

Comparative Strategic Cultures

- a. Credit Hours 3-0
- b. Course Code:SS-820
- c. Course Title

Comparative Strategic Cultures

- d. **Course Description**

This course offers a comparative analysis of strategic cultures across different countries and regions, exploring how historical experiences, societal norms, and political institutions shape national security policies and military strategies. Through interdisciplinary perspectives, students will examine the concept of strategic culture and its implications for international relations, conflict behavior, and alliance dynamics. By comparing the strategic cultures of major powers and regional actors, students will gain insights into the complexities of strategic decision-making and the role of culture in shaping security perceptions and strategies.

- e. **Course Outcomes**

- A general familiarisation with the concept of strategic culture.
- A critical understanding of theoretical aspects related to strategic culture.
- A competent knowledge of how strategic cultures define geopolitics, conflicts, and security frameworks globally.
- An understanding of the impact of different strategic cultures on transient world systems.
- A reasonable prediction of future trends in the study of strategic culture based on historical and current dynamics analyses.

- f. **Course Objectives**

This course is intended to introduce the concept of strategic culture to students seeking to deepen their understanding of international relations and security studies and broaden their theoretical and methodological toolsets. The course seeks to explore strategic cultures from the general perspective (i.e., how states possess strategic cultures and how their foreign policies defend the threat) and the individual (how people feel secure in the context of their place in society and the political and social systems). Students are expected to be able to assess the nature of security in all of its primary facets

through the lens of strategic culture. To achieve this, we will be moving from the macro to the micro in several ways, formally in lectures/lecture-based discussions and in the context of tutorials besides research assignments and presentations.

g. **Course Contents**

- Week 1:** Introduction
- Week 2:** Definitional aspects
- Week 3:** Conceptual aspects
- Week 4:** First wave of philosophers
- Week 5:** Second wave of philosophers
- Week 6:** Third wave of philosophers
- Week 7:** Evolution of Strategic Thought
- Week 8:** Strategic thought and strategic culture
- Week 9: *Midterm Exam***
- Week 10:** Theory of Strategic Culture?
- Week 11:** Strategic culture and dominant IR theories
- Week 12:** Applying Strategic Culture - Case studies of different strategic Cultures
- Week 13:** External factors
- Week 14:** Contemporary Debate
- Week 15:** The future of Strategic Culture – global strategic culture?
- Week 16: *Final Exam***

h. **Recommended Readings**

- Ali, S. (2022). Strategic culture and Inter-State relations: A case of Pakistan and India. *Margalla Papers*, 26(I), 121-131.
- Basrur, R. (2022). Indian strategic culture. *Routledge Handbook of the International Relations of South Asia*, 63-78.
- Briskey, M. (2022). The Foundations of Pakistan's Strategic Culture: Fears of an Irredentist India, Muslim Identity, Martial Race, and Political Realism. *Journal of Advanced Military Studies* 13, 130-152.
- Liebig, M. (2021). Interrogating 'Hyphenated Cultures'. *Journal of Defence Studies*, 15(3), 9-40.

- Chaaterji, A. (2020). In search of a strategic culture in Indian foreign policy. Diplomatist. <https://diplomatist.com/2020/08/07/in-search-of-a-strategic-culture-in-indian-foreign-policy/>
- Strategy in the Contemporary World, ed. by Baylis, Wirtz and Gray, Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Strachan H., The Direction of War: Contemporary Strategy in Historical Perspective, Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Kartchner, K., Johnson, J., Strategic Culture and Weapons of Mass Destruction. Culturally Based Insights into Comparative National Security Policymaking, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.
- Smith R., The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World, Alfred A. Knopf, 2007.
- Darryl Howlett, *The Future of Strategic Culture* (Washington DC: Defense Threat Reduction Agency Advanced Systems and Concepts Office Comparative Strategic, 2006).
- Bozeman A., Politics and Culture in International History, Transaction Publisher, 2002.
- Katzenstein P.J., The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics, Columbia University Press, 1996.
- Elizabeth Kier, "Culture and French Military Doctrine Before World War II", in Peter J. Katzenstein ed. The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics (1996)
- Stephen Peter Rosen, "Military Effectiveness: Why Society Matters," International Security, vol. 19 (Spring 1995)
- Gray C.S., Modern Strategy, Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Colin S. Gray, "Comparative Strategic Culture," *Parameters* 14, no. 1 (1984), doi:10.55540/0031-1723.1352.
- Snyder, J., The Soviet Strategic Culture: Implications for Limited Nuclear Operations, RAND Co., 1977.