

**COURSE CODE:**(*POLI 446*)

**COURSE TITLE:** (*GHANA'S FOREIGN POLICY*)

**SESSION#:** (*1*) – **TITLE:** (*DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN POLICY*)

**LECTURER:** (*Dr. Charles Amo-Agyemang*)

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**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

College of Education

**School of Continuing and Distance Education**

2017/2018 – 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

# Course Information

*Provide the following information:*

**Course Code:**

**POLI 446**

**Course Title:**

**GHANA'S FOREIGN POLICY**

**Course Credit**

**Three**

**Session Number &  
Session Title:**

**Session number 5: Framework of Ghana's  
foreign policy**

**Semester/Year:**

**Second Semester /2018**

# Course Information (contd.)

*Provide the following information:*

**Lecture Period(s)**

**Insert Lecture Period(s):** *(Online how many online interactions per week)*

**Prerequisites**

**Insert Course Prerequisites:** *(if applicable)*

**Teaching Assistant**

**Insert Teaching Assistant's Information:** *(where applicable, provide name and contact information)*



# Course Instructor's Contact

*Provide the following information:*

**Course Instructor(s)  
Name**

**Dr. Charles Amo-Agyemang**

**Office Location**

**On Top of the Political Science library**

**Office Hours**

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# Introduction/Subject or Session Overview

- The making of foreign policy is a complex exercise involving several actors and different levels of policy formulation and implementation. A country's foreign policy can emanate from several different processes within the government machinery. This session seeks to explore the major actors involved in the formulation and implementation of Ghana's foreign policy.

# Session Outline

The key topics to be covered in the session are as follows:

- Topic One: Major actors in Ghana's foreign policy



# Session Learning Goals

- Analyze the institutional dynamics of foreign policy formulation in Ghana.
- Examine how Foreign policy is a function of bureaucratic process
- Discuss the pre-eminence of the president in foreign policy formulation in Ghana.
- Account for the factors that may enhance or constraint foreign policy formulation in Ghana.

# Session Learning Objectives

- Objective One: To explore the major actors implementing Ghana's Foreign policy.
- Objective Two: To find the key instruments in Ghana's foreign policy implementation.
- Objective Three: To find out the internal and external factors limiting the implementation of Ghana's foreign policy

# Session Learning Outcomes

- By the end of the session students should be able to
- Demonstrate an understanding of how institutional dynamics of foreign policy formulation work in Ghana.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how Foreign policy is a function of bureaucratic process Demonstrate an understanding of the pre-eminence of the president in foreign policy formulation in Ghana.
- To be able to account for the factors that may enhance or constraint foreign policy formulation in Ghana

# Session Activities and Assignments

This week, complete the following tasks:

- **Log onto the UG Sakai LMS course site:**
  - <http://sakai.ug.edu.gh/XXXXXXXXXX>
- **Read**
- **Watch** the Videos for Session 5 – Ghana’s Foreign policy Formulation
- **Review** Lecture Slides: Session 5 – Ghana’s Foreign policy Formulation
  
- **Visit the Chat Room** and **discuss** the **Forum question** for Session 5  
Ghana’s Foreign policy Formulation
  
