

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PLCY 860

INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN POLICY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course requires students to research the basic contours of their chosen policy cognate. Students will work with their faculty member to understand the scope, history, controversial issues, and key policy outcomes associated with this cognate. This research will serve as a stepping stone to conducting a comprehensive literature review for their dissertation, and provide the needed context to ensure that students' chosen dissertation topics are focused and appropriate.

RATIONALE

This course is designed to help students undertake independent research that contributes in an original way to the foreign policy field. Students will address real world foreign policy problems in the field with a strong understanding of the role of geopolitics, political culture, political economy and religion in affecting foreign policy issues of importance. Students will complete a professional literature review to help prepare them to complete their dissertation. Students will contribute to research and learn to produce new knowledge through a thorough evaluation of theories and different approaches to the study of foreign policy. American evangelicals have had a long-term impact in world affairs and Christian approaches to international affairs will be emphasized. Scholars and policy makers need to be aware of the power of faith to inform and enhance foreign policy. Learning about the foreign policies of central countries like Britain, the United States, France, Israel, Russia, Germany, China, India, Iran and South Africa will help students gain an important understanding of foreign policy making in the world today.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Current ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)

- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Evaluate work necessary to complete a comprehensive literature review for a dissertation
- B. Explain the major institutions and policy processes involved in making U.S. foreign and national security.
- C. Analyze theories, paradigms, and debates about the relationship between dynamics internal to a state and that state's foreign and security policies.
- D. Describe how to research and why we research using the SAGE research methods.
- E. Delineate the "Comparative Foreign Policy" Research Program and examine being ambassadors of Christ.
- F. Analyze the role of Evangelicals and American foreign policy.
- G. Assess a variety of research questions of interest in foreign policy.
- H. Discuss and distinguish between real world foreign policy problems in the field with a strong understanding of the role of geopolitics, political culture, political economy and religion in affecting foreign policy issues of importance
- I. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative research methods and various ways to ethically collect data

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 150-250 words.

- D. Op-Ed Paper

Every member of the class is required to submit one written Op-Ed essay of no more than 1000 words, of the sort that might appear in a major national newspaper.

E. Research Paper 2: Outline

Students will prepare an outline to highlight the selected topic for the second research paper, identify specific challenges related to the topic, and provide recommendations drawn from the course material. Additionally, students should provide a list of at least 10 scholarly sources in addition to the course readings and presentations.

F. Research Paper 1

The student will be required to draft 1 short research paper. The paper must contain 6–7 double-spaced pages of content (not including the title page and bibliography) in current Turabian format, with default margins, and use 12-pt. Times New Roman font. A minimum of 10 scholarly sources in addition to the course readings and presentations and at least 1 Scripture reference are required. Each paper must include a title page and bibliography in current Turabian format.

G. Analytical Paper

Every member of the class is required to submit one analytical essay, modeled on one of the short essays in the journal *Foreign Affairs*. This essay must be at least 2–3 pages (not including the required Title page and Bibliography), contain a minimum of 3 scholarly sources in addition to the course readings and presentations, include at least 1 Scripture reference, and adhere to current Turabian format.

H. Research Paper 2

The student will write a 12-15 page double-spaced critical assessment research paper on a topic related to the course. The discussion of the topic should, ideally, be an extension and development of your chosen topic for Research Paper 1 and should also include an understanding of the following: 1) The major ideas relating to foreign policy as defined in this course, and specifically the public policy context and process; 2) Biblical integration; and 3) an awareness of current, scholarly research on the topic. This paper must contain a minimum of 20 scholarly sources in addition to the course readings and presentations, include at least 1 Scripture reference, use current Turabian format, and include a Title page and Bibliography.

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 75 pts ea)	300
Op-Ed paper	100
Research Paper 2: Outline	50
Research Paper 1	150
Analytical Paper	100
Research Paper 2	300
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PLCY 860

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Chaplin: Ch 1 & Intro Troy: Ch 1 Amstutz: Ch 1 Beasley: Ch 1 3 articles 2 websites	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB 1	10 0 75
2	Troy: Ch 2 Amstutz: Ch 2 Beasley: Ch 2 & 3 Chaplin: Ch 2 & 3 2 articles 2 websites	Op-Ed Paper	100
3	Troy: Ch 3 Amstutz: Ch 3 & 4 Beasley: Ch 4 & 5 Chaplin: Ch 6 & 7 1 article 2 websites	DB 2 Research Paper 2: Outline	75 50
4	Beasley: 6 & 7 Troy: Ch 4 Chaplin: Ch 5 Amstutz: Ch 5 & 6 1 article 3 websites	Research Paper 1	150
MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS

5	Beasley: 8 & 9 Troy: Ch 5 Amstutz: Ch 7 & 9 2 articles 3 websites	DB 3	75
6	Beasley: 10-12 Troy: Ch 6 Chaplin 4 & 8 1 article 1 websites	Analytical Paper	100
7	Beasley: 13-15 Troy: Ch 7 Amstutz: 7-9 2 websites	DB 4	75
8	Chaplin: Ch 9 and Conclusion 1 website	Research Paper 2	300
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.