Course: Foreign Policy Analysis (95292, formerly 87065)  
SPS/04

Credits: 4 (for STRATEGOS Students)

Schedule:
1st Year, Second Semester, Tentative Schedule 1 Lecture of 4 hours per week for 8 weeks to support Lectures, Class Exercises, Labs as well as Seminars. Starting lectures in middle February and ending on April. Please note that this Course includes also two additional hours on Wednesday morning (11.00-13.00 in Meeting Room B, DISPO) that are optional for the STRATEGOS Students; indeed, the STRATEGOS Students have a dispensation for these Wednesday Hours based on their attendance to the Thematic Workshops addressing the topics related to this course. Please note that you are encouraged, if you can, to attend all lectures of the course including Wednesday Lectures along the period from February 18th to March 18th considering that other STRATEGOS Engineering and Economics lectures are starting just in March.

Teachers, Email, URL:
Prof. Fabrizio Coticchia  
Email Fabrizio.coticchia@unige.it  
URL www.fabriziocoticchia.com

Education Objectives:
How can we explain foreign policy decisions? The course, which aims to provide students tools to interpret foreign policy, examines concepts and theories of Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA), conceived as an approach to the study of international politics.
The course illustrates foreign policy by focusing on the decision-making process, investigating the interaction among actors and their environment, and devoting special attention to the influence of domestic factors.

The module aims to elucidate theories and approaches in Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA), familiarize students with the principal alternative approaches to foreign policy as a field. Thus, the module provides the conceptual tools to better understand contemporary debates on foreign policy-making, also through active learning and role-playing. Finally, the module highlights practical skills for students interested in career opportunities in diplomacy and international organizations.

By attending the module and its activities the students will:

- Understand main theories and approaches in Foreign policy analysis
- Identify and assess a foreign policy
- Examine the role and the nature of actors, contexts, and goals in foreign policy decision-making process
- Examine the influence played by leaders, institutions, bureaucracies and social actors (media, public opinion, experts, interest groups)
- Understand the relationship between international structure and foreign policy
- Enhance proper knowledge to address foreign policy issues
- Understand the roles of diplomacy and psychology in foreign policy
- Understand selected foreign policy case studies (the Cuban Missile Crisis; the US decisions to send troops in Vietnam in the 1960s and to invade Iraq in 2003; the Italian and German decision-making process related to the military mission in Libya in 2011, etc.)
- Understand how research centres, international organizations, institutions, and other actors practically deal with foreign policy
- Analyse report, scientific papers, official docs on foreign policy issues
- Present papers and documents in the classroom, also through simulation and role-playing

Course Program & Elements:

The course combines the analysis of theories with a comparative study of foreign policy through selected case studies (e.g., the US decisions to send troops in Vietnam in the 1960s and to invade Iraq in 2003; the Italian and German decision-making process related to the military mission in Libya in 2011, etc.).

The course illustrates foreign policy by focusing on the decision-making process, investigating the interaction among actors and their environment, and devoting special attention to the influence of domestic factors (e.g., leaders, regime type, coalition government, parties and parliaments, bureaucratic and organizational politics, interest groups, public opinion and media, cultural elements, etc.).
The module illustrates in details:

- What is Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA)
- Theories and approaches in FPA
- Actors and contexts in FPA
- Leaders and Foreign Policy
- Institutions and Foreign Policy
- The role of media and public opinion
- Political parties and Foreign Policy
- Bureaucracy and Foreign Policy
- Foreign Policy decision making process: approaches and analyses
- Historical Analogies and Metaphors in Foreign Policy Analysis
- Foreign policy case studies (Cuba, Vietnam, Iraq, German and Italian military operations, Italian foreign policy and the EU after the financial crisis, etc.)

Teaching Approach:

Teaching activities will be based also on active learning, role-playing (simulations) and seminars with scholars and experts on the field of foreign policy and diplomacy in order to foster debates and a constant involvement of students. Movies, documents, blogs, papers will be adopted. The course will be entirely provided in English.

Evaluation and Final Exam:

Exam will be based on an oral examination.

Timetable:

Tuesday 1400-1800 (Wednesday 1100-1300)

Time Zone:

A, Genoa, Italy, GMT + 1 (solar time)
Prerequisites:
The Course does not require specific prerequisites

References:

Compulsory texts


Texts at your choice (two for attending students, 4 for non-attending students)

There will be provided a completed list of papers. For instance the students will selected from some of the following:


Selected chapters from:


Brighi, E. (2013), Foreign Policy, Domestic Politics and International Relations: The Case of Italy (London: Routledge).


G. Goldstein, (2008), Lessons in Disaster: McGeorge Bundy and the Path to War in Vietnam (Palgrave)


Allison, G. (1971) Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis. (Brown)

Lessons Start
18 February