

SPP 597SG STRATEGIES FOR GOVERNING

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Motivation for course

- PA scholars in West: Neglect of "big questions" and the "big picture" in public administration
- PA scholars in East: Neglect of differences in context, national priorities; doubts about portability of the "Western model"
- Different approaches in related professional fields:
 - *International Relations*
 - *International Development / Statebuilding*

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Theories of International Relations

School of Advanced International Studies
Johns Hopkins University

Surveys a variety of broad theoretical approaches to analyzing the international political and economic situation. Examines approaches to the study of power, ideology, state interests, peace and war, international law, and equilibrium; presents a critique of liberal, conservative and Marxist conceptions of international politics; and introduces grand theory, political and economic interpretations of systems structure and the values that shape perspectives in international politics.

Three approaches to PA

- Micro-level
 - *Attitudes or behavior of citizens, employees, or managers within the public sector*
- Meso- or middle-level
 - *Design and management of specific organizations and programs within the public sector*
- Macro-level
 - *Overall role and architecture of the public sector*

Macro-level questions

- Why does the system for governing in one country, such as the United States, change so much over time?
- Why are countries governed in such different ways?
- How do we assess the relative merits of different systems for governing?
- How should systems for governing be altered in response to new social, economic and technological conditions?

Strategies for governing

- Like the concept of grand strategy in international relations, but domestic as well as foreign affairs
- An overall strategy that defines
 - *National priorities*
 - *Policies to remedy those problems*
 - *Projects of institutional renovation*
- Strategy-making is difficult
 - *Goal conflicts, uncertainties, resistance to execution, and changing circumstances*
- Strategies can be assessed
 - *effectiveness, durability, and desirability*

Variations in strategies within one country



Variation in strategies among countries

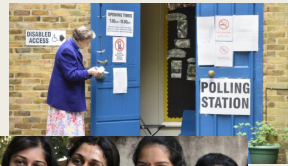
"What we may be witnessing is . . . the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government." – Francis Fukuyama, 1989



Why strategy matters



◀ Strategy constrains choices
at the meso- and micro-levels

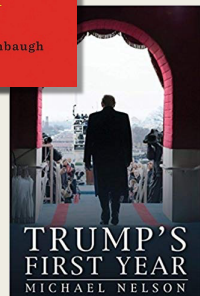
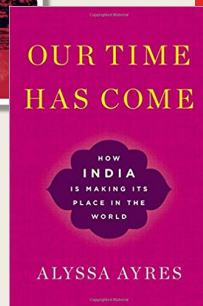
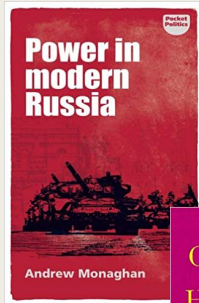


Voting involves judgment
about the merits of
alternative strategies ▶



Structure of the course

- Six weeks: July-August 2018
- Every week:
 - Discussion boards
 - Weekly teleconferences
 - Weekly assignments
- Week 1: Review concepts
- Week 2: Fragile states
- Weeks 2 to 5: Governing strategies in Russia, China, India
 - Usually, a recent book on each country
 - Supplemented by short videos, articles
- Week 6: Governing strategy in the US



What went well

- Methods:
 - "Book a week" format
 - Use of supplementary materials
 - Discussion boards
 - Weekly memos
 - Teleconferences
 - After some practice
- Outcomes:
 - Engagement and interest in material
 - Acquisition of knowledge about other systems
 - Appreciation of commonalities, differences in:
 - Circumstances
 - Priorities
 - Methods
 - Appreciation of contingency in strategy and institutional design

What needs work

- Methods:
 - *Better introduction to overall approach at start of course*
 - *Clearer guidance on how to describe strategies*
 - Template or heuristic
 - *Better materials for "fragile states" section*
 - *Longer teleconferences, more structure*
 - Eg student presentations
 - *Better wrap-up at end of course*
- Outcomes
 - *More opportunities to explore in depth*
 - *Establishing professional relevance*
 - How high-level discussions relate to practice

10	Overall, how much do you feel you learned in this course? (5=Much more than most, 1=Much less than most)	3.6
11	Overall rating of this instructor's teaching. (5=Almost always effective, 1=Almost never effective)	4.8
12	Overall rating of this course. (5=One of the best, 1=One of the worst)	4.0

More information?

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