

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Degree:	
Double Degree:	Derecho y Ciencias Políticas de la Administración (Taught in English)
Course:	International Relations (904069) (Relaciones Internacionales. Taught in English)
Module:	
Department:	Public International Law and International Relations
Term:	First Term
Total Credits:	4,5
Year:	3º
Type of Course:	Basic
Course Language:	English

Teaching model:	A1	
a. General/background:		70%
b. Theory-into-practice/developmental knowledge-building		30%
c. Guided Academic Activities:		

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2. COURSE COORDINATOR

Course coordinator:	
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3. ACADEMIC CONTEXT

3.1. Course Description and Objectives

The objective of this course is for students to develop a critical understanding of the nature and functioning of the international system, paying special attention to its underlying power structures and interaction of relevant actors (be they at the global, regional, national or local level). To that aim it is necessary first to analyse the historical evolution of “international society”, before setting out the principal theoretical paradigms traditionally adhered to with regards the study of International Relations (Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism and Post-Structuralism). The final part of the course then addresses specific power structures and processes: the international political economy in the era of globalization; international and global security; and the significance of the rise of China.

3.2. Contribution to the Training Plan

International Relations is a discipline pertaining to the Grado en Ciencias Políticas y de la Administración, which analyses the multifaceted and often conflictual nature of power relations generated within global politics. In so doing it helps to better comprehend the different power structures and numerous actors operating in “international society” i.e. not limited to the State, hitherto considered the prime, if not sole, agent within traditional international relations theory. In the ever-increasingly globalized world in which we now live the study of international relations (IR) takes on even greater relevance, providing theoretical frameworks and vital conceptual tools to better explain the complex socio-economic and politico-judicial processes under way and their manifestation in concrete events. A good background in IR, furthermore, helps prepare the terrain for the study of Public International Law and the formal regulation of relations of between the different state and non-state actors within contemporary “international society”. Sound knowledge of IR is considered absolutely fundamental for the training of any political scientist, permitting him/her a better understanding of the various models for organizing society.

3.3. Recommendations or Prerequisites

Students should come to class (both the EB and EPD sessions) well-prepared, having completed the assigned readings and kept up-to-date on international current affairs. This will not only give the students a better understanding of the material presented but also contribute to a more stimulating and participatory class.

4. SKILLS

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4.1 Degree Skills Developed during this Course

Problem-solving with the ability to analyze and synthesize.

Ability to apply knowledge in practice.

Ability to communicate orally and in writing in a second language with both experts and non-experts.

Ability to learn and to reflect on one's own learning; seek and make use of feed-back

Ability to commit oneself to a task.

Ability to contribute to and to participate at teamwork

Ability to cooperate in an international environment

Ability to conduct academic and professional research efficiently

4.2. Module Skills Developed during this Course

Academic competences:

Knowledge and understanding of the principal theories of international relations and the nature, dynamics and challenges faced by today's "international society"

Develop a critical awareness in the analysis of the global system and the relation between international actors

Disciplinary competences:

Use information technology (IT) to obtain political information (data bases, bibliography, Internet) and communicate data

Be able to structure and create solutions to political problems

Professional competences:

Acquire the ability to manage political documentation and data

Develop political debating and speech-making techniques: ability to express oneself in a fluent technical language using precise, clear political terminology

Acquire the ability to read, interpret and edit a wide range of political texts

Be able to resolve political problems

4.3. Course-specific Skills

Understand the essential characteristics of contemporary "international society"

Ability to analyze the contemporary global system: its actors, power structures, and on-going processes

Knowledge of the principal IR theories; correct use of specific IR terminology

Comprehension of different political systems and how they inter-relate within the international system

Management of relevant databases, texts and documentation

Develop the capacity to work in a team

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5. COURSE CONTENT (COURSE TOPICS)

1. The Historical Evolution of International Society

Unit 1: The Historical Evolution of International Society (IS) up till 1945

1. Basic concepts
2. IS of European States (1648-1789)
3. IS of “civilised Christian States” (1789-1856)
4. IS “civilized States” (1856-1914)
5. IS during the inter-war years (1918-1939)

Unit 2: The Cold War

1. Causes (1944-1947)
2. The *First* Cold War (1947-1953)
3. Oscillating Antagonism (1953-1968)
4. *Détente* (1969-1978)
5. The *Second* Cold War (1979-1985)
6. The end of the Cold War and collapse of the USSR

Unit 3: The Post-Cold War World Order

1. Dawning of a “new world order”?
2. The end of history?
3. Elements of continuity & discontinuity
4. Towards a multipolar world order?

2. Theoretical Framework

Unit 4: Realism & Neo-Realism

1. Historical context
2. Essential elements of realism
3. Neo-realism
4. Offensive vs. defensive realism

Unit 5: Liberalism & Neo-Liberalism

1. Essential elements of liberalism
2. Internationalism
3. Idealism
4. Pluralism/institutionalism
5. The neo-neo debate

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Unit 6: Marxism & Neo-Marxism

1. Essential elements of Marxism
2. Imperialism: Lenin & Luxemburg
3. Dependency theory
4. World System theory
5. Neo-Gramscian perspective
6. Critical theory

Unit 7: Constructivism & Poststructuralism

1. Social constructivism
2. Social constructivism and global change
3. Poststructuralism as a political philosophy
4. Deconstructing state sovereignty
5. Identity and foreign policy

3. Structures & Processes

Unit 8: International Political Economy in the Age of Globalization

1. The Post-War international economic system
2. Neoliberalism y the Washington Consensus
3. International regulation of global trade and finance
3. Globalization: cost-benefit analysis
4. Financial crises

Unit 9: International & Global Security

1. The changing character of war
2. Conceptualizing “security”
3. Cooperation between states and in conflict prevention and management
4. Role of the UN Security Council
5. Tensions between national, international and global security
6. Terrorism and globalization

Unit 10: The Rise of China

1. Historical context
2. China and the global economy
3. Internal economic and political challenges
4. Sino-US relations
5. Regional geopolitical tensions
6. New reforms and the future

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6. METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCES

General Teaching

A series of basic activities will be carried out as a large group, 2 hour sessions with the lecturer. In these sessions the lecturer will provide a basic theoretical framework for the course by topic. There may be changes in the order the above “units” are covered.

