opinion and Foreign Policy in the U.S. (2668):

4758 - American public opinion about foreign policy

 Course Description

This course examines the nature of public opinion on foreign policy in contemporary

American politics. We will discuss how to conceptualize and measure public opinion, where opinions or attitudes “come from,” to what extent Americans have an informed and consistent attitudes about foreign policy and whether public opinion is affected by and affects foreign policy.

The course assumes (but not requires) some knowledge of empirical work (stats). This is reflected in the readings, class discussions and in your assignment (mostly the final assignment). I suggest you review your class notes from research methods and stats classes.



Course Goals

It is my goal that upon completing this course, students will understand the sources of public opinion about foreign policy in the United States and the role it has in shaping policy.



Grading

- Short assignments. Throughout the semester you will receive four (4) very short assignments (up to 1 page long). You can work on them in pairs (or alone). Each assignment is 10% of the final grade. You need to submit three (3) assignments (a total of 30% of the final grade).
 - Final Paper—the final paper is a public opinion research paper for which you need to collect public opinion data about a foreign policy issue and analyze them. Submission and grading of the final assignment are divided into two parts:
 - Proposal of Research Topic. The proposal is intended to get you on track with your final assignment. It should define your topic and data. 1 page. 10% of the final grade.
 - A research paper about 6 pages long that includes a summary and discussion of your topic, a theoretical discussion of what we know about public opinion about this topic from which you will derive one or more hypotheses, a presentation of data, and analysis and findings. (60% of final grade)
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Learning Outcomes

1. American Government – a brief overview
2. American Foreign Policy – Views and Approaches
3. What is public opinion and how we measure it
4. The structure of American public opinion about foreign policy

5. Sources of public opinion about foreign policy
 6. The Goals of Foreign Policy
 7. The Issues – Views of other countries
 8. The Issues – Public opinion about war
 9. The Issues – Foreign Trade and Economic Aid
 10. Public influence on Foreign Policy
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Lecturer Office Hours

On zoom - after class.



Reading List

I assign several reading items for each week. I selected them carefully with three considerations in mind: Expose you to existing literature, allow you to be more engaged in class, and minimize reading and preparation time. Therefore, these are required readings. Make sure you complete the readings before class.

Our main books are:

- Page, Benjamin, and Marshall, M. Bouton. 2006. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect: What Americans Want from Our Leaders but Don't Get*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Cavari, Amnon, and Guy Freedman. 2021. *American Public Opinion toward Israel: From Consensus to Divide*. New York: Routledge.

For good references on American foreign policy and, specifically, during the Trump presidency, we will use a few chapters from the following books:

- Hastedt, Glenn. (any edition). *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

You may want to use these sources for your assignments if applicable.

In addition, though not assigned weekly, I highly recommend referring to a textbook on public opinion to fill in in gaps in knowledge and to justify decisions about focus, interest and variables in your final assignment:

- Bardes, Barbara, and Robert Oldendick. 2017. *Public Opinion: Measuring the American Mind* (Fifth edition). Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

All readings are available from the library or on our course website.

1. American Government – a brief overview
 - No reading required.
2. American foreign policy – views and approaches
 - Hastedt, (any edition), *American Foreign Policy: Past Present, and Future*. Chapter 1: "Defining American Foreign Policy Problems."
3. American public opinion about foreign policy
 - Holsti, 2011. *American Public Opinion on the Iraq War*. Chapter 1: "Prelude: The United States and Iraq before the Iraq War."
 - Cavari & Freedman. Chapter 2: "Studying American Attitudes toward Israel."
4. What is public opinion and how we measure it
 - Page & Shapiro, 1992. *The Rational Public*. Chicago: Chicago University Press. Chapter 1: "The Myth of Capricious Change."
 - Cavari & Freedman. Chapter 4: "Attitudes about the Arab-Israeli Conflict and US Involvement in the Region."
 - Suggested Readings:
 - Bardes & Oldendick, 2017. *Public Opinion*. Chapters 1-4.
 - Katja B Kleinberg, Benjamin O Fordham, Don't Know Much about Foreign Policy: Assessing the Impact of "Don't Know" and "No Opinion" Responses on Inferences about Foreign Policy Attitudes, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Volume 14, Issue 3, July 2018, Pages 429–448, <https://doi.org/10.1093/fpa/orw060>
5. The structure of American public opinion about foreign policy
 - Page & Bouton, 2006. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect*. Chapter 1: "Taking Public Opinion Seriously."
 - Cavari & Freedman. Chapter 3: "Positive Affect in American Attitudes toward Israel"
 - Kinder, Donald, and Cindy Kam. 2010. *Us Against Them: Ethnocentric Foundations of American Opinion*. Chapter 4: "Enemies Abroad."
 - Suggested Readings:
 - Gries, 2014. *The Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Chapter 1: "Liberals, Conservatives, and Foreign Affairs."
6. Sources of public opinion about foreign policy
 - Cavari & Freedman. Chapter 5: "Demographic Divisions."
 - Cavari & Freedman. Chapter 6: "Partisan Divide."
 - Baum, Matthew A, and Tim J Groeling. 2010. *War Stories: The Causes and Consequences of Public Views of War*. Princeton University Press. Ch. 8: "Barbarians inside the Gates."
 - Baum & Potter. 2019. "Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy in the Age of Social Media." *Journal of Politics* 81(2).
 - Suggested Readings:

