

Miyazaki International University  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2023

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|--|--|---|
| Course Title (Credits)   | <b>POL307 Comparative Foreign Policy</b>               |   |
| Course Designation for TC  | N/A  |   |
| Content Teacher  |  |   |
| Instructor   | Rui Saraiva, Ph.D.                                     |   |
| E-mail address   | rsaraiva@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp                        |   |
| Office/Ext   | MIC2-202 / Ext 3771                                    |   |
| Office hours   | Wednesdays 14:00~17:00                                 |   |
| <b>Course Description:</b>   |  |   |
| <p>'Comparative Foreign Policy' introduces students to the complex world of international relations and foreign policy-making, offering a comprehensive understanding of how states operate on the global stage. This course equips students with the skills to critically analyze, visualize, and explore foreign policies across different countries by exploring comparative methodologies, analytical tools, and real-world case studies. From the foundational theories of comparative foreign policy to the practical application of data visualization techniques, students will examine the complex and multifaceted landscape of foreign policy design, implementation, and evaluation in the 21st century.</p>   |  |   |
| <b>Course Objectives:</b>  |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equip students with a robust understanding of comparative methodologies and their application in analyzing foreign policies of different nations.</li> <li>• Foster proficiency in various analytical tools, including decision-making models, game theory, statistical methods, and data visualization techniques, to dissect and present foreign policy data.</li> <li>• Encourage critical thinking and analytical skills by examining real-world case studies, ranging from economic diplomacy and security alliances to soft power strategies and the role of non-state actors.</li> <li>• Prepare students for future research and policy-oriented roles by emphasizing hands-on data visualization workshops and discussions on emerging trends in comparative foreign policy analysis.</li> </ul> |  |   |
| <b>Course Schedule:</b>  |  |   |
| <b>Day</b>   | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Content/Activities</b>   |
| <b>1</b>   | Introduction to Comparative Analysis in Foreign Policy | Basics of comparative methodology, importance of comparative study in foreign policy.                                 |
| <b>2</b>   |  |   |
| <b>3</b>   | Actors, Structures, and Foreign Policy Analysis        | Understanding the interplay between individual actors and overarching structures in shaping foreign policy decisions. |
| <b>4</b>   |  |   |
| <b>5</b>   | Comparative Analysis Tools I                           | Process tracing, discourse analysis, narrative analysis, frame analysis, visual analysis                              |
| <b>6</b>   |  |   |
| <b>7</b>   | Comparative Analysis Tools II                          | Statistical analysis and other quantitative methods for comparative research.   |
| <b>8</b>   |  |   |
| <b>9</b>   | Comparative Analysis Tools III                         | Situational awareness, social media analysis, conflict event data.  |
| <b>10</b>  |  |   |

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| 11 | Comparative Diplomacy  | Exploring the strategies, tools, and impact of diplomatic strategies across the globe.   |
| 12 |  |  |
| 13 | Review and Assessment  | Midterm evaluation preparation: Overview and key Points.   |
| 14 |  |  |
| 15 | Soft Power Strategies Across Countries                       | Concepts of soft power, public diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy. Examples and comparative analysis.   |
| 16 |  |  |
| 17 | Comparative Economic Statecraft                              | Trade policies, sanctions, economic diplomacy across countries.  |
| 18 |  |  |
| 19 | Security Policies: A Comparative Perspective                 | Defense policies, alliances, security dilemmas across nations.   |
| 20 |  |  |
| 21 | Comparative Analysis of Global and Regional Powers           | Comparative study of the foreign policies of major global powers – e.g., the US, China, Russia, and the EU – and major regional powers – e.g., Brazil, India, Japan, South Africa, Israel, and others. |
| 22 |  |  |
| 23 | Non-State Actors Across Countries                            | Comparative analysis of the influence of NGOs, MNCs, and NSAGs.  |
| 24 |  |  |
| 25 | Data Visualization in Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis I  | Introduction to foreign policy data visualization. Best practices for visual representation of comparative data.   |
| 26 |  |  |
| 27 | Data Visualization in Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis II | Hands-on workshop: Visualizing foreign policy data of two or more countries for direct comparison.   |
| 28 |  |  |
| 29 | Final Review   | Final evaluation preparation: Overview and key points. Future trends in comparative research, emerging challenges in policy analysis.  |
| 30 |  |  |

**Materials:**

Book chapters, short articles or relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor. Suggested readings:

Mello Patrick A and Falk Ostermann. 2023. *Routledge Handbook of Foreign Policy Analysis Methods*. Abingdon Oxon: Routledge.

Smith Steve Amelia Hadfield and Timothy Dunne. 2016. *Foreign Policy: Theories Actors Cases* Third ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)**

- To succeed in this course, your active participation is crucial. Doing well in this course will also depend on completing readings and homework before class. Students are

expected to discuss textbook materials, readings, and current events during class.

- Your withdrawal from the course will be recommended after five unexcused absences. Make sure you arrive on time. Absences will be recorded if you are more than 20 minutes late.
- It is crucial to take plagiarism seriously. Please consider “MIU Academic Honesty Guidelines” when preparing for your assignments, presentations, and written exams.

### **Class Preparation and Review**

Students should spend at least one hour reviewing and one more hour doing homework to prepare for each lesson.

### **Grades and Grading Standards**

- In-Class participation: 20%
- Assignments and presentations: 20%
- Mid-term examination: 30%
- Final examination: 30%

### **Methods of Feedback:**

Feedback will be given after written assignments, group presentations, and exams. All assignments will be graded within one to two weeks of submission, depending on class size.

### **Diploma Policy Objectives:**

Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):

1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
3. The ability to identify and solve problems
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English
5. Proficiency in the use of information technology

### **Notes:**

Throughout the semester, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as necessary.