

Centro	Facultat de Ciències Socials
Período académico	2020-2021
Estudio	Grado en Ciencias Políticas
Asignatura	Relaciones Internacionales
Créditos ECTS	6

Idioma de impartición de las clases

English

Descripción

The course aims at introducing students to the interdisciplinary study of international relations and focuses on the two major approaches therein: International law and International Relations. This course expects to get students acquainted with the most important tools of these two disciplines and, hence, is conceived as a cross-cutting introduction to the analysis of international law and politics.

The course will fuse a theoretical, conceptual approach and a practical focus on contemporary international issues, adopting a legal and a political angle. Students will get an overview of the international system and will study its main components: the actors, the processes and the structure, as well as a deeper treatment of some issues and cases high in the global agenda. This refers to international humanitarian law, human rights or international conflicts. Besides, the course will pay attention to the analysis of Spanish foreign policy-making system.

Objetivos. Conocimientos y habilidades

As laid out above, the **main objective of the course** is to make students familiar with the main issues in International Relations and International Law, both in theory and practice. The course seeks to provide students with an understanding of the relevance and role that the study of international relations has in today's world. It also aims at providing students awareness of global, important issues.

The course seeks to facilitate students essential **knowledge and abilities** on these two areas and properly skill them. Thus, at the end of the semester students are expected to have acquired expertise in the following items

Knowledge

- [1] Identifying the main tenets of International Law and International Relations, and having a solid background therein
- [2] Analysing the most important elements of the international system: actors, structure, processes and norms
- [3] Understanding the main trends in international legal and political developments in the post Second World War times
- [4] Assessing related aspects: foreign policy-making systems and machineries, international conflicts, global trends, features of the international society

Abilities

- [1] Qualification to summarise, analyse and understand relevant international events and structures, from a legal and political perspective, and with a practical and a conceptual-theoretical focus
- [2] Capacity to discern the roles and functions of states, international organisations and other diplomatic actors, as well as the nature of the relationship among them and the international outcomes
- [3] Faculty to address on their own the main aspects of international relations and law and expand their knowledge and interest in these fields
- [4] Competence to come to conclusions and generalisations about aspects related to the course out of case studies and practical exercises
- [5] Rigour to work on a concrete topic throughout the course, as well as presenting it both orally and in written format

CB1 - Que los estudiantes hayan demostrado poseer y comprender conocimientos en un área de estudio que parte de la base de la educación secundaria general, y se suele encontrar a un nivel que, si bien se apoya en libros de texto avanzados, incluye también algunos aspectos que implican conocimientos procedentes de la vanguardia de su campo de estudio

CB2 - Que los estudiantes sepan aplicar sus conocimientos a su trabajo o vocación de una forma profesional y posean las competencias que suelen demostrarse por medio de la elaboración y defensa de argumentos y la resolución de problemas dentro de su área de estudio

CB3 - Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética

CB4 - Que los estudiantes puedan transmitir información, ideas, problemas y soluciones a un público tanto especializado como no especializado

CB5 - Que los estudiantes hayan desarrollado aquellas habilidades de aprendizaje necesarias para emprender estudios posteriores con un alto grado de autonomía

CG3 - Ser capaz de comprender y sintetizar proposiciones complejas sobre cuestiones sociales y políticas, con sentido crítico, en el contexto en el que se presentan.

CG4 - Ser capaz de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes para elaborar argumentaciones propias.

CG6 - Ser capaz de participar en equipos de trabajo y de liderarlos.

CG7 - Ser capaz de negociar y gestionar la asunción de acuerdos.

CG8 - Ser capaz de adquirir un compromiso ético y personal con la orientación por la calidad, la excelencia y el sacrificio personal.

CT1 - Ser capaz de expresarse correctamente en castellano y catalán. El logro de esta competencia implica conocer la gramática castellana catalana, siendo capaz de expresarse en ambas lenguas de forma correcta y comprensible, tanto por escrito como oralmente.

CE2 - Capacidad para identificar y comprender la estructura y el funcionamiento de los sistemas e instituciones políticas, así como para hacer una reflexión crítica sobre las mismas.

CE4 - Capacidad para tomar conciencia de los fundamentos básicos de la Ciencia de la Administración, de la ética pública y la ética de la Administración.

CE5 - Capacidad para explicar los fundamentos básicos de la economía política y la economía pública.

CE6 - Capacidad para analizar y realizar una reflexión crítica sobre los procesos de integración política y económica, la estructura, el funcionamiento y las políticas de la Unión Europea.

CE7 - Capacidad para comprender la política internacional, el derecho internacional público y las relaciones internacionales, así como para interpretar las variables geopolíticas del mundo contemporáneo.

