

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code / Title** : HA2017 Foreign Policy Analysis

**Pre-requisites** : HA1001

**No. of AUs.** : 3

**Contact Hours** : 39

### **Course Aims**

This course will familiarize the students with the key concepts and theories in foreign policy analysis and the complexity of variables influencing foreign policy decisions at individual, domestic and International levels. The course will unpack the role of key leaders and bureaucracies in discerning enablers and constraints (domestically and internationally) and how these impact foreign policy choices but also implementation strategies, the choice of instruments, and ultimately outcomes in FP. The course will also introduce students to main academic debates around these topics and privilege practical exercises involving the analysis of illustrative case studies (drawing from relevant historical and contemporary examples). The interactive nature of the seminars will foster students critical analysis as well as argumentation and presentation skills.

The course targets students who are interested in gaining a more structured understanding of how foreign policy is formulated and implemented and how it shapes international politics.

By providing you with a comprehensive understanding of the main factors shaping and influencing foreign policy choices, HA2017 is an important asset for those of you who are considering a future career as a diplomat or in consultancy, or just interested in gaining a better understanding of foreign affairs in general.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)**

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Summarise the historical evolution of FPA as an autonomous field
2. Explain difference between IR and FPA and discuss in what ways IR approaches inform foreign policy analysis
3. Identify and discuss variables that shape foreign policy decision making and its implementation at the individual, domestic and international levels
4. Explain main approaches and methodologies developed in FPA to tackle the inherent complexity of the object of study

5. Engage with material critically, both through oral and written analytical skills and develop team working skills
6. Construct and implement a sound research design to effectively dissect and explain foreign policy making in concrete cases studies

### **Course Content**

The course is divided in two parts. The first part provides and historical background and overview of foreign policy analysis evolution as an autonomous field, the main theoretical perspectives (realism, liberalism and constructivism) and how FPA relates to International Relations.

The second part focuses on the various factors that influence and shape decision making in foreign policy (namely actors, structures, media and public opinion, decision making models) as well as implementation strategies (instruments, economic statecraft, national security and transnational issues considerations). Each unit will include analysis and practical exercises of concrete foreign policy case studies.

### **Course Assessment**

CA1 - Journal article review	: 20%
CA2 - Case study project	: 30%
Final Examination	: 50%
<b>Total</b>	-----
	<b>100%</b>