- Guisinger, Alexandra, and Elizabeth N. Saunders. 2017. "Mapping the Boundaries of Elite Cues: How Elites Shape Mass Opinion across International Issues." *International Studies Quarterly* 61(2): 425–441, <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqx022>
- Foyle, 2021. "The New Normal?: Public Opinion, Partisan Divisions, and the Trump Doctrine. In Renshon & Suedfeld, ch. 7.
- Bardes & Oldendick, 2017. *Public Opinion*. Chapters 5–7, 11.
- Baum & Potter. 2008. "The Relationship between Mass Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy: Toward a Theoretical Synthesis." *Annual Review of Politics*.
- Baum & Potter. 2019. "Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy in the Age of Social Media." *Journal of Politics* 81(2).
- Hayes, Danny, and Matt Guardino. 2011. "The Influence of Foreign Voices on U.S. Public Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science* 55(4): 830–850.
- Taydas, Zeynep, Cigdem, Kentmen, and Laura R. Olson. 2012. "Faith Matters: Religious Affiliation and Public Opinion about Barack Obama's Foreign Policy in the "Greater Middle East." *Social Science Quarterly* 93(5): 1218–1242.
- Wu, Joshua Su-Ya, and Austin J. Knuppe. 2016. "My Brother's Keeper? Religious Cues and Support for Foreign Military Intervention." *Politics and Religion* 9(3): 537–65.

7. The Goals of Foreign Policy

- Page & Bouton, 2006. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect*. Chapter 2: "The Goals of Security and Justice."
- Cavari & Freedman. Ch. 8: "The Nature of the Partisan Divide over Palestinian Independence"
- Suggested readings:
 - Nincic, Miroslav, and Jennifer M. Ramos. 2010. "Ideological structure and foreign policy preferences." *Journal of Political Ideologies* 15(2): 119–141.

8. The Issues – Views of other countries

- Page & Bouton, 2006. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect*. Chapter 3: "Friends and Foes in the World."
- Cavari & Freedman. Chapter 7: "Affective Sources of Attitudes."
- Suggested Readings:
 - Gries, 2014. *The Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Chapter 8: "The Middle East: Christian Zionism, the Israel Lobby, and the Holy Land."

9. The Issues – Public opinion about war

- Page & Bouton, 2006. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect*. Chapter 4: "Military Strength and the Use of Force."
- Berinsky. 2009. *In Time of War*. Chapter 4: "The Calculation of Costs: An Innocent Public."
- Cooper Drury, A., Marvin Overby, L., Ang, A., & Li, Y. 2010. "'Pretty Prudent' or Rhetorically Responsive?: The American Public's Support for Military

Action." *Political Research Quarterly*, 63(1): 83–96. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912908327230>

- Suggested readings:
 - Berinsky, Adam J. 2007. "Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict." *Journal of Politics* 69(4): 975–997.

- 10. The Issues – Foreign Trade and Economic Aid
 - Page & Bouton, 2006. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect*. Chapter 6: "Economic Well Being and Economic Justice."
 - Kim, Dukhong. 2013. "Beliefs in Foreign Policy Goals and American Citizens' Support for Foreign Aid." *European Journal of Economic & Political Studies* 6(1): 41–70.
 - Mutz, Diana C., and Amber Hye-Yon Lee. 2020. "How Much Is One American Worth? How Competition Affects Trade Preferences." *American Political Science Review* 114(4): 1179–94.

- 11. Public Influence on Foreign Policy
 - Page & Bouton, 2006. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect*. Chapter 7: "A Disconnect between Policy Makers and the Public?"
 - Aldrich et al. 2006. "Foreign Policy and the Electoral Connection." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9:477–502.
 - Cavari & Freedman. Chapter 9: "Conclusion: A Conditional Relationship?"
 - Suggested readings:
 - Holsti, 2011. *American Public Opinion on the Iraq War*. Chapter 6: "Broader Issues Concerning Public Opinion."