

**POLT 797/897: Selected Topics in U.S. Foreign Policy**

---

**QATAR ROLE-PLAYING TASKER**

This task is worth 25% your final course grade.

This summer a long-brewing crisis broke out in the Persian Gulf. Saudi Arabia and three other Arab countries cut diplomatic ties with Qatar and issued a list of demands, insisting that the wealthy but tiny Persian Gulf state shut down the news network Al Jazeera, abandon ties with Islamist organizations, and provide detailed information about its funding for political dissidents. This crisis continues, and other states have become involved.

On 8 and 15 November, we will run a role-playing exercise based on this crisis. The number of players will depend on the number of students in the class. Currently, the roles are: Qatar, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, the U.S. and Bahrain & the United Arab Emirates. If the class is larger, we would add Iraq and split the U.S. into the White House and the State/DoD.

On my website is a set of readings to provide background for your preparation. As you prepare for your role, I expect you to seek additional specific information regarding your role.

- *NYT*, “5 Arab Nations Move to Isolate Qatar,” 5 June 2017
- *BBC*, “Why Qatar is the focus of terrorist claims,” 13 June 2017
- *NYT*, “How the Saudi-Qatar Rivalry, now Combusting, Reshape the Middle East,” 13 June 2017
- *BBC*, “Qatar demands difficult to meet,” 25 June 2017
- *Foreign Affairs*, “How Saudi Arabia Botched its Campaign Against Qatar,” 12 July 2017
- *BBC*, “Qatar crisis - What you need to know,” 25 July 2017

In preparation for your role playing, you will provide me an analysis on 27 September (10% of the course grade) and a position paper on 18 October (10% of the course grade). On 6 September, we will discuss my concept “Bounded Rational Policy Analysis,” including the appendix. On 13 September, we will discuss my “A Useful Concept of National Interest and Goals” and “A Useful Concept of Causation.” On 11 October, we will discuss my “A Useful Concept of Power.”

In the analysis, you will:

- describe the overall situation,
- describe the situation from the perspective of your role,
- describe and explain the goals of your role (you may wish to use a hierarchy of goals),
- describe and explain the goals of the other roles,
- describe and discuss the critical causative factors, which will affect your role’s ability to achieve its goals.
- describe your role’s relative ability to achieve its goals compared to the other roles.

In the position paper, you will, having updated your analysis, (no need to include this specifically in the paper):

- consider the critical causative factors,
- consider the other states, especially their goals and ability to achieve those goals,
- consider what their options may be and how they might seek their goals,
- consider your options,
- lay out how you will approach the situation with the intent to achieve your goal.

From your analysis, I should be able to see what you understand about the situation and understand what you will consider in your approach to the interactive role playing. The paper will be at least three single-spaced pages, with end notes and a bibliography added, written in accordance with Writing in POLT 797.

From your position paper, I should be able to understand how you intend to act during the role playing. The paper will be at least two single-space pages, with end notes and a bibliography added, written in accordance with Writing in POLT 797.

The role playing exercise has no grade, but your performance will obviously be part of your participation grade.