

## SYLLABUS DE COURS / ACADEMIC SYLLABUS

# French Foreign Policy

### Intitulé du cours / Course title

Discipline <i>Academic field</i>	History, Geopolitics, International relations
Enseignant <i>Teacher</i>	Alessandro Cecchini
Contact <i>E-mail address</i>	alessandro.cecchini@etu.univ-amu.fr
Niveau de formation <i>Academic level</i>	International Students
Volume horaire <i>Hours</i>	20
Langue <i>Language</i>	english

### Description du cours / Course outline

The course main goal is to give students the tools to understand France foreign Policy since 1945, by underlining its key structures, ideologies and issues.

It explores France's colonial role during the decline of the European empires, its distinctive position within Cold War dynamics, and its strategic and discursive orientations in the post-Cold War era.

The course will begin with an analysis of the ideological and bureaucratic foundations of French diplomacy, before adopting a historical perspective covering the period from the Cold War to the end of Emmanuel Macron's first presidential term. Finally it will end with multiple case studies.

### Objectifs pédagogiques du cours / Course objectives

- Understand the frameworks within which foreign policy is developed
- Identify the major political and diplomatic strategies adopted by France since 1945
- Recognize the key actors and institutions shaping French foreign policy
- Understand France's historical position within the international community

### Compétences acquises / Learning outcomes

- Knowledge about different actors & issues connected with French Foreign Policy
- Understanding the different interactions and temporalities of these actors
- Analyses of international crises involving France

1. France decision makers and institutions: *Presidential power and centralized foreign policy*
2. France Military Power, nuclear arsenal and the Intelligence Community: *Strategic autonomy and a crumbling empire*
3. France and the shift of the Fifth Republic: *restoring France's "grandeur"*
4. France after the end of Cold War: *Change and continuity*
5. France and the Arab Muslim world: *A real strategic partnership or a manipulative mediator for the West?*
6. France and the European Integration: *an uneasy relationship of a possible leader*
7. France's foreign policy towards Russia: *Dialogue, deterrence, and strategic ambiguity*
8. France and Africa: *colonial past, neocolonial present?*
9. Contemporary France Policies
10. France's foreign policy towards the United States

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Références bibliographiques / Bibliography

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Antonio V. Menéndez Alarcón (ed.) *French and US approaches to foreign policy*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Frédéric Bozo, *French foreign policy since 1945. An Introduction*, Berghahn, 2016.

Pernille Rieker, *French Foreign Policy in a Changing World. Practising Grandeur*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2017.

Daniel Möckli, *European Foreign Policy during the Cold War: Heath, Brandt, Pompidou and the Dream of Political Unity*. I. B. Tauris, 2009.

Antonio Varsori, *Europe 1945–1990s*. Palgrave Macmillan UK, 1995.

Maxime Lefebvre. *La Politique étrangère de la France*, Presses Universitaires de France. « Que sais-je ? », (2022)

Vaisse, Maurice. *La puissance ou l'influence ? La France dans le monde depuis 1958*, Fayard, 2009.

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Mini CV de l'enseignant / Mini CV of the teacher

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Alessandro Cecchini is a PhD candidate in Contemporary History and International Relations at Aix-Marseille University, jointly affiliated with Sciences Po Aix and the University of Padua. His research focuses on French and Italian foreign policy, with particular attention to security perceptions and cooperation dynamics. His main areas of interest include the Mediterranean region, the Arab and Muslim world and actors within foreign policy-making structures.