

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Political Science 87
Freshman Seminar: Great Decisions

Philip G. Roeder
Fall Quarter 2018

For four weeks (each Wednesday from October 3 to October 24), we will meet to discuss major foreign policy issues facing the United States. The first week I have selected the topic, “The Waning of Pax Americana?,” but then we will select the following week’s topic from the topics in the 2018 Great Decisions series:

- (1) Russia’s Foreign Policy
- (2) China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation
- (3) Media and Foreign Policy
- (4) Turkey: A Partner in Crisis
- (5) U.S. Global Engagement and the Military
- (6) South Africa’s Fragile Democracy
- (7) Global Health: Progress and Challenges

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Reading assignments. Each week you should read the brief (approximately ten-page) overview of the topic. This will be posted on the TritonED course web-site once the next week’s topic has been selected.

Class sessions. We will open each session with a brief video prepared by the Foreign Policy Association on the topic that we have chosen for that week’s discussion. We will then talk about the “discussion questions” that appear at the end of the assigned reading. Take a few minutes to think about these questions before we meet. Our conversation need not be limited to these questions and you should feel free to raise issues that concern you.

One of the purposes of the Freshman Seminar series is to acquaint you with the Department. So, you should feel free to ask questions about political science that are not limited to the week’s topic.

Grades. This course is graded on a Pass/Not-Pass basis. To pass you need to attend three of the four sessions. Active participation is not required, but certainly makes the time go by more enjoyably.

TritonED site. A copy of this syllabus, the weekly reading, and occasional supplementary materials will be posted on the course web-site in TritonED.