

Great Decisions

“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 25, to discuss a major foreign policy topic each week; a summary and wrap-up session will take place on April 21. Our schedule is keyed to the substantive essays in the *Great Decisions* book. You will receive a copy of the *Great Decisions* briefing book at a cost to you of \$30 (payment made during registration process).

The topics in order are:

February 25: Climate Change and the Global Order
March 3: India and Pakistan
March 10: Red Sea Security
March 17: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
March 24: U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle
March 31: China’s Road into Latin America
April 7: The Philippines and the U.S.
April 14: Artificial Intelligence and Data
April 21: Summary Reflections and Wrap-up

As has been the case in past years, 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, however, the facilitators will often identify other materials—articles, editorials, podcasts, books or book chapters, etc.—that might bear on the topic in an interesting way. 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.

We hope you'll join us!

Karen Coates and David Redman

LEADERS: Karen Coates is a retired chemical engineer, David Redman is a retired Princeton University administrator.

TUESDAYS: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., 9 weeks: February 25 through April 21

LOCATION: PSRC, Maximum 25 seats