CE8 - Capacidad para asumir como valores esenciales en el desarrollo del quehacer de los politólogos los que toman forma en los principios generales del Derecho y en la Declaración Universal de derechos humanos.

CE10 - Capacidad para comprender, desarrollar y aplicar estrategias de liderazgo político.

Metodología docente

Course design

The course is intended to combine different approaches and methods to give students the key elements to understand, analyse and scrutinise the tenets of International Law and International Relations. Thus, the course will be laid out as follows

Lectures: during the lectures the main concepts of the course will be presented, discussed and debated. Lectures (14%) will combine a conceptual as well as practical overview on the main subjects under discussion, combining historical accounts with discussion on breaking political events and legal aspects.

Seminars and workshops (5%): a significant amount of the workload will be devoted to students' work at home. This will take the form of written and oral contributions and assignments

Semi-presencial: 81%

Practical cases: case studies on different politically important topics, debate on current events, and so on

Material: students will have at their disposal all types of documents and materials that will either help them throughout the course or serve as the basis of continuous assessments. *Prima facie*, this supporting stuff will be

Power Point presentations: presentations discussed in class will be uploaded onto Campusnet after the classes. Guidance materials: links, websites and other Internet-based materials

Articles, working papers, memos... and other documents for debate and discussion, normally addressed to prepare class activities

Compulsory and recommended bibliography, as well as additional readings

Sistema de evaluación

The grading system will be structured as follows

Classwork: 40%

- Contribution to the course
- (Few) Specific assignments related to the contents
- Input and reflection from students
- Written or oral

Seminars and workshops: 30%

- Assignments
- Continuous assessment
- Written or oral
- Presentation of a chosen / mutually agreed topic

Mid-term exam: 20%

- 8th week approx.
- Review of the course
- Three types: Multiple Choice, Yes / No, short questions

Final paper and presentation: 10 %

- Last day of the course
- Presentation of a chosen or mutually agreed topic

Temario. Contenidos

[I] The international system: Law and Politics

1. Introduction to the international system

- Definition
- Characteristics of today's international system
- Main actors
- Structure
- Process

[III] Basic principles of International Public Law

2. Origins and evolution of International Public Law

- a. International society and International Public Law
- b. Origins and evolution
- c. Institutionalisation of the international system
- d. The United Nations and its legal system
- e. Comments

3. International subjectivity of actors

- a. Subjects and actors in international society
- b. Origins and evolution of legal personality
- c. Statehood
- d. The legal personality of international organisations

[IIII] Introduction to today's political map, characteristics of the international society and main schools of thought

4. International Relations as a discipline

- a. The study of international relations
- b. The importance of the theoretical approach to international law and politics
- c. Levels of analysis
- d. Main theories and approaches

5. Power politics

- a. Definition and attributes of power
- b. Power politics
- c. Diplomatic powers
- d. Unipolarity, bipolarity, multipolarity

6. The State

- a. Concept of nation and state
- b. Main characteristics
- c. The post Westphalian era
- d. Role of states in international relations

7. International organisations

- a. What are international organisations?
- b. Rise and consolidation of international organisations
- c. International organisations and international society
- d. Role of international organisations in today's world

8. The United Nations: principles, structure, basic issues, challenges

- a. Creation of the United Nations
- b. UN Charter
- c. Principles
- d. Structure
- e. Issues and challenges

9. International conflict

- a. Definition and concept
- b. Types
- c. Causes
- d. Terrorism and the war against terrorism
- e. Issues and Challenges

10. International society and globalisation

- a. Today's agenda
- b. Globalisation: a reader
- c. Economic, political and socio-cultural dimensions
- d. The anti globalisation movement

[IV] The contemporary international society - some features and issues in the global agenda

11. Issues in the global agenda: international humanitarian law, international conflicts and international legal regulation

- a. Towards a global legal regulation of armed conflicts
- b. International Humanitarian Law and the Red Cross
- c. Cases in international conflicts
- d. Issues and Challenges

12. Issues in the global agenda: human rights

- a. Human rights: definition and main characteristics
- b. Historical background
- c. Human rights and the United Nations
- d. Further codification and programs

13. Cases in international foreign policy-making: the European Union and the United States

- a. Historical records
- b. The European Union: towards a single or common foreign policy?
- c. The United States: hegemony and multilateralism
- d. Issues in the agenda

14. Analysis of cases in Spanish foreign policy and external relations of the Autonomous Communities

- a. Spanish foreign policy; the basics
- b. Historical accounts and main issues
- c. External action of the Autonomous Communities
- d. Foreign policy and consensus

15. Presentation of students

Bibliografía básica

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International relations / Jon C. W. Pevehouse, Joshua S. Goldstein.
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Bibliografía complementaria

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