Overview: This course will survey the theoretical and empirical literature on the influence of domestic politics on foreign policy and international politics, with a primary (though not exclusive) emphasis on American foreign policy. Scholars have long recognized that domestic politics influences states’ decisionmaking in international trade and finance. Yet, the past decade has witnessed an explosion of interest in explicating the linkage between domestic politics and international relations more broadly, including the decidedly “high politics” arena of war and peace. We will review a variety of theoretical perspectives concerning both international economics and international security, ranging from the role of individuals and individual psychology, to the influence of interest groups, political institutions, the mass media and public opinion. The goal is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of domestic political explanations for policy outcomes in American foreign policy in particular, and international affairs more broadly.

Requirements: There will be one paper (20-30 pages, double spaced), based on the material covered in the course. Students will also prepare and present to the class brief summaries of select readings. The paper counts for 50% of your grade and participation in class counts for 50%. (Summaries are included in the participation portion of the grade.)

Paper: The term paper can be either a literature review on one or two of the topics covered in the course or a research paper on a topic of the student’s choice. Students must submit a paper proposal, for approval, no later than the fifth meeting of the course. The final paper will be due on the day of the final exam.

Readings: All course readings will be included in a reader (available at Course Reader Material, located at 1141 Westwood Blvd., between Kinross and Lindbrook, in the Village). Many of the readings can also be downloaded from JSTOR.

Introduction

1. Some Recent Salvos in the Never-Ending “isms” Debate
Part I: Norms and Institutions

2. Democratic Peace and Related Stuff

3. Bargaining & Negotiation

4. Congress
5. **Bureaucracies and Organizations**
   - Krasner, Stephen. 1972. Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland) Foreign Policy 7(Summer).

**Part II: Individuals, Groups, the Media and the Public**

6. **Individuals, Leaders and Group Psychology**

7. **The State and Society**
   **A. The State**

   **B. Society**
8. **Public Opinion**

9. **Mass Media**

10. **The Political Use of Force**