

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LAB IV&V

DEGREE: BACHELOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DEGREE COURSE YEAR: FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH
1^o SEMESTER 2^o SEMESTER
CATEGORY: BASIC COMPULSORY OPTIONAL
NO. OF CREDITS (ECTS): 6
NO. OF SESSIONS: 15
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
TUTORIALS:
FORMAT:
PREREQUISITES:

LAB IV. INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS

1. COURSE DETAILS

Human Rights have become so prevalent that they are dominant in the political language of our time.

This seminar examines Human Rights theories as represented in fundamental texts, its practice in specific historical contexts, and its institutional development. I will also address issues of contemporary concern such as tensions between universalism and multiculturalism, the emergence of new rights, and critiques to human rights.

The course will be run as a combination lecture/seminar. Each student will write one short paper (3-5 pages) related to topics from the course syllabus and in-class discussions. In addition each student will take part in one of the in-class debates where arguments express different points of view on an important question.

You will be asked to read various sections of the documents and books listed below, along with a selection of supplementary readings of relevant articles on contemporary human rights issues that will be provided on a weekly basis. Students will take a final exam.

Grading will break down as follows:

- One short paper (20%)
- In-class debate performance (30%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Participation (20%)

Any student missing more than 9 sessions will fail the class. Any student found plagiarizing on an assignment will receive a '0' for that assignment and an ethics warning. A second case of plagiarism will lead to the convening of a university ethics committee, and failing the class. All papers will be graded using *turnitin*, which means **don't plagiarize, you will get caught**. Any case of cheating on exams or quizzes will result in failing the class and the convening of a university ethics committee.

Students who fail the class due to poor grades will have the chance to take an extraordinary exam in July. This exam will comprise two essay questions, and will require students to understand the course readings. Students who fail the class due to attendance or ethics violations will not be able to take the July exam. July Exam dates are non-negotiable.

2. PROGRAM

SESSION 1

COURSE INTRODUCTION. UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS, FROM MODERNITY TO GLOBALIZATION.

SESSION 2

THE LEGACY OF LIBERALISM AND ENLIGHTENMENT.

- United States Declaration of Independence (1776).
- French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789).
- Voltaire, "Religion" (Philosophical Dictionary, 1764).

SESSION 3

HUMANITARIANISM, TERROR AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

SESSION 4

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN THE IMPERIAL ERA. THE CASE OF CONGO.

- George Washington Williams's Open Letter to King Leopold on the Congo

SESSION 5

THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

SESSION 6

IN CLASS DEBATES. MATERIALS TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.

SESSION 7

GENOCIDE IN THE 20TH CENTURY, THE PURSUIT OF IDEOLOGICAL UTOPIAS.

SESSION 8

HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

- United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

SESSION 9

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION.

- The Dilemma of Humanitarian Intervention

SESSION 10
IN CLASS DEBATE
Materials to be distributed in class.

SESSION 11
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION.

SESSION 12
CULTURAL RELATIVISM VERSUS UNIVERSALISM.

SESSION 13
NEW RIGHTS: ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.

SESSION 14
IN CLASS DEBATE. MATERIALS TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.

SESSION 15
FINAL EXAM.

LAB V. ASIAN POLITICS: ITS CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

1. COURSE DETAILS

There is a shift in global power dynamics as China is becoming the world's largest economy and the broader Asian hemisphere is rising. Asia is not only taking over from the Western world's largest economies, but also it is the largest and most populous of earth's continents, comprising with 60% of the world's current population.

In addition Asia has some of the threatening and most likely conflicts to watch, like a potential confrontation between China and its neighbors over territorial disputes in the East and South China Seas, or the conflict of two nuclear powers, India and Pakistan, over the region of Kashmir.

This course seeks to offer a broad view of some of the main topics in contemporary Asian powers and politics considering its cultural and historical heritage. It has a multidisciplinary approach that includes political theory, history and cultural power representations. The course main protagonists are the main Asian powers (China, India and Japan), as well as the region of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The course will be run as a combination lecture/seminar. Each student will write one short paper (3-5 pages) related to topics from the course syllabus and in-class discussions. In addition each student will take part in one of the in-class debates where arguments express different points of view on an important question.

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2. PROGRAM

SESSION 1

COURSE INTRODUCTION. INTRODUCTION TO ASIA'S GEOPOLITICS.

SESSION 2

EAST ASIA'S CONFUCIAN AUTHORITY.

SESSION 3

MAO AND THE CONTINUOUS REVOLUTION

SESSION 4

CHINA AFTER TIANANMEN.

SESSION 5

CONCEPTS OF POWER IN INDIAN TRADITION.

SESSION 6

IN CLASS DEBATES. THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE.

Materials to be distributed in class.

SESSION 7

THE RISE OF MODERN INDIA.

SESSION 8

INDIA TODAY: THE BIGGEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD?

SESSION 9
INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.

SESSION 10
IN CLASS DEBATE. THE CONFLICT OF KASHMIR.
Materials to be distributed in class.

SESSION 11
JAPAN: A MODEL FOR ASIAN MODERNIZATION (1).

SESSION 12
JAPAN: A MODEL FOR ASIAN MODERNIZATION (2).

SESSION 13
PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, THE CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY.

SESSION 14
IN CLASS DEBATE.
Materials to be distributed in class.

SESSION 15
FINAL EXAM.