

Foreign Policy Analysis

Code: 101097
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500259 Political Science and Public Management	OT	3	2
2500259 Political Science and Public Management	OT	4	0
2503778 International Relations	OB	3	1

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

This course does not have academic prerequisites. However, it is highly recommended that students have basic training in International Relations and Political Science.

Students must have the habit of reading and consulting different means of communication of general information, especially following the news on international politics.

However, students are required to have the capacity to critically analyze these sources of information. Most of the main academic texts on foreign policy analysis are in English,

therefore a very good level of reading comprehension in this language is required.

Objectives and Contextualisation

In this course, two specific objectives are pursued:

- a) Provide a conceptual framework and a detailed vision of the theoretical
 - b) Apply the framework and tools to different case studies of relevant countries
- Analyze public policies relevant to the international sphere, in particular foreign policy
- Know the origins and development of the main analytical frameworks and theories
- Understand the complex international system in which foreign policies are developed
- Identify and analyze the main actors, political, institutional, economic and social
- Analyze and evaluate decision-making processes in foreign policy matters
- Know and understand the most relevant transformations in the different countries
- Reflect critically on the ethical and normative implications that derive from international relations
- Acquire the ability to identify sources of information relevant to the study

Competences

Political Science and Public Management

- Applying theoretical and analytical knowledge of International Relations to practical and professional cases, in particular to the areas of conflict and cooperation between actors.
- Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
- Assessing specific distinctive aspects and conceptual and methodological instruments of the different tendencies and analytical approximations of International Relations.
- Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
- Demonstrating they know theoretical tendencies and classical and recent analytical approximations of International Relations.
- Designing data collection techniques, coordinating the information processing and meticulously applying hypothesis verification methods.
- Distinguishing the discipline's main theories and different fields: conceptual developments, theoretical frameworks and theoretical approaches underlying the discipline's knowledge and different areas and sub-areas, as well as their value for the professional practice through concrete cases.
- Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
- Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
- Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
- Producing and planning researches or analytical reports.
- Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
- Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
- Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
- Working autonomously.
- Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.
- Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

International Relations

- Analyse cases and phenomena in the international sphere and interpret different political texts using contemporary political theories.
- Analyse the behaviour of international actors, both state and non-state.
- Analyse the production and implementation of public policies related to the international sphere, in particular foreign policy and security and defence policy.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Identify the main theories of international relations and their different fields (international theory, conflicts and security, international politics, etc.) to apply them in professional practice.
- Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse public policies in specific countries, in particular foreign policies, and understand the traits of continuity and change in historical perspective.
2. Analyse the behaviour of different actors in the main topics and problems related to international security, international conflicts and the promotion of peace.

3. Apply different theories and focuses to the analysis of the main problems related to security, foreign policy and armed conflict and the promotion of peace.
4. Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
5. Applying theoretical and analytical knowledge of International Relations to practical and professional cases, in particular to the areas of conflict and cooperation between actors.
6. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
7. Assessing specific distinctive aspects and conceptual and methodological instruments of the different tendencies and analytical approximations of International Relations.
8. Critically assessing the impacts of globalization in several areas: safety, environment, human rights, migrations and peace.
9. Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
10. Demonstrating they know theoretical tendencies and classical and recent analytical approximations of International Relations.
11. Describing the international order: anarchy versus order, society of states and transnational society.
12. Describing the main characteristic elements of the international society as a whole (1945-2000).
13. Designing data collection techniques, coordinating the information processing and meticulously applying hypothesis verification methods.
14. Explaining the major approximations to the international relations (realism, transnationalism and structuralism).
15. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
16. Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
17. Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
18. Make a reasoned application of different contemporary political theories to phenomena related to international security, international conflicts, foreign policies of the main states and the promotion of peace.
19. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
20. Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
21. Producing and planning researches or analytical reports.
22. Properly using the theory and concepts of international relations (traditions of Hobbesian, Grotian or Kantian thought).
23. Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
24. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
25. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
26. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
27. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
28. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
29. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
30. Use tools for the analysis of foreign policies and apply them to real and simulated case studies.
31. Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
32. Working autonomously.
33. Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.
34. Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

Content

Introduction: Presentation of the objectives of the subject, of the work methodology and the evaluation methods.

