

## **Course description**

### **WORLD POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

#### **Course name, ECTS, quarter / semester, contact hours**

Name: World Politics & International Relations

ECTS: 5

Quarter / semester: spring semester 2015 (from January to May)

Hours: 18 lectures (36 hours) & 19 discussion groups (38 hours)

#### **Author of the course**

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Instructor:

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#### **Outline**

Course “World Politics & International Relations” covers major themes and issues in the International Relations academic discipline. The format is innovative and classic at the same time. Besides learning through lectures, there is a lot of learning through more intriguing and lively ways: students work in “interactive discussion groups” where they discuss current readings of the course and link them to the major issues. The team projects in the course are dedicated to exploring of major regional economic organizations and the final presentations range from simulating negotiations, meetings of the organization representatives, shooting of a TV spot over some “hot-potato” news about the organization to any other unusual and totally unexpected formats of the team project work reporting.

The course consists of six subject blocks starting with the exciting story of the discipline formation throughout the XX century and latter covering the following subjects: IR theories, traits of contemporary World politics, challenges to contemporary World order, new dimensions of International Relations and finally, international legal regimes and global governance.

#### **Structure and content**

No.	Theme	TOTAL	Class Hours: Lectures	Class Hours: Discussion Groups	Self-Study
1.	Introduction. Major Theories of International Relations	76	14	12	50
2.	Mega-Trends in Contemporary World Politics	24	4	4	16
3.	Major Challenges to Contemporary World Order	60	10	10	40
4.	New Dimensions of International Relations	28	4	6	18
5.	International Legal Regimes and Global Governance	28	4	6	18
	TOTAL	216	36	38	142

#### **Prerequisites**

None, except for English language proficiency (at least B2, Council of Europe classification)

## Assessment

Every DG starts with a brief five minute 10-question multiple choice test to check if students mastered the compulsory readings for the class. These tests amount for **20%** of the accumulative mark for the course.

Another **20%** comes from the students' work in class during the DGs (which of course includes the assessment of their reading).

Mark for a review essay makes **25%** of the overall accumulative mark. Review essay shall consist of two parts. The first one shall be devoted to the foundations of one of the major IR theories (word limit for this part is 1000-1100 words). Second part shall be devoted to one of the central categories (concepts) of the IR discipline that shall be analyzed through the lens of one of the contemporary IR theories that does not focus on this category explicitly (word limit for second part is 800-900 words). Review essay (word limit for the text is 1800-2000 words) shall be submitted to the lecturer by the end of the third term (10th week of the term) via e-mail.

**10%** of the accumulative mark is gained for the homework that takes form of group presentation devoted to the work of major regional organizations such EU, EFTA, NAFTA, ASEAN etc (the presentations shall take place during the class devoted to the regionalism and regional integration processes).

The last **25%** is a mark for the revision test during the last DG. This is a multiple-choice test which consists of three parts. First is a simple one correct answer quiz. The second is a French-system MCQ with the number of correct answers from null to all. The third is an open questions part where students can show if they have a profounder knowledge of the matter.

With an accumulative grade of 8 or higher a student is excused from taking the exam. The exam is a written test similar to the final one. The exam adds up to the final grade as **35%** to **65%**.