

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Political Science 87
Freshman Seminar: Great Decisions

Philip G. Roeder
Spring Quarter 2018

For four weeks (each Wednesday from April 4 to April 25), 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 list in the Great Decisions series. The list is posted on the course TritonED web-site.

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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 only need to attend three of the four sessions. Active participation is not required, but certainly makes the time go by more enjoyably.

TritonED site. The list of potential topics and the next week's reading will be posted to the TritonED web-site for this course.