

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

IP_334 B

The University of Economics in Prague

Spring Semester 2019

Lecture Times: Thursday, 14:30 – 17:45, room RB 115

Office hours: Thursday, 12:00 – 13:00, room NB 121

Convenor: Monika Bokšová
monika.boksova@vse.cz

Holidays: 18 April, (week 10 – no classes)
25 April, (week 11 – no classes)

Midterm Test: 14 March, 14:30 (week 5)

Final Exam: 9 May, 14:30 (week 13)

Course Description/Course Objective

This course employs regional and topical approach to selected international issues. The aim of this course is to introduce the students to different academic disciplines relevant in international affairs and to apply the presented frameworks to concrete empirical cases.

The main method used in the course will consist of lecturing, however, both the

Central and East European Studies Program

University of Economics, Prague

nam. W. Churchilla 4 • 130 67 Prague 3 • Czech Republic

tel.: (+420) 224 098 543 • (+420) 224 098 544 • (+420) 224 098 545

fax: (+420) 224 098 595 • cesp@vse.cz

<http://cesp.vse.cz>

lectures and the required reading list are designed to, firstly, incentivise in-depth discussion in the class, secondly, come up with thought-provoking notions and, lastly, to form lively atmosphere.

Additionally, the students will be equally provided with practical skills which are essential for applications for civil servants jobs or jobs at international organizations.

Upon successful completion of this course the students should be able to independently present, analyse and discuss selected world events and regions from different angles and perspectives and, consequently, evaluate them critically. Besides acquiring the skills to think analytically, the students will get practical insights of how to apply for international relations related jobs and internships.

Grading Scheme and Course Requirements

Assessment for this course comprises **five** components:

Attendance 20%

Preparation for the class 28%

Midterm Test 20%

Final Exam 30%

Active Participation 2%

1. Lecture attendance (20%)

Attendance is **mandatory** from **February 21** onwards. There are ten weeks with two classes every Thursday (holidays excluded), in other words, 20 classes in total. Attendance to each class counts for one point. Only **two excused absences** (two classes, NOT(!) two days) will be tolerated without any penalties. Please note that third absence will already lead to deduction of the first point. Punctuality is crucial - late arrival (or earlier leave) to the class (up to 30 min.) is tolerated just **once**, for any subsequent late arrival (earlier leave) the attendance point will not be provided.

Absence on any exam day or excursion day will NOT be tolerated unless you are medically excused (doctor's confirmation needs to be provided).

Shall you be absent for family or travel reasons, please, let me **always** know by email or in the class **in advance**.

Central and East European Studies Program

University of Economics, Prague

nam. W. Churchilla 4 • 130 67 Prague 3 • Czech Republic

tel.: (+420) 224 098 543 • (+420) 224 098 544 • (+420) 224 098 545

fax: (+420) 224 098 595 • cesp@vse.cz

<http://cesp.vse.cz>

2. Midterm Test (20%)

It will be written during the class in week 5 and it will consist of the following components:

blind map (8 points)

short answer questions (6 points)

multiple choice questions (6 points)

3. Preparation for the class (28%)

Preparation for the class is one of the key pillars of this course. The course is designed to incentivise reading and active engagement with literature followed by fruitful discussion. Each student shall read **two items** from the readings for altogether seven classes marked in the course schedule below, in order to be able to respond constructively to class discussion.

You should write **a reading summary of one-page A4 maximum** highlighting the main points of the pieces you have read (in complete sentences) and include one question for discussion (i.e. what kind of question would you pose if you were leading the discussion on that topic). Your summary with your question **shall be sent** to me always in advance i.e. **by Tuesday 23:59** the latest. A summary form will be disseminated during the first week.

Based on the quality of the summary you submit **in timely manner** you receive 1 or 2 points. Having said that, you can get a maximum of four points for a reading assignment (two items each for two points) for a "reading week". Late submissions will not be considered.

4. Final Exam (30%)

It will be written during the class in week 13 and it will consist of the following components:

blind map (12 points)

short answer questions (6 points)

multiple choice questions (5 points)

essay-type question (7 points)

5. Active participation (2%)

Active participation throughout the semester is expected.

Central and East European Studies Program

University of Economics, Prague

nam. W. Churchilla 4 • 130 67 Prague 3 • Czech Republic

tel.: (+420) 224 098 543 • (+420) 224 098 544 • (+420) 224 098 545

fax: (+420) 224 098 595 • cesp@vse.cz

<http://cesp.vse.cz>

Literature

Readings – see the lecturer's instructions.

Final Grade

100 – 90	excellent	A
89 – 75	very good	B
74 – 60	good	C
59 and less	fail	F

Course outline and schedule

Week 1 (Feb 14)

Introduction to the Course

Week 2 (Feb 21)

International Relations and Politics (Readings)

Week 3 (Feb 28)

International Law and International Organizations (Readings)

Week 4 (March 7)

International Economics and Trade Affairs (Readings)

Week 5 (March 14)

Midterm Test

Central and East European Studies Program

University of Economics, Prague
nam. W. Churchilla 4 • 130 67 Prague 3 • Czech Republic
tel.: (+420) 224 098 543 • (+420) 224 098 544 • (+420) 224 098 545
fax: (+420) 224 098 595 • cesp@vse.cz
<http://cesp.vse.cz>

Week 6 (March 21)

Europe and the European Union I. (Readings)

Week 7 (March 28)

Europe and the European Union II. (Readings)

Week 8 (Apr 4)

Asia and Africa (Readings)

Week 9 (Apr 11)

Excursion t.b.c.

Week 10 (Apr 18)

Easter holidays – no classes

Week 11 (Apr 25)

Rector´s day – no classes

Week 12 (May 2)

North and South America (Readings)

Q&A session

Week 13 (May 9)

Final Exam + Skills week

Notes:**Central and East European Studies Program**

University of Economics, Prague

nam. W. Churchilla 4 • 130 67 Prague 3 • Czech Republic

tel.: (+420) 224 098 543 • (+420) 224 098 544 • (+420) 224 098 545

fax: (+420) 224 098 595 • cesp@vse.cz

<http://cesp.vse.cz>