Practical Work/Teaching

Eight 1.5-hour ‘theory-into-practice’ sessions. In these sessions the lecturer will coordinate practical learning activities. As it may not always be possible to cover every topic in depth, students are encouraged to make good use of the required readings and other relevant bibliography.

Pertinent theoretical/practical questions and problems will be explained and discussed. Concepts learned in the Theory classes will be put into practice and explored.

Practical learning and knowledge-building sessions are designed for regular attendance.

There will be a special emphasis on the applicability of the course. Theoretical and practical questions will be covered, along with current international events, with an aim to apply concepts learned in theory sessions. Theory-into-practice sessions are designed around three main goals: to consolidate theoretical knowledge acquired through reading the required textbook and attending class; to learn to apply theoretical models to specific real-world problems; to build reasoning and critical thinking skills. These sessions are aimed at making students more aware of their progress as well as of their weaknesses with regard to the comprehension and assimilation of course material. The lecturer will pay special attention to points students find difficult and focus on key concepts /skills. In turn, students will solve problems relating to course topics, resolve doubts and prepare presentations with the help of the professor. The aim here is for students to develop information-gathering, in-depth analysis and synthesis skills while acquiring knowledge about a given subject.

Active participation in class discussions and completion of all assignments will be valued highly when it comes to assessing students.

7. ASSESSMENT



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Assessment of the course will maintain consistency with the training activities undertaken in this type of subject and is made up of two components: General Teaching (GT) and practical work in seminars (PT).

The specific skills and learning tools acquired in GT, will be assessed via a final exam, and constitutes 70% of the total grade. The remaining 30% of the final grade corresponds to PT, and will be evaluated through the continuous assessment of a wide range of written and oral activities carried out in these sessions designed to reinforce the specific skills acquired in GT.

Student participation in both GT as well as PT is encouraged and will be reflected in the final grade.

To pass the course students need to achieve a minimum of 3 out of 7 in the GT final exam. For the grade in the PT to count towards the total grade students must achieve a minimum of 1 out of 3.

In the second exam session (June) students will have the opportunity of retaking the exam corresponding to GT.

Those students who either did not attend, failed to pass or intend to waiver their pass grade in PT, will have the option of sitting an additional special PT exam (worth 30% of the final grade).

Students wishing to take said PT exam must inform the professor of their intention to do so a minimum of 10 days before. (Those students who formally renounce their PT grade but fail to attend to said exam will receive a 0 for PT).

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8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Core Text

BAYLIS, J. SMITH, S. y Owens, P. (eds.): The Globalisation of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2014

Recommended Texts

ARENAL, C. del, y SANAHUJA, J.A.: Teorías de las Relaciones Internacionales, Tecnos, Madrid, 2015

BUZAN, B. & HANSEN, I.: The Evolution of International Security Studies, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2009

COX, R.W.: Social Forces, States and World Order: Beyond International Relations Theory, *Millenium* 10(2) 126-55

CARR, E.H.: The Twenty Year Crisis (1919-1939): An Introduction to the Study of International Relations, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Hants, 2001.

DUYVESTYN, I & ANGSTROM, J. (eds.), Rethinking the Nature of War, Frank Cass, London, 2005

FENBY, J.: Tiger Head, Snake Tail: China Today, How it Got There and Why it Has to Change, Simon & Schuster, London, 2013

FUKUYAMA, F.: The End of History and the Last Man, Penguin, London, 1992

HALLIDAY, F.: Rethinking International Relations, Macmillan, London, 1994

HARVEY, D.: A Brief History of Neoliberalism, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2007

HOBBSBAWN, E.: Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1990

HOBBSBAWN, E.: Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991, Michael Joseph, London, 1994

HOFFMAN, B.: Inside Terrorism, Columbia University Press, New York, 2006

HUNTINGTON, S. P.: The Class of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1996

JAIQUES, M.: When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order, Penguin Press, New York, 2009

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- PEERENBOOM, R.: China Modernizes: threat to the West or model to the rest? [Recurso Electrónico] Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007
- POWASKI, R.E.: The Cold War: The United States and The Soviet Union 1917-1991, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1998
- STIGLITZ, J.E.: Free Fall: Free Markets and the Sinking of the Global Economy, Allen Lane, New York, 2010
- STUBBS, R. & UNDERHILL, G.R.D. (eds.): Political Economy and the Changing Global Order, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005
- TILLY, C.: Coercion, Capital and European states, AD 990-1990, Wiley & Blackwell, Oxford, 2nd Edition, 1992
- TRUYOL Y SERRA, A.: La Sociedad Internacional, 3^a reimpr. de la 2^a ed., Alianza Editorial, Madrid, 2001.

USEFUL WEB SITES

- <http://www.un.org/> - United Nations
- http://europa.eu/index_en.htm - European Union
- www.imf.org –International Monetary Fund
- www.unctad.org – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- www.worldbank.org/ - World Bank
- www.wto.org/ - World Trade Organization
- <http://www.china.org.cn/>- China
- www.realinstitutoelcano.org/ - *Real Instituto Elcano*
- www.economist.com – Economist
- www.ft.com – Financial Times
- www.nytimes.com –New York Times
- www.foreignaffairs.com – Foreign Affairs