

Department of Political Science  
Texas A&M University  
Spring 2005

POLS 633: FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICIES

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Office Hours: Wed. 6:00-7:00 and by appointment

The goal of this course is to familiarize the student with the Poliheuristic research program and its application to counter-terrorism and threat assessment decisions. Students will also learn how to utilize the Decision Board software in applied and theoretical settings.

Text:

- 1) Special issue of the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (JCR) (February 2004) on the Poliheuristic Theory of Foreign Policy Decision Making
- 2) Symposium on Policy and the Poliheuristic Theory of Foreign Policy Decision Making. *International Studies Perspectives* (ISP) (February 2005)
- 3) Mintz, Alex (ed.) Integrating Cognitive and Rational Theories of Foreign Policy Decision Making. St. Martin's Palgrave, 2003.
- 4) B-publications

\*For a complete bibliography on PH research see: [wwi.u/uns](http://wwi.u/uns) (click on research activities and then on How Leaders Make Decisions).

Grading:

Participation: 20% DB  
assignment: 30%  
Paper: 50%

I. Poliheuristic Theory:

- 1) How Do Leaders Make Decisions? *JCR* 2004
- 2) The Decision to Attack Iraq: A Non-compensatory Theory of Decision Making. *JCR* 1993
- 3) Mintz, Alex, Nehemia Geva and Karl DeRouen. Mathematical Models of Foreign Policy Decision Making: Compensatory versus Non-Compensatory. *Synthese* 1994.

- 4) Mintz Alex and Nehemia Geva. The Poliheuristic Theory of Decision. In: Geva and Mintz (eds.) *Decision Making on War and Peace; The Cognitive-Rational Debate*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rimier
- 5) Kinne, Brandon. Decision Making in Authoritarian Regimes: A Poliheuristic Perspective. *ISP* 2005.
- 6) Stern Eric. Contextualizing and Critiquing the Poliheuristic Theory. *JCR* 2004

## II. Case Studies:

- 7) DeRouen Karl, R. The Decision Not to Use Force at Dien Bien Phu. In: *Integrating Cognitive and Rational Theories of Foreign Policy Decision Making*. 2003
- 8) Sathasivam Kanishkan. No Other Choice: Pakistan's Decision to Test the Bomb. In *Integrating...* 2003.
- 9) James Patrick and Kathy Zhang. Chinese Choices *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Vol 1, 2005.

## III. Experimental Analyses:

- 10) Mintz, Alex, Nehemia Geva, Steven Redd and Amy Carnes. The Effect of Static and Dynamic Choice Sets on Political Decision Making: An Analysis Utilizing the Decision Board Platform. *American Political Science Review*. September. 1997.
- 11) Christensen Eben and Steven Redd. Bureaucrats versus the Ballot Box: An Experimental Analysis of the Bureaucratic Politics Model and the Poliheuristic Theory. *JCR* 2004
- 12) Mintz, Alex. Are Leaders Susceptible to Negative Political Advice? An Experimental Analysis of High Ranking Military Officers. In: Mintz and Russet (eds.) *New Directions for International Relations*. 2005.

## IV. Statistical Tests:

- 13) DeRouen, Karl R. and Christopher Sprecher. Initial Crisis Reaction and Poliheuristic Theory. *JCR* 2004.
- 14) Brule, David and Alex Mintz. Public Opinion and Presidential Use of Force. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Montreal. Canada, March 2004.

## V. The Poliheuristic Procedure:

- 15) Mintz, Alex. Applied Decision Analysis: Utilizing Poliheuristic Theory to Explain and Predict Foreign Policy and National Security Decisions. *ISP* 2005.

16) Mintz Alex and Allison Astorino-Courtois. Simulating Decision Processes. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Chicago, February 2001.

## VI. Understanding Suicide Terrorism

17) Atran, Scott. Genesis of Suicide Terrorism. *Science* 299. 7 March 2003.  
[http://www.umich.edu/~iinethisite/pdf/03.07.03\\_atran\\_genesis.of.suicide.terrorism.pdf](http://www.umich.edu/~iinethisite/pdf/03.07.03_atran_genesis.of.suicide.terrorism.pdf).

18) Pape, Robert A. The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review* 97:3. August 2003.

19) Pedahzur Ami, Perliger Arie and Weinberg Leonard. The Characteristics of Suicide Terrorists: An Empirical Analysis of Palestinian Terrorism in Israel. *Deviant Behavior* 24:4 (2003) [h.ttp://nssc.haila.ac.11/Terror/articlesipofile.html](http://nssc.haila.ac.11/Terror/articlesipofile.html).

20) Abrahms, Max. Are Terrorists Really Rational? The Palestinian Example. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*. Summer 2004. PDF

21) Wintrobe, Ronald. Can Suicide Bombers Be Rational? *University of Western Ontario*. 5 January 2003. [littgilsALicao.edsho sic olit/](http://littgilsALicao.edsho sic olit/)

22) Kaplan Edward et al. Tactical Prevention of Suicide Bombings in Israel. Presented at the annual meeting of the Peace Science Society, November 2004 Available from the instructor

23) Krueger, Alan B and Jitka Maleckova. Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is there a Causal Connection? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17:4. Fall 2003.  
<http://www.fordham.eduleconomics/mcleod/Kreuger&MaleckovaEducation&Terrorism.pdf>.

## VII. Applications of Poliheuristic Theory and the Decision Board Software to Counter Terrorism Decisions:

24) Mintz Alex and Jacob Saper. How Suicide Bombers Think?  
[www.decisionboard.org/academic](http://www.decisionboard.org/academic) A Decision Board scenario

25) Redd Steven et al. The Decision to Adopt New Counter Terrorism Technologies Scenario. [www.decisionboard.oracademic](http://www.decisionboard.oracademic)

26) A Counter-Terrorism Decision Under Time Pressure scenario.

27) The Mini Plane scenario

28) Decision Support System for Counter-Terrorism (ITGi)