**Course descriptor**

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| Title of the course | **WORLD POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** | | |
| Title of the Academic Programme | BA in Political Science & World Politics | | |
| Type of the course | core | | |
| Prerequisites |  | | |
| ECTS workload | 5 | | |
| Total indicative study hours | Directed Study | Self-directed study | Total |
| 68 | 122 | 190 |
| Course Overview | The course ‘World Politics & International Relations’ combines theory and practice. The first section (Block 1) covers the major theories in the academic discipline of International Relations (hereafter IR). The second section (Block 2) covers diverse issues in world politics and IR (such as diplomacy and its evolution, globalization trends, hard and soft security-related policy issues, etc).  The teaching format is traditional and innovative at the same time. Students will learn through lectures, and through more intriguing, class-led and lively ways. Most of the intellectual work on this course will be done in interactive discussion groups (hereafter DGs) where students will discuss the assigned readings for the course and link them to major IR issues of the day. | | |
| Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) | **ULO10**: able to conduct professional activities internationally;  **PLO4**: student is capable of retrieving, collecting, processing and analyzing information relevant for achieving goals in the professional field;  **PLO8**: student is capable of executing applied analysis of the political phenomena and political processes: (a) by using political science methods, (b) and in support of practical decision making process;  **PLO9**: Student is capable of reporting the results of the information retrieval and analysis, academic or applied research she/he has conducted: (a) in various genres (including reviews, policy papers, reports and publications pertaining to socio-political subject matter), (b) and depending on the target audience. | | |
| Indicative Course Content |  | | |
| Teaching and Learning Methods | The course consists of 15 lectures (30 hours) and 15 DGs (30 hours). While lectures present classical *ex cathedra* lectures supported by Power Point presentations, video- and audio-materials, DGs are interactive and include written answers to set questions, discussions of key readings, group presentations, etc. | | |
| Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy | **Cumulative assessment methods include:**   * written answers handed in at each DG (block1 assignment); * in-class (oral) participation (block1 assignment); * homework question presentation (block2 assignment); * in-class (oral) participation (block2 assignment); * revision test covering the materials for both block1 and block2.   **For cumulative assessment 2-1-0.5-0 scale will be applied (except for presentation and revision test).**  For every DG of Block1 (8 seminars) in the course, students are expected to submit a maximum 200-word set of answers to two seminar questions. They are to choose these from a selection of between three and five questions for each topic. Answers can be written by hand or printed out. But they must be submitted at the start of each seminar, in person. The idea of these assignments is two-fold: first, to test if the students have mastered all the essential readings for the class; second, to have the students’ practice and improve their skills in researching and composing written answers to challenging questions.  Essays must be submitted by each seminar. Essay can’t be submitted after the seminar.  These **written** **answers** for seminars amount to maximum 16 points (8 written answers \* 2 points).  Oral **in-class** **participation** amounts to maximum 16 points too (8 seminars \* 2 points).  Maximum amount of points for Block1 is **32** points (16 + 16) maximum.  For Block 2 students (in groups) will present a homework question presentationon the theme for that week. The class (along with the instructor) will then ask them questions based on their presentation for 20 minutes. All groups will be awarded a score for their Presentation and their Response to questions (0-10 points). During every seminar students are supposed to ask questions about presentation and provide insightful comments. All group members must participate in presentation and talk.  At the end each student is supposed to have points for **in-class participation** (5 seminars \* 2 points = 10 maximum) + points for **homework question presentation** in group (maximum 10 points).  Maximum score for Block 2 is **20** points maximum.  At the last seminar **revision test** will be held. Revision test will cover Block 1 & 2 lectures and seminars. This is a multiple-choice test which consists of three parts. The first one is a simple one correct answer quiz. The second one is a French-system MCQ with the number of correct answers from 1 to all. The third one is an open questions part where students can show if they have a profounder knowledge of the matter. The test lasts 1 hour 20 min. For each correct answer a student gets 1 to 3 points depending on the question. Total sum of the points that the student has got for the test is converted into percentages (100% are given when all the answers are correct). To mark the test, the following table for converting percentages into points is used:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Percentages | Mark | | 100,00 – 95,00 | 10 | | 94,99 – 90,00 | 9 | | 89,99 – 80,00 | 8 | | 79,99 – 75,00 | 7 | | 74,99 – 65,00 | 6 | | 64,99 – 60,00 | 5 | | 59,99 – 50,00 | 4 | | 49,99 – 45,00 | 3 | | 44,99 – 35,00 | 2 | | less that 35% | 1 |   Thus, revision test will add up to **10** points to the cumulative grade.  Maximum score for the seminars (Block1+Block2+revision test) = **62 points**. **Cumulative grade** will be worked out with the following scale:  62-60 points = 10  59-56 points = 9  55-52 points = 8  51-47 points = 7  46-41 points = 6  40-37 points = 5  36-31 points = 4  30-28 points = 3  27-22 points = 2  21 & less = 1  Should a student get 8 or higher as her cumulative grade, she is excused from taking the exam. Those who get 7 as their cumulative grade or less must take an exam.  **Final assessment methods include exam.**  The **exam** is a written assignment which consists of questions (and a format) similar to the Block1 and Block2 seminar questions.  The formula for the **final grade** for the course is **0.65** \* cumul.grade + **0.35** \* exam grade.  **Policy towards absenteeism**  Up to one missed seminar per Block (except Revision test) is accepted. More than one missed classed per Block must be approved by the Study office decision based on legitimate excuse for absence (illness etc). Student can catch up classed missed due to a legitimate excuse by submitting essays for Block 1 and essays for Block2 (based on compulsory literature). Half classes are missed in Block 1 (4 classes) and Block 2 (3 classes) for whatever reason, student is subject to taking the exam no matter which cumulative grade she gets. | | |
| Readings / Indicative Learning Resources | Mandatory   1. The Oxford Handbook of International Relations / Edited by Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal. - Oxfrod University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978019921932 – Available at: <http://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2089/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199219322.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199219322?rskey=9y5eVE&result=3Critical> 2. Security Studies : An Introduction. / Peoples, Columba, Vaughan-Williams, Nick. - 2nd ed. London : Routledge. 2015 – Available at: <http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzgzNzk0MF9fQU41?sid=50c68d5b-d6be-4a1d-ae6b-a53065f16d82@sdc-v-sessmgr06&vid=11&format=EB&rid=1>   Optional   1. International Relations Theory for the Twenty-first Century: An Introduction / By: Griffiths, Martin; Craig Fowlie. - Routledge, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-415-38075-1 – Available at: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=325137> 2. The Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia / Edited by Saadia Pekkanen, John Ravenhill, and Rosemary Foot. - Oxfrod University Press, 2014. ISBN: 9780199916245 – Available at: <http://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2089/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199916245.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199916245?rskey=ASzrcc&result=76> 3. Security Studies: An Introduction / By: Williams, Paul; Craig Fowlie. - Routledge, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-415-42561-2 – Available at: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=348449>   The Oxford Handbook of National Security Intelligence / Edited by Loch K. Johnson. - Oxfrod University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780195375886 – Available at: <http://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2089/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780195375886.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780195375886?rskey=U2DVKA&result=46> | | |
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