

Prague University of Economics and Business

IP_334 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

International Relations are introduced in theoretical and substantial contexts. Basis of IR theory is provided: realist approach, alternative and critical approaches, theoretical schools and their concepts. IR within globalization, international organizations and institutions and their activities, diplomacy and negotiation are discussed. Special space is reserved for the substantive issues: foreign policy, security cooperation, international finance, international trade, international development, regional integration, international environment, human rights, international law, international cooperation in areas of health, labor, telecommunications, intellectual property, disarmament. The EU's international role and the Transatlantic Agenda are underlined. Where appropriate, an economic explanation of the international relations elements and their grounds is given.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course provides students with an introduction in International Relations (IR) and allows better understanding of the IR framework, their theoretical concepts, context and substantive issues, as well as the European perspectives and the role of the European Union in the IR. The perspective of several different countries and their role in the IR is a subject of students' research and presentations, while the origin and nationality of students participating in the course is taken into account.

COURSE MATERIAL

Readings: at CESP web page or distributed in class

Policy Perspectives papers: at CESP web page

Let's debate the issue papers: at CESP web page

Books: in the VSE library or library study room

Main:
GOLDSTEIN, Joshua S. a PEVEHOUSE, Jon C. *International relations*. 10th, Pearson new international ed. Harlow: Pearson, ©2014. ii, 575 s. ISBN 978-1-29202-309-0.

Supplementary - recommended:

Carlsnaes, W.; Risse, T.; Simmons B.A.: *Handbook of International Relations*, Sage Publications Ltd. 2002, ISBN 0761963049 (VSE library)

Hill, C.; Smith, M.: *International Relations and the EU*, Oxford University Press, 2005, ISBN 0199273480 (VSE library - study room only)

Shaw, M.: *Global Society and International Relations* (selected chapters), <http://www.martinshaw.org/global.htm>

Supplementary readings and discussion issues: at the CESP web page

Lectures - powerpoint presentations in pdf: at the CESP web page

COURSE FORMAT

The course will be conducted in the form of lectures (2 hours per week) and seminars (2 hours per week). The course also includes discussions and students presentations.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation is an important element in the learning process. Active participation is expected. Mid-term test and final tests (an essay) are based on lectures and on the discussion during seminars. Students are graded on their attendance and contribution to class discussion (20 points out of 100), presentations (25 points out of 100) and on the test (25 points out of 100) and the essay results (30 points out of 100). Voluntary inputs are strongly encouraged.

PRESENTATION

Students are expected to prepare a presentation focused on the role of the different states in international relations in the past or in the present or a presentation focused on details, developments and current stage on any issue of international relations.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance of students is expected. Unexcused repeated absences will adversely affect one's course grade.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Course grade will be determined on the basis of the following:

Presentation 25 %

Class attendance and active discussion 20%

Mid-term test 25%

Final essay 30%

Midterm test: 6th – 8th week of the semester.

Students' presentations start the 8th week of the semester (up to 3 presentations per one seminar).

Final essay 11th or 12th week of the semester: on given topic within international relations: 800 words for bachelor students, 1200 words for master students

COURSE CONTENT

Introduction into IR

- Definition of international relations, history, development of theories, different concepts of international relations, norms and ethics, linkages of the theories to evidence in international relations
- Globalization: how and in which fields the global tendencies influence international relations; how it differs from increasing interdependence among states and nations (interconnectedness in trade, finance, investment, capital flows, human mobility, exchange of information, telecommunication, etc.).
- Importance of geography in IR

Realism in IR, Influence of the history on IR

- Realists ground, power politics, elements of power, material power, soft power, how to measure power
- Bargaining: strategies of negotiations -- reciprocity, deterrence, compellence, escalation, arm race
- Military power, military alliances

Alternatives to power politics

- Liberalism, feminism, constructivism. Gender in international relations
- Diplomacy, bargaining and negotiations in international relations and in international organizations, role of culture, symmetry/asymmetry, side-effects, mediation and multilateral negotiations, negotiations dynamics
- Prisoners dilemma

International organizations and institutions

- UN structure. Security Council
- Other activities of the UN organizations and of the UN specialized agencies, impacts of these organizations' activities on the international relations and domestic policies
- UN diplomacy

Human Rights

- Human rights: definition, universal norms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, violation of human rights (political, economic, cultural, ideological and psychological explanations of the grounds and causes)
- UN - Human Rights Council. One world festival.

International Law

- Definition, characteristics, principles, various approaches in IR theory. Compliance of international relations and international law (compliance with international treaties, with international court decisions), domestic linkages
- Law of war x law in war, treaties, enforcement, war crimes, International Court of Justice, International Law Commission

International Trade

- Development of the multilateral trading system, impacts of the international trade policy rules on the domestic policy
- Protectionism versus liberalisms, problems faced by developing and least-developed countries in world trade
- Resolution of trade disputes

International Finance

- International monetary system development since the Second World War, state behavior (money and power), financial globalization (causes and consequences for states).
- Role of FDI in developing countries

Foreign Policy

- Linkages to international relations and domestic policies
- Types of decisions within the foreign policy. Case study

International Development

- Dependence, interdependence, transnationalism
- Role of the state in development, role of international organizations
- Financing development, food aid, technical assistance for developing countries

International Integration

- Types of integration.
- Global integration blocks, regional integration blocks, political and economic consequences of integration
- Integration among developing countries

Transatlantic agenda

- EU and USA relations, history, development
- Future of the transatlantic relations. Integration: regionalism and global governance