
HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SINCE 1945

ACADEMIC YEAR: 1st

1^o SEMESTER 2^o SEMESTER

CATEGORY: BASIC

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

NO. OF CREDITS (ECTS): 6

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TUTORIALS:

FORMAT: LECTURE & SEMINAR

PREREQUISITES: HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UP TO 1945

1. OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the course is to offer the student an overview of the developments that have shaped the current world since the end of World War II in 1945. However, it will not be a standard "history of the world affairs" course: chronological accuracy and knowledge of events will surely occupy a prominent place in this course but they are not its ultimate aim. Rather, as we study the past decades we will try to elicit from them patterns, processes and interpretive keys that help us understand the current world. It is common among many commentators to believe that we live in an era, beginning somewhere toward the end of the 20th century, where everything is new. As this course progresses, we will see that such belief is wrong: the legacies of the 20th century are still with us, many of them quite hidden but nevertheless present and acting with great potency.

Consistent with this view, the course will be organized around three main themes: the relationships of rivalry and cooperation between nation-states, the interactions between states and economic systems and the processes of social mobilization. These three themes are very closely connected and have fed each other throughout the entire period under study. They should not be considered as pillars of the same building, but rather as threads of the same string.

2. CONTENT: TOPICS & READINGS

SESSION 1

INTRODUCTION

SESSIONS 2-3

WORLD WAR II AND ITS LEGACIES

SESSION 4

THE COLD WAR 1945-1962

SESSION 5

THE BALANCE OF TERROR DURING THE COLD WAR

SESSIONS 6-8

ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE: A CONCEPTUAL SKETCH

SESSIONS 9-11

THE "BRETTON WOODS" SYSTEM: CHALLENGES, INSTITUTIONS AND PERFORMANCE.

SESSIONS 12-13

DECOLONIZATION, NEOCOLONIALISM AND NATIONALISM IN THE THIRD WORLD

SESSIONS 14 – 15

THE COLD WAR 1962 - 1991

SESSIONS 16 – 17

THE "OIL SHOCK" AND ITS CONSEQUENCES: STAGFLATIONS AND LOST DECADES.

SESSIONS 18 - 19:

THE WORLD IN TURMOIL: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS.

SESSION 20

THE SOCIALIST BLOC.

SESSION 21

THE END OF THE COLD WAR AND THE UNIPOLAR MOMENT.

SESSIONS 22 - 22

THE RETURN OF GLOBALIZATION.

SESSIONS 23 – 24

THE DEMOCRATIC WAVES.

SESSIONS 25 – 26

THE GREAT RECESSION.

SESSIONS 27 – 28

THE NEW NON-STATE ACTORS.

SESSION 29

TAKING STOCK AND LOOKING AHEAD

3. EVALUATION SYSTEM

3.1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Students must fulfill the following requirements as part of the course:

1. Complete over the course of the semester all the required written assignments (see below) and write the final exam.
2. Engage and be prepared to discuss in class the core ideas and readings of the course. This requires that students complete all reading ahead of class and be attentive to the vocabulary, critical concepts and other ideas that are contained in all the course material.

3.2. EVALUATION

The course's grade will be composed of four parts as follows:

- First Essay (Approx. 1500 words) 30%
- Second Essay (Approx. 1500 words) 30%
- Final Exam 30%
- Class Participation 10%

Essays

You are required to write two essays over the course of the semester. Instructions and topics assignments will be provided after the course has commenced.

3.3. EXAMINATION POLICY

1. Students have up to 4 examination sessions per course over two consecutive academic years.
2. IE University has a mandatory Class Attendance Policy that calls for students to attend a minimum of 70% of class sessions in a course. An absence, for any reason, counts towards the maximum of 30% allowed absences. Failure to comply with any of these requirements will result in students being ineligible to sit for the exam in both the 1st and 2nd examination sessions. These students will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd session.
3. Grading for make-up exams will be subject to the following rules:
 - ✓ Students who failed the course in the first round of exams will be eligible to re-sit in the 2nd examination session. *Warning:* students who do not comply with the attendance policy requirements will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd examination session.
 - ✓ The highest grade that a student may earn in the 2nd examination session is 8.

3.4. EXTRAORDINARY EVALUATION

In the event that you do not satisfy the requirements to pass the class, you will have the option to take an extraordinary supplemental exam.

This extraordinary exam may be complemented and/or replaced by additional supplemental assignments as part of your overall evaluation.

Dispensation for the inclusion of additional evaluation criteria in the event of an unsatisfactory grade will be made solely at the discretion of your professor. In accordance with university policy, extraordinary exams must without exception be taken in Segovia during the extraordinary exam period.

4. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS

This subject does not require the use of a laptop in class. Barring exceptional circumstances, such as physical disabilities requiring the use of a laptop, they are not permitted in the classroom.

5. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS

This subject does not require the use of a laptop in class; nevertheless, if you want to bring your laptop, please contact your professor.

6. OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST:

Office Hours: Weekly, or by appointment