- **Complete the Individual Assignment** for Session 5

# Creating Blended Assignment Instructions

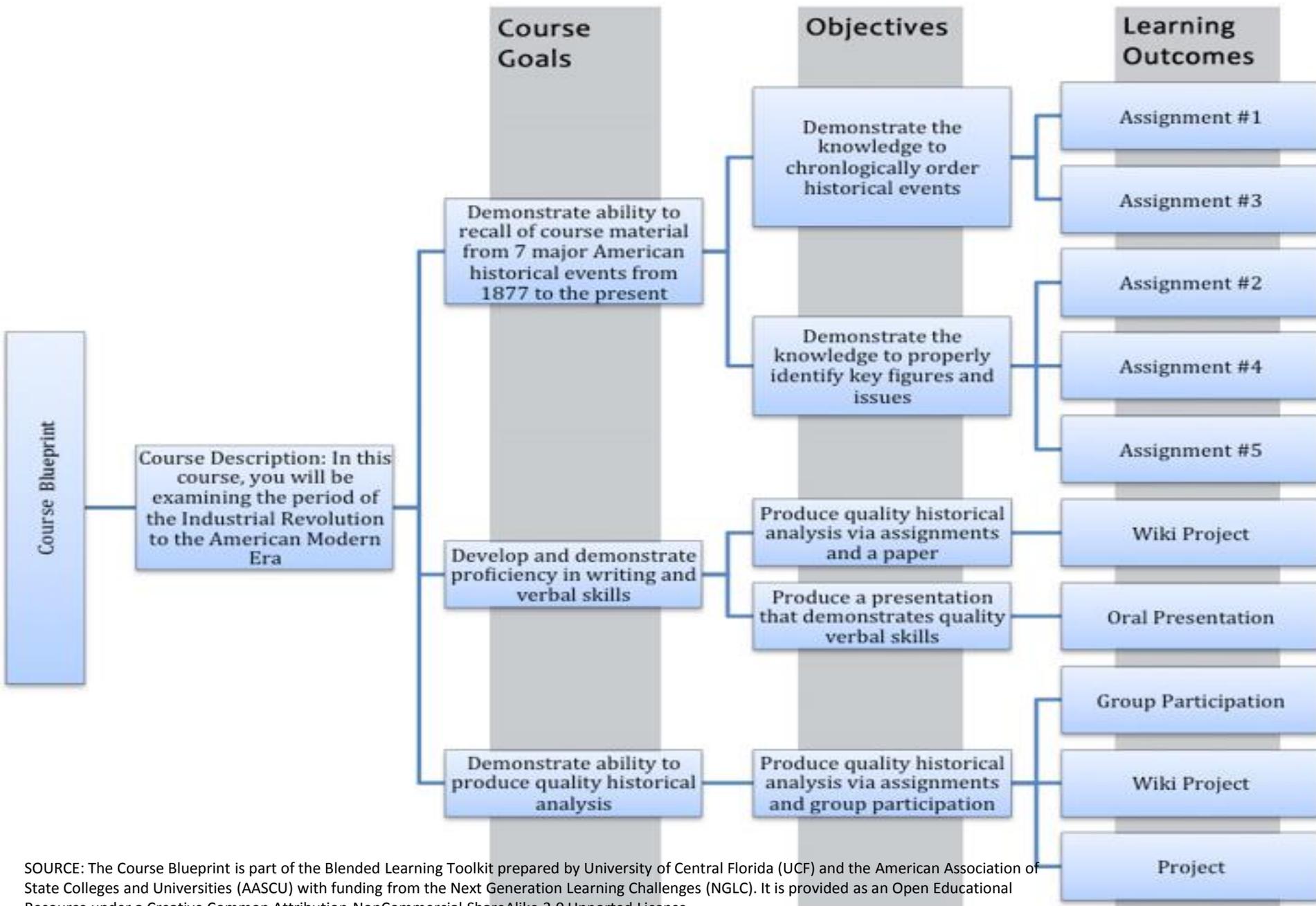
Recommended eight (8) elements to include in written assignment instructions distributed to students online:

1. **Assignment title** (exactly the same as title used in syllabus and other course documents)
2. **Learning objective(s)** to which the assignment relates
3. **Assignment due date** (if receiving electronic submissions, include time/time zone also)
4. **Submission details** (electronic submissions only? required file format? via email? via assignment upload?)
5. **Scoring criteria/rubric**
6. **Level of group participation** (individual assignments, group or team projects, and entire class projects).
7. **Mechanical details** (number of words/pages, preferred style guide for citations, number/type of citations, etc.)
8. **Any supporting resources** necessary for assignment completion

# Reading List



# Sample Course Template – American History 1877 – Present



SOURCE: The Course Blueprint is part of the Blended Learning Toolkit prepared by University of Central Florida (UCF) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) with funding from the Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC). It is provided as an Open Educational Resource under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License



Topic One

# FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION



# Major Actors in Ghana's Foreign policy

- Elmer Plischke identified six different approaches to foreign policy decision making process in international relations. These include: the Organizational approach; The Elitist approach; Institutional approach; Bureaucratic approach; Operational approach and Communication approach. A president may decide to adopt any one of these in formulating foreign policy. Invariably, the institutional approach is mostly adopted in advanced democracies where there is strict accountability, clear separation of powers and checks and balances. All presidents use the communication approach anytime they comment on matters of international affairs. President Kwame Nkrumah mostly used the elitist and communication approaches in his foreign policy.

# CON'T

- The formulation of foreign policy in Ghana can be constrained by both domestic and international factors, some of which may be beyond the control of the president or other actors in the foreign policy establishment. In the first place, the extent to which a president is able to manage the interrelationship between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other key sector Ministries in the realm of external relations is fundamental to the success of foreign policy. Secondly, any conflict between the president's vision and the agenda of parliament on matters of external relations has the potential of derailing the president's foreign policy. Moreover, conflict between the president's agenda and the core values of Ghana makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the president to get his foreign policy implemented.

Topic One

**CON'T**



# CON'T

- Furthermore, the nature of states surrounding Ghana in the sub-region has greatly affected the country's foreign policy. Ghana is surrounded by conflict states, undemocratic states, land log states, and a state (Nigeria) which is more powerful both economically and militarily than Ghana. Finally, Ghana's position as a small power in the global system is a major constraint on the country's foreign policy. Ghana's sphere of influence does not extend beyond West Africa, and she has no power to impact international politics. Even in West Africa, Ghana's sphere of influence is limited, and she rarely impact the affairs of other countries in the sub-region. Ghana's sphere of influence has greatly diminished since the days of Kwame Nkrumah immediately after independence.

# CON'T

- Ghana's foreign policy is determined by factors including the state of the economy; the strength of the military; the competence and expertise of the men and women working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFA&RI); as well as the country's soft-power in the areas of election management, democracy and good governance, and her credentials as a good peace-keeping country. These attributes are significant in the effective formulation and implementation of Ghana's foreign policy. Ghana has always been seen to be more influential and active in international affairs when the economy is doing well. A good economy gives the president more options in foreign policy.

