

LPPP 7559

Leadership and Public Policy – Policy

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Syllabus

In the study of international relations, we often overlook the underlying geographic, economic, and international system dimensions that varyingly benefit some states and disadvantage others. For example, how does having access to the open seas or having a veto at the UN benefit a country? How does being landlocked disadvantage a country? This course brings to light those dimensions, which can shape how a country perceives its interests and designs its foreign policy.

Specifically, the class will cover the geographic dimensions of policy, which includes the effects of mountains, rivers, and access to the open seas on a country's thinking; the economic dimensions of policy, such as resource distribution; and the dimensions resulting from the international system's structure, such as where borders were drawn and who has a permanent veto at the UN.

Students will collaboratively apply the concepts they learn each week to a dozen or more countries across the globe - from major players like the United States, China, and Russia to emerging states like Ethiopia. Assignments will have a heavy focus on case study research as well as succinct writing and briefing. By the end of the course, students should have developed a public policy lens through which they can understand some of the unchanging or slow-changing realities that help shape any state's foreign policy.