

TOPICS IN FOREIGN POLICY

IE University

Professor: **MICHELE TESTONI**

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Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: THIRD

Semester: 1^o

Category: **COMPULSORY**

Number of credits: 6.0

Language: English

PREREQUISITES

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Foreign Policy is the core of international relations. Formally we still live in a Westphalian world where sovereign state actors are the only ones who decide how the world is organised. The globalised 21st century has muddled this picture, with non-state actors playing an increasingly important role in international affairs. The basic principles of what drives decisions, however, are still the same: individual human beings being incentivised and conditioned by presupposed points such as politics, ideology, ideals, family and upbringing, to name a few. In this course we will study how such factors lead to decisions that ultimately decide the fate of our planet. We will look at specific countries that dominate international relations as well as less obvious cases which help us understand foreign policy. Moreover, every week we will review the state of the world by opening newspapers and analysing what's going on behind the headlines. Using those current events, we will discuss and apply theory of international relations directly to what genuinely matters: reality.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

The main objective is to explain the underlying machinations of foreign policy and thus provide the tools necessary to analyse how decisions are made in international relations. Every week we will apply theory to reality, with literature adjusted to what current events. This will allow students to understand the relevance of other courses to their ability to work in practical fields such as policy making, diplomacy and consultancy. Furthermore, this course will show students how to interpret daily news on global affairs and give the context within current events happen.

METHODOLOGY

The main idea behind this course is to combine theory with real life (current) events. This means that the exact content of each class will depend on the state of the world at that moment. Tasks will be assigned, and literature will be provided, accordingly.

This course is divided into three modules:

1. Theory and concepts
2. Country and region analysis
3. Specific case studies

Moreover, whenever possible we will open the newspapers and look at foreign policy in "real time". Asynchronous sessions will be uniquely dedicated to this: a mini lecture on current affairs followed by an NCL exercise about that same practical topic.

The core understanding of this course is that foreign policy is made based on a host of psychological and systemic factors ("pressure points") and thus, to understand international relations, we need to understand the people steering them. This means that particular attention will be paid to analysing state leaders and influential figure in global affairs.

Mandatory readings will be provided in advance of the relevant lectures/seminars. This will allow us to adjust to current events in the most flexible way possible. Please note that this is the reason for a lack of literature in this syllabus; in order not to overload students with reading, we will adjust materials on a weekly basis. Readings will be sent by email and uploaded to blackboard. There is no textbook for the course.

Teaching methodology	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	20.0 %	30 hours
Discussions	13.33 %	20 hours
Exercises	20.0 %	30 hours
Group work	13.33 %	20 hours
Other individual studying	33.33 %	50 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150 hours

PROGRAM

MODULE 1: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXT

SESSIONS 1 - 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction to Foreign Policy, Concepts & Historical Context

SESSIONS 3 - 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Human Psychology and State Interests

SESSIONS 5 - 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

International Cooperation and Global Dynamics

SESSIONS 7 - 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Geopolitics, Economics and Security

SESSIONS 9 - 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Organised Violence

MODULE 2: STATE ANALYSIS

SESSIONS 11 - 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The Americas: a North-South Divide

SESSIONS 13 - 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The United States: The Rise and Fall of a Superpower

SESSIONS 15 - 16 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

China, India and Russia: Global Contenders

SESSIONS 17 - 18 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Sub-Saharan Africa: Embracing the 21st Century

SESSIONS 19 - 20 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The Middle East & Central Asia: Volatility and Rivalries

SESSIONS 21 - 22 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Europe: The Grumpy Old Man

SESSIONS 23 - 24 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

New Territories: Oceans, the Arctic and Space

SESSIONS 25 - 26 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Case Studies (TBD)

MODULE 3: GROUP DEBATES

SESSIONS 27 - 28 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Group Debates (1)

SESSIONS 29 - 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Group Debates (2) and Course Summation

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Portfolio work (40%) - There will be four short (~2-3 hour) assignments spread out over the course that must be submitted to Turnitin on given dates.
- Course Essay (40%) - A paper of maximum 2500 words on a topic chosen by the student due during the later stages of the course. Detailed instructions will be provided in the first few sessions.
- Group Debates (20%) - Debates held during the final sessions of the course between predetermined teams. Roughly 4 students per team.

Criteria	Percentage	Comments
Portfolio	40 %	
Final Exam	40 %	
Group Debates	20 %	

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course.

For every BIR Program mandatory class aside from the IR Unplugged and BIR Electives, students are required to obtain the minimum grade of 5 required to pass the course. Students whose grade in the Final Exam (or the largest assignment) is below 5 will fail the course. The rule applies to whichever assignment carries the greatest weight to the final grade. Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

Students must attend at least 70% of the sessions. Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course again the following academic year).