- The president of Ghana is expected under Article 34(2) of the 1992 constitution to report to parliament, at least once in a year, all steps taken to ensure policy objectives contained in the Directive Principles of State Policy. Among other aspirations of the people, the Directive Principles outline the country's foreign policy objectives. The President is, therefore, under obligation of his job description prescribed by the constitution, expected to formulate and conduct Ghana's foreign policy in furtherance of the aspirations expressed under Chapter Six of the 1992 Constitution. Under Article 75(1) of the constitution, the president may execute treaties, agreements or conventions in the name of Ghana

Topic One

**CON'T**



# CON'T

- The 1992 constitution of Ghana clearly stipulates the formal structure and institutional arrangement for the formulation of the country's foreign policy. The president of the Republic is the only person mandated to execute Ghana's external relations on behalf of the people. The president may choose to delegate that power as and when he deems it necessary. By virtue of his constitutional mandate, any statement or comment made by the president or emanating from the presidency on international affairs ultimately becomes the country's foreign policy. For this reason, presidents are always careful and circumspect about what they say on matters of international affairs. They are most often reluctant to comment on sensitive issues in international relations.
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Topic One

**CON'T**



# CON'T

- In most young democracies, including Ghana, the pre-eminence within the state machinery of the Head of State turn the making of foreign policy into a personal much more than an institutional process. In this regard, the personal mood, attitude, desires, perceptions, personal motivations intellectual disposition of the president is significant in the formulation of the country's foreign policy. The idiosyncrasy of a president profoundly influence and informed his/her foreign policy orientation.
- In performing his/her constitutional duties as the chief foreign policy relations officer of the land, the president is supported by the Council of State, the Cabinet, Parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Security Council. The president under Article 74(1) of the constitution is required to consult the Council of State on the appointment of persons to represent Ghana abroad. This constitutional provision puts the Council of State at the center of foreign policy formulation because of the significant role played by Ambassadors and High Commissioners in foreign policy.

# CON'T

- Parliament also has a constitutional role in the formulation of Ghana's foreign policy. It has oversight responsibility over the president's conduct of foreign policy. Apart from the constitutional requirement for the president to account to Parliament as directed under Chapter Six, Article 75(2) of the constitution states that any treaty, agreement, or convention executed by or under the authority of the president shall be subject to ratification by an Act or a Resolution of Parliament. For example, when President Nkrumah decided to sever diplomatic relations with Great Britain over the issue of Rhodesia in 1965, he had to go to Parliament very late in the day, to inform the legislature and seek their approval. Parliament may also influence foreign policy by withholding or threatening to withhold funds for the formulation of the president's foreign policy if they consider such a policy as not being in Ghana's national interest. However, it must be stated that in practice, the president may have his way with Parliament if he engages in constructive dialogue with Parliamentary leadership on his foreign policy agenda

# CON'T

- Article 76(2) provides that the Cabinet shall assist the president in the determination of the general policy of government. This means that the president can rely on Cabinet in the formulation of his foreign policy. In this regard, the composition of Cabinet is very significant for the president to get the needed assistance in the area of foreign policy. Invariably, the Minister of Foreign Affairs is always by convention a member of the Cabinet. Other key ministers who may be helpful to the president in Cabinet when it comes to foreign policy include the Ministers for Interior, Defense, Finance and Trade. The knowledge and experience of Cabinet members on matters relating to international relations will be helpful to the president in foreign policy formulation.
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# CON'T

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) plays a central role in foreign policy formulation. The Minister supported by career officers at the Ministry formulates policies for the President's consideration and approval. A strong minister could have immense influence over the president's foreign policy orientation. The MOFA is the foremost ministry tasked with responsibility of managing and executing the president's foreign policy. According to the mission statement of the ministry, it is responsible for collating and coordinating foreign policy options for government consideration and effective conduct of Ghana's foreign policy.

# CON'T

- Established in 1957, the Ministry has two structural dimensions, that is its main headquarters in Accra and its missions abroad. The headquarters has twelve main departments (Bureaus). All these departments play very significant roles in the general scheme of Ghana's foreign policy formulation. The research unit, for example, gathers information relevant for the president's economic diplomacy and on key decisions in the United Nations. Ghana's missions abroad have grown from only four (4) missions at independence to average of 75 over the years. The first 4 missions at Ghana's independence were in London, Paris, Washington and the United Nations. The independence of most African countries in the 1960s led to an increased in the number of missions to about 65 by the time Nkrumah was overthrown. The number of missions abroad is sometimes determined by the strength of the economy to sustain them and/or the ideology or philosophy of the ruling government.

# Sample questions

- Analyze the institutional dynamics of foreign policy formulation in Ghana.
- Foreign policy is a function of bureaucratic process. Discuss this statement in light of the pre-eminence of the president in policy formulation in Ghana.
- Account for the factors that may enhance or constraint foreign policy formulation in Ghana