Block I: The analysis of foreign policies as an academic discipline

The practical relevance of the academic analysis of foreign policies

Foreign policy as public policy

Origins and evolution of the study area

Key concepts: national interests, levels of analysis, agent-structure interactions, and policy implementation

Block II. Theoretical tools for the analysis of external policies

Analytical models (1). The rational actor model.

Analytical models (2). The model of bureaucratic politics

Analytical models (3). The individual actor model and psychological approaches

Analytical models (4). The societal level: the weight of political culture and social values in the formulation of foreign policy

Block III. Non-traditional actors and new challenges for the analysis of foreign policies

The impact of public opinion and the media on the formulation of foreign policies

Non-governmental actors and their influence on foreign policy

The foreign policy of non-central government actors (paradiplomacy)

Block IV. Case studies

The formulation and analysis of foreign policies in an increasingly interconnected world

Case Study (I): Foreign Policy of the United States

Case study (II): Foreign Policy of Iran

Case study (III): Foreign Policy of Japan

Oral presentation of the students' work

Readings in pdf will be available in the first week of the semester on the Moodle

Methodology

The student's dedication to this subject is divided into several types of activities, each of them with a specific weight of working hours.

This variety of work forms materializes in differentiated methodologies. This subject is of 6 ECTS credits, that is, it implies a total dedication of the student of 150 hours, distributed in:

Guided activities, activities in the classroom (or on line) with the presence of the teacher and which can consist of master classes (with the support of ICT and with the possibility of developing debates in a large group); in seminars to discuss compulsory readings in smaller groups and in sessions more oriented to practical issues, in which cases, problems and examples related to the course syllabus will be analyzed (also on line) . For these sessions, there will be mandatory pre-announced readings in advance. These activities represent approximately one-third of the total work required (52.5 hours).

Supervised activities, activities carried out by the student outside the classroom according to a work plan designed and subsequently supervised and evaluated by the teacher. Likewise, during the course, the student should read short articles in relation to which he/she will be able to comment on the text read and, in addition, participate actively in debates about the articles. Also included are tutoring and other similar activities of course monitoring. These activities represent approximately 10% of the work required (15 hours).

Autonomous activities, all those activities carried out by the student on their own and in accordance with the requirements of the subject to successfully pass the subject, can be basic and complementary readings, the study of class notes or all those other activities that complement the training that is achieved in this course. These activities represent half of the students' work time (75 hours). The teaching methodology is adapted to this distribution of work and activities.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
By the teacher	52.5	2.1	2, 5, 3, 18, 6, 10, 12, 11, 14, 23, 16, 17, 28, 33, 22, 31, 7, 8
Type: Supervised			
Supervised	15	0.6	5, 10, 21, 19, 16, 17, 28, 32, 31, 7
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous	75	3	13, 21, 23, 19, 16, 17, 27, 26, 24, 25, 28, 33, 32, 34, 31

Assessment

The evaluation of this subject is composed of the following parts:

A written test of Blocks I and II and III "The analysis of foreign policies as an academic discipline" and "Theoretical tools for the analysis of foreign policies 40% of the final grade

Two practices in the classroom (or online) using the theories of International Relations and the models of foreign policy analysis (each of them is worth 15% of the final grade). 30% of the final grade.

Final group work, using the tools of the analysis models (oral presentation and written work) 30% of the final grade

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Test	40%	2	0.08	6, 29, 10, 12, 11, 13, 21, 14, 17, 28, 32, 22, 7, 8
exercise	30%	4	0.16	2, 1, 5, 3, 18, 6, 10, 9, 12, 11, 14, 23, 16, 17, 27, 26, 24, 25, 28, 33, 22, 30, 31, 7, 8
groupal exercise	40%	1.5	0.06	4, 6, 13, 21, 20, 23, 19, 15, 16, 33, 32, 34, 31

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General

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Software

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