INTERNATIONAL AID HISTORY AND POLITICS

Международная помощь развитию: история и современное состояние

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Approved by the WEIA Faculty Scientific Council
Council’s Scientific Secretary

Moscow 2018
INTERNATIONAL AID HISTORY AND POLITICS
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Prerequisites
This course is intended for Master’s level students and although it will provide a review of some of the basic concepts of international relations, EU institutions, decision-making process – it is however expected that the attending students have already absorbed in their past cursus studiorum key knowledge at this regard.

ABSTRACT
Public Policies of Aid and Assistance are crucial in the definition and development of bilateral and multi-lateral relations among States. Aid has become a new instrument of the traditional international State power policies.

Public Budgets devoted to activate aid and technical assistance initiatives as well as the related administrative structures put in place to manage them – have been constantly rising over the last six decades, in what is clearly a continuous trend.

For most of International State Actors, being in the first line of the Donors Community in delivering Aid in areas of high geo-political interest has become a top priority and a primary political interest – to the extent that it may be stated that very often Donors have overall set of interests that are wider than those of the Beneficiaries.

The Course focuses on one of the key sectors of intervention of the International Assistance Programmes, namely the Justice and Home Affairs Reform. Over the last two decades, after the end of the bi-polar system and with the unique scenarios emerging from the post-war transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the post-soviet transition mainly in Russia – there has been a radical evolution of the related models and projects of Aid and Assistance.

While the public communication dimension of the Aid goes often lost in the rhetoric of the generous Samaritan, what actually marks the return of a State from a period of crisis to a period of growth is exactly when it succeeds to evolve from the comfortable but passive role of Beneficiary to the dominating one of the Donor. And to impose – inter alia – its juridical and judicial models.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
The course provides a historical, theoretical and operational technical perspective of the evolution of International Aid as one of the emerging tools of foreign policy among sovereign States and International Organizations. The final objective is to explain how Aid has become a new powerful political instrument of the traditional State power policies at international level, with competing
Donors often having greater political interests than Recipients, despite the general rhetoric of coordination.

The course will refer almost exclusively to public funded Aid policies with related Actors, types of assistance and scenarios of intervention over the last three decades with particular focus to the post-soviet and post-war transitions environments.

THE COURSE IS INTENDED FOR PROFESSIONALS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- International intergovernmental organizations employees and civil servants,
- National Civil servants including Diplomats,
- Consultants for the Public Sector, both at Bilateral and Multilateral level
- NGO workers,
- Media professionals and Journalists,
- Entrepreneurs,
- International relations specialists and researchers.

COURSE PLAN

1. Aid as a political category. The multiple dimensions of Aid interventions.
2. International Aid in the context of International Law and International Relations
3. International Aid between Idealism and Realism. The Soft Power approach.
4. Framing the operational definition of International Public Aid Policies
5. International Aid and Sanctions
6. International Aid in the XIX century
7. Historical Periodization of International Aid policies after World War II
8. Evolution of International Aid Policies since the fall of the Berlin wall.
9. Typologies of Actors, Types of assistance and Scenarios of Intervention
10. Donors- Recipients dynamics of political interaction
11. Post-war International Aid in Western Balkans
12. Post-soviet International Aid in Russia
13. Recipient Countries as re-emerging and new Donors
15. Project programming, design, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Comparative practical challenges, procurement and political implications for Donors and Recipients.
16. Case sector study: International Aid towards Justice reform in post-war and post-soviet environments
17. Trends in the evolution of aid intervention models
18. Practical simulations of project design in post-war and post-soviet transitions

READING LIST

LAHIRI, S. Theory and Practice of Foreign Aid, Elsevier, Amsterdam

DI NOLFO E., Prima lezione di Storia delle Relazioni Internazionali, Bari, Editori Laterza
DUFFIELD, M. *Aid Policy and post-modern conflict: a critical review*, University of Birmingham, Birmingham


PELLICCIARI, I. *Il Governo dell’Aiuto*, in Studi Urbinati, 1/2018,


PELLICCIARI, I. *Aiuti ai Nemici, Sanzioni agli Amici*, in LIMES, 1\2016, pp. 66-77

PELLICCIARI, I. *Aiuti come Armi. La Russia in cerca di Soft Power“, in LIMES, 3/2015, pp.159-167

**WORKING DOCUMENTS**


Specific bibliography will be required for the development of each topic

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Grade:**

The sum of the grades for class participation, the research paper, the final paper (and grades associated with preparing and presenting it) and oral examination will be translated into a numerical grade according to the corresponding ranges below.

**Class Participation** (30% of the final grade)

Class attendance is required. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the class roster which will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Unexcused absences will lower the participation grade.

Active and effective contribution is evaluated.

The readings require intensive examination of a broad variety of issues. It will be the topic for discussion. Students are encouraged to express their perspectives and reason them.

**Final Paper- Essay** (50% of the final grade)

By the end of the semester each student will produce a 10-15 page research paper (20 000-30 000 characters). The paper will be graded on the basis of 100 points as follows: Formal layout is observed (Introduction, Body, Conclusion, Paragraphs, Margins (10 points); The text of the essay is relevant to the topic and reveals the main points (30 points); Introduction is logical and leads the reader towards the major idea (15 points); Ideas are logically organized and coherent (25 points); The
essay contains both general and specific issues, examples and illustrations (20 points)

*Final Exam* (20% of the final grade)
Open book oral exam (120 minutes)