# Comparative Foreign Policy

## Prof. Stefano Procacci

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This course aims to offer students the tools necessary for understanding foreign policy within contemporary international relations, while concentrating primarily on factors which affect the formulation. The study is based on comparative illustration of foreign policy in prominent countries within politics worldwide.

At the end of the course, students will be able to: identify and describe the main steps of foreign policy elaboration and management; distinguish and classify the most important tools used by political actors; recognise the peculiarities of the different political regimes and cultures in foreign policy; carry out a critical analysis of the ethical and regulatory implications of foreign policy.

In addition, students will be able to: understand, analyse and comment the official documents issued by governments and international organisations during their diplomatic activity; identify and analyse the different decision-making mechanisms and the relevant actors in policy-making; recognise specific objectives, and the negotiation and compromise channels between actors.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* Analysis of foreign policy: definition and objectives of research;
* Theories of foreign policy: schools and paradigms;
* Foreign policy and the international system: limitations set by interest and anarchy;
* Domestic policy and foreign policy; the objectives and methods of foreign policy;
* History, diplomatic traditions and culture of society leaders;
* Psychological factors and decision-making mechanisms in foreign policy.
* Foreign policy of democratic states;
* Identity, nationalism and foreign policy;
* Globalisation and international public opinion;
* Foreign policy of the leading players within the contemporary international system: comparative analysis.

***READING LIST***

S. Smith-A. Hadfield-T. Dunne (edited by), *Foreign Policy: Theories,* *Actors, Cases,* Oxford University Press, 2016 (certain chapters only).

A. Panebianco, *Guerrieri democratici: democrazie e politica di potenza*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 1997, capp. 5 e 6.

T. Risse-kappen, *Public Opinion, Domestic Structure, and Foreign Policy in Liberal Democracies*, World Politics, 43, 4, 1991.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures integrated with presentations of case studies, which will be predominant.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment consists of a written exam, which aims to evaluate the following aspects: the level of learning concerning the contents of the discipline; and students’ acquisition of autonomous analytical skills. For this reason, it will be based on different kinds of questions, aimed to evaluate: 1. the learning of specific notions; 2. the ability to be concise in the presentation of the main aspects of a topic; 3. the accurate analysis of a specific case stydy. Each one of these three aspects will be tested through a specific open-ended question, that will be rated with a mark going from 0 to 7 points (in the first case), from 0 to 10 points (in the second case), and from 0 to 13 points (in the third case).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.