

## GREAT DECISIONS 2019: A Discussion Forum for Issues in U.S. Foreign Policy and International Affairs

“Great Decisions” is a national curriculum in selected issues in American foreign policy, prepared by the Foreign Policy Association, which is headquartered in New York City. The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) was founded in 1918 by noted journalists and academics to rally public support for then-President Woodrow Wilson’s vision for peace after WWI.

This course will meet nine times, beginning February 26, to discuss a major foreign policy topic each week; a summary and wrap-up session will take place on April 23. Our schedule is keyed to the substantive essays in the *Great Decisions* book, which we encourage each participant to purchase (available at the PSRC office for \$32). The topics in order are:

February 26: Refugees and Global Migration

March 5: The Rise of Popularism in Europe

March 12: The Middle East’s Regional Disorder

March 19: Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?

March 26: Decoding U.S.-China Trade

April 2: Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics

April 9: The U.S.-Mexico Partnership Tested

April 16: The State of the State Department and Diplomacy

April 23: Summary Reflections and Wrap-up

(The moderators reserve the right to alter the order of these topics to suit local conditions, such as e.g., the availability of guest presenters, breaking news, or serendipitous juxtaposition.)

Each class will be two hours in length, with a short break in the middle. The facilitators may begin the sessions with the class viewing a short video introduction to the week’s topic, or by introducing a guest speaker/expert on the topic, or by having an interested member of the class introduce the topic. There are discussion questions and suggestions for further reading at the end of every chapter in the Great Decisions book. With the help of class members, the facilitators will often identify other materials—articles, editorials, podcasts, etc.—that might reflect in an interesting way on the topic. FPA puts out a leader’s guide that contains interesting supplemental material, such as work-sheets or map exercises, and those may be used from time to time.

Fundamentally, however, the facilitators want to foster an atmosphere in which interested, informed, and concerned adults can discuss some of the knottiest foreign policy questions of the day—or the decade! Participants will learn from one another, and will learn to disagree—and agree—in constructive, respectful ways. All of us will emerge from Great Decisions as friends and better informed citizens.

**Leaders:** Karen Coates and David Redman will again be the co-facilitators. Karen is a retired chemical engineer, and David is a retired Princeton University administrator.

**Tuesdays:** 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., 9 weeks: February 26 through April 23

**Location:** PSRC