Students who are in the third or fourth attempt must contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

The Bachelor's in International Relations pursues to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for bringing transformative and sustainable change in today's world. Therefore, all the courses follow the principles of sustainability and diversity.

Firstly, this course considers the agenda 2030 and builds upon the Sustainable Development Goal X, Y and Z (Define goals here). Secondly, this course is committed to an inclusive learning environment and looks to be enriched and enhanced by diversity along numerous dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion.

ATTENDANCE

In-person attendance is mandatory at IE University, as it is an essential factor of IE's learning methodology. While we do closely monitor attendance in each course, we also consider our students responsible for their own agenda and commitments, as adult university students. With that in mind, each student may miss up to 30% of the sessions within a given course and still maintain the possibility of passing that given course. This 30% "buffer" is to be used for any absences, such as: illnesses, personal emergencies, commitments, official/governmental matters, business and/or medical appointments, family situations, etc. Students should manage their various needs, and situations that may arise, within that 30% buffer. If a student is absent to more than the allowed 30% of the sessions (regardless of the reason), s/he will obtain a 0.0 grade for that course in both the ordinary and extraordinary calls of the current academic year, and s/he will have to retake the course during the following academic year.

Please pay close attention to your attendance. The program strongly encourages attending 100% of the sessions as it will improve your learning outcomes, it will increase the class performance and it will benefit your participation grade. Noncompliance with deadlines for Non-Classroom Learning activities or assignments will result in an absence for the session.

Extreme cases involving emergencies such as: extended hospitalizations, accidents, serious illnesses and other cases of force majeure, are to be consulted with the Program Management (bir.biemadrid@ie.edu) for assessment of the situation and corresponding documentation, in order to support and guide each student optimally.

For more information about the university attendance policy, please check; <https://www.ie.edu/student-guide/bir/policies-and-guidelines/attendance/>

THIRD CALL RETAKE POLICY

Any student in their third call of a course, also known as a Retaker, is obliged to observe the following rules:

- Third call students must contact their professors before or during the first session to ask which work and or *sessions will be required to obtain a passing grade. The professor will determine which work will be required in their course.
 - * (e.g. when presenting group work, sitting for examinations or other work done in class)
- Retakers may be exempt from failing the call due to absences; however, they are not exempt from work the professor designates as necessary to obtain a passing grade. This means some sessions may be mandatory to attend in order to complete the work within.
- Students in their third call are responsible for managing the conflicts in their schedule, should students need advice on how to manage their conflicts they should visit the program office.

EXTRAORDINARY EXAM POLICY

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility).

Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

- The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam or equivalent assignment. The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.
- The exam/assignment will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person's ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor's permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them;
- and buying or commissioning essays from other parties.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don't know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. For help with your academic writing, contact the Writing Center (writingcenter@faculty.ie.edu). The professor will also advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments must be submitted through Turn-it-in, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student's academic work in order to guarantee its originality. If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. Students using external tutorial support should report it to the professor and the BIR Program from the moment they began receiving this support. In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the BIR Academic Review Panel. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Review Panel. Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.

PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: **MICHELE TESTONI**

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Dr. Michele Testoni is Adjunct Professor of International Relations at IE University since 2013. He holds a PhD in Political Science (University of Florence, Italy) and a Master in International Relations (SAIS - Johns Hopkins University, USA). His research interests focus on transatlantic security relations and comparative foreign policy. His most recent publications are:

“Nuevas quimeras y antiguos victimismos: la política exterior italiana, 2008-2018” (in *Revista de Estudios Políticos*, n. 189, julio-septiembre 2020)
NATO and Transatlantic Relations in the 21st Century: Foreign and Security Policy Perspectives (Oxford: Routledge, 2020)

“La OTAN: ¿garante de la paz democrática?”, en A. Betti y S. Gratiús (eds.), *Autocracias y democracias en conflicto: el mundo después de la invasión en Ucrania* (Madrid: Tecnos, forthcoming)

He serves as Secretary of the Transatlantic Studies Association (TSA) for the 2021-2024 term.

OTHER INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

Office hours will be on request. Please contact at:

mtestoni@faculty.ie.edu

CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

Be on time. Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as "Absent". Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor). Students attending online must always have their cameras on during the session or risk being marked absent.

If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart. It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.

Do not leave the room during the lecture: Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as "Absent". Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

Do not engage in side conversation. As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class. If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as "Absent".

Use your laptop for course-related purposes only. The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as "Absent".

No cellular phones: IE University implements a "Phone-free Classroom" policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.

Escalation policy: 1/3/5. Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as "Absent." IE University implements an "escalation policy": The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.