

## **Comparative Foreign Policies of Major Powers-IR, 815 (Elective Course)**

**Course Description:** This course provides a comparative analysis of the foreign policies of major global powers, examining their historical evolution, key determinants, decision-making processes, and implications for international relations. Through case studies and theoretical frameworks, students will explore the similarities, differences, and interactions among major powers in shaping global politics and security dynamics. The course provides an in-depth comparative analysis of the foreign policies of three major global powers: the United States, China, and Russia. Students will explore the historical evolution, key determinants, strategic priorities, and global implications of their foreign policies. Through case studies, theoretical frameworks, and current events, students will critically assess how these powers shape and respond to international relations and global security dynamics.

**Course Objectives:** The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the prominent works in the field of comparative politics dealing with the theoretical approaches, basic concepts, and terminologies often used in the study of political systems and processes, commonly in all societies. The course provides a fundamental base to examine core theoretical and thematic approaches in the field of comparative politics. Further, the students are to be prepared to make meaningful comparisons of various political systems with reference to their political functions, structures, cultures, development, processes, etc.

**Learning Outcome:** To achieve the above-mentioned objective, the learning outcomes will:

- Enable the students with major theoretical approaches in comparative politics
- Enhance student's ability to employ these approaches to understand and explain contemporary political problems and political behaviors
- develop a deep understanding of the relationship among political, social, and economic phenomena within countries and in the international environment
- enhance a better understanding of the political consequences of distinctive practices and historical paths across countries, which includes inquiring about how political institutions emerge, how they operate and interact in the international environment, and how they shape individual and collective behavior to develop the abilities in student to formulate and construct logical arguments about political phenomena; and ability to synthesize and articulate core debates in comparative politics through empirical and theoretical methods.

## **Course Content**

Week 1:	Meanings and significance of comparative politics: Nature and Scope
Week 2:	Theoretical Perspectives: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism in Foreign Policy
Week 3:	Approaches of the study of politics: Traditional and Behavioral approaches with criticism.
Week 4:	System and Structural Functionalism
Week 5:	Rational-Choice Approach (Rationalism)
Week 6:	Institutional Approach (New Institutionalism)
Week 7:	Major Issues of National Identity and Integration: Legitimacy, Bureaucracy and Military Elite Roles, Charismatic Leadership in Political Systems, and Civil-Military Relations
Week 8:	Historical Evolution of US Foreign Policy: From Isolationism to Global Leadership
Week 9:	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
Week 10:	China's Foreign Policy: Rise of a Global Power and Belt and Road Initiative
Week 11:	Russia's Foreign Policy: From Soviet Legacy to Eurasian Strategy
Week 12:	Strategic Priorities: Security Alliances, Economic Diplomacy, and Military Strategies
Week 13:	Case Study: US Foreign Policy Post-Cold War—War on Terror and Pivot to Asia
Week 14:	Case Study: China's South China Sea Policy and Regional Hegemony
Week 15:	Russia-Ukraine Crisis: Energy Politics and Regional Influence
Week 16:	<i>Final Exams</i>

## **Reading Material**

- Almond, Gabriel A., G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Kaare Strom, and Russell J. Dalton. 2004. *Comparative Politics: A Theoretical Framework*. New York: Pearson and Longman.
- G. A. Almond, *Comparative Politics*, Princeton U.P. (latest edition)
- Almond, G. A. and J. Coleman, *The Politics of Developing Areas*, Princeton University Press, (latest edition)
- Wiseman, H. V., *Political System Some Sociological Approaches*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1966.
- Wiarda, Howard J. 2002. *New Directions in Comparative Politics*. Boulder: Westview.

- Evans, Peter. 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: State and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Society*. New Haven: University Press.
- Jalal, Ayesha. *Democracy and authoritarianism in South Asia: A comparative and historical perspective*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Moore, Barrington Jr. 1966. *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- North, Douglas C. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge University Press.
- Robert, A. Dahl. *On Democracy*. New Heaven: Yale University Press, London.