

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. MODULE SUMMARY

Aims and Summary

The course has a dual purpose. Firstly, it aims to familiarize students with basic approaches to the study of International Relations and secondly it provides students with an understanding of the main issues and events in the history of IR and diplomacy. In terms of the first purpose the course will introduce basic vocabulary to enhance student apprehension of International Relations. It will also present key theories that can be used to analyse and explain the behaviour of actors on the international stage. Regarding the second purpose the course will focus on important interactions between states from the beginning of the modern state system at the Peace of Westphalia up to our contemporary times. Factors such as warfare over the ages, diplomacy, geopolitics and the impact of globalisation will be given special attention during class discussion.

Module Size and credits

CATS points	20.0
ECTS credits	10.0
Total student study hours	200
Number of weeks	12
School responsible	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
Academic Year	2021-2022

Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

N/A

Excluded Combinations

None

Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Midterm exam 60%

Final exam 40%

Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

Special Features

None

Course stages for which this module is mandatory

BA Year 1 International Relations

Course stages for which this module is a core option

None

2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principal notions and concepts in International Relations;
2. Identify and analyse main events which have shaped the development of international relations

and diplomacy;

3. Analyse and theorise the drivers which shape world politics in the contemporary world.

Indicative Content

Introduction to International Relations indicative content

- Levels of analysis in international relations
- Power and sovereignty
- War in international relations
- Theories of international relations
- International security mechanisms
- International systems
- The role of law in international relations
- Economy, trade and international relations
- Contemporary security challenges
- Human rights in international relations

History of International Relations indicative content

- Politics in the Middle-ages and the emergence of Italian renaissance diplomacy
- The Peace of Westphalia and the establishment of the modern state system
- European relations in the 18th century and in the beginning of the 19th century
- Diplomacy in 19th century Europe and the ‘Great Concert Era’
- The causes of WWI
- The Treaty of Versailles and the causes of WWII
- World politics during the Cold War
- International relations after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the emergence of US hegemony
- Globalisation in International Relations
- 9/11 and its consequences
- The future of International Relations

Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of lectures, workshops, and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Guided	0 hours	(0%)
Lecture	0 hours	(0%)
Self-guided	110 hours	(55%)
Seminar	60 hours	(30%)
Workshop	30 hours	(15%)
Total	200 hours	

Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)

The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:

Midterm exam (60% – 12 Credits): 60 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3

Final exam (40% – 8 Credits): 120 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3

Re-sit

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, are entitled to one re-sit attempt.

This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity.

For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one

assessment for re-sit.

Date of last amendment

27-10-2016

3. MODULE RESOURCES

Essential Reading

Baylis, J., Smith, S., Owens, P., 2011. *The Globalization of World Politics, An introduction to international relations*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kennedy, P., 1989. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. New York: Vintage Books.

Young, J., 2004. *International Relations since 1945: A Global History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Reading

Jackson, R., Sorensen, G., 2016. *Introduction to International Relations, Theories & Approaches*. 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gray, C.S., 2007. *War, Peace and International Relations: An Introduction to Strategic History*. London: Routledge.

Kissinger, H., 1994. *Diplomacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Mearsheimer, J.J., 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton

Snow, D., 2011 *Cases in International Relations*. Pearson College Div.

Stiles, K., 2010. *Case Histories in International Politics*. New York: Longman.

Zakaria, F., 2009. *The Post-American World and the Rise of the Rest*. London: Penguin.

Required Equipment

None

4. MODULE ORGANISATION

Module leader

Name Dr Michał Kuź

E-mail michalmkuz@gmail.com

Length and month of examination

120 minutes in February

Expected teaching timetable slots

Note that some tutorials/seminars may be provided at times other than those shown below. Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

Subject Quality and Approval information

Board of Study Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

Subject Assessment Board Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

Shortened title

Date of approval by FCPC