

International Relations

Code: 103112
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Journalism	OT	3
Journalism	OT	4

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

This course does not have academic prerequisites.

The student must have the habit of reading and consulting different channels of communication of general information, especially to follow international news, as well as opinion articles on global political issues.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course has a basic training character. This means that it serves as a foundation from which international reality should be analyzed.

The basic objectives of the course are: that students know the fundamental concepts of the discipline, that they acquire analytical skills applicable to international relations; to become familiar with the set of processes and references that have shaped global contemporary society on a global scale; and, that they are able to express and defend orally and in writing their points of view on the most relevant international issues.

Competences

Journalism

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
- Demonstrate adequate knowledge of the modern world and its recent historic development in terms of social, economic, political and cultural aspects.
- Disseminate the area's knowledge and innovations.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Use a third language as a working language and means of professional expression in the media.
- Value diversity and multiculturalism as a foundation for teamwork.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
2. Disseminate the area's knowledge and innovations.
3. Establish links between communicative knowledge and social sciences to understand international relations in the new context of globalisation.
4. Explain the state of the world and its recent historic development in the realm of international relations.
5. Identify the principal forms of sex- or gender-based inequality and discrimination present in society.
6. Know how to find the substance and relevance in documents linked to international relations.
7. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
8. Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
9. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
10. Value diversity and multiculturalism as a foundation for teamwork.
11. Weigh up the impact of any long- or short-term difficulty, harm or discrimination that could be caused to certain persons or groups by the actions or projects.

Content

This course (one semester) has two objectives: to familiarize students with the analytical tools of International Relations and to offer information on international events. The (selected) information will help students, on the one hand, to understand relevant facts at an international level and, on the other, to examine these facts within an analytical framework.

The course is divided into three major blocks: "theory and concepts", "international system" and "global international society". Each of these blocks, in turn, is divided into several lessons or themes. Not all subjects or lessons will be treated in equal depth (in terms of class hours). The content of the course will be sensitive to aspects related to a gender perspective.

Students have to complete a series of compulsory readings for each subject (as well as the two compulsory readings for the follow-up of the whole course), as well as any other reading that the teachers indicate to the students throughout the course (whether offered in paper or electronic format via the Campus Virtual). The readings, together with the material delivered in class, will be the object of the evaluations. For the update of the topics, the follow-up of some yearbooks is recommended (see the final section with reference works). It is very important for students to have this combined system of work / classes in the classroom complemented by work (readings) that must be done outside the classroom to be able to follow the course and its content.

PROGRAMME

PART I. THEORY AND CONCEPTS

Topic 1. International relations as an area of study

International problems: war and peace

Origin of the discipline: the social and intellectual impact of World War I

Anglo-Saxon origin of the discipline: the framework of the social sciences

Idealistic Substrate of the Discipline: Institutionalization and Collective Security

Current Problems in International Relations

Topic 2. Theoretical approach to international relations

Great Traditions of Thought (Hobbesian, Grotian, and Kantian) and Visions of International Order: Hierarchy, Governance, and Cosmopolitanism

Evolution of the theory: political agenda and scientific debate

Paradigms or mental maps: what international relations study

Paradigms: realism (cold war), transnationalism (global problems) and structuralism (underdevelopment).

Topic 3. Theoretical Approaches to International Relations

Realism

Liberalism

Constructivism and Critical Voices

PART II. INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Topic 4. The actors of the international system (I)

International system: definition and elements of the system (actors, structure and process)

Definition of an international actor

Classical typology (states, international organizations and transnational forces) and other typologies

The State: The System of States

Typology: developed states, developing states, fragile states, failed states

Hierarchy in the system of states: the exercise of international power (the powers of the system)

Typology: hegemonic power, great power, world power, emerging power, medium power, regional power

Topic 5. The actors of the international system (II)

International Organizations (IGOs): Definition and Typology

IGOs: structure and decision-making mechanisms

Transnational forces: non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Transnational Forces: Transnational Corporations (TNCs) Impact of NGOs and TNCs on Today's Society

Topic 6. The structure of the international system

Evolution of the definition of power: power, soft power, structural power

Material structure: polarity and power distribution

Typology: unipolar, bipolar or multipolar system

Topic 7. The dynamics of the international system: conflict and cooperation

The notion of conflict in Social Sciences

Typology of conflicts and map of international conflict

The notion of cooperation

Areas and forms of cooperation (formal vs. informal, bilateral vs. multilateral, public vs. private)

International architecture of development cooperation (OECD, UN, EU, etc.)

PART III. THE GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY (since 1945)

Topic 8. United Nations, nationalization of the planet and universalization

Presentation of the major dynamics of international society

Decolonization: sovereignty (Bandung) and development (economic realities of the south)

Genesis of the UN: San Francisco

Principles and purposes: the Charter of the United Nations

Institutional structure and decision-making mechanisms

International peace and security (Chapters VI and VII of the Charter)

North-South Dialogue: the Group of 77 and UNCTAD

Topic 9. Bipolar Order

Diplomatic-Military Bipolarism: Spheres of Influence and the Nuclear Race

Détente between blocs (1962-1979): crises, nuclear weapons and regional conflicts

End of détente and the Second Cold War (1975 to 1985): extension of spheres of influence and reactivation of the nuclear race

The End of the Bipolar System (1985-1991): The Gorbachev Effect, Nuclear Disarmament and the Breakup of the USSR

Topic 10. International Economic Order

The US: hegemonic power

Bretton Woods: Principles and Institutions of the System

Crisis of the Bretton Woods system

Post-WW2 Trade Order: From GATT to WTO

Neoliberal model: the Washington Consensus

Topic 11. Post-Cold War International Order

Constitutive stage (1989-2001)

Transition stage (2001-2008)

Response stage (since 2008)

Topic 12: Challenges of the global agenda in the twenty-first century

Gender and international relations
 Environment
 Global Health
 Refugees and forced migration
 Poverty, hunger and development
 The EU as a global actor
 Global Trade and Global Finance
 Security and terrorism
 Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
 Human rights
 Humanitarian intervention
 New technologies and international relations

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Debates and seminars on theory and international dynamics	17	0.68	6
Master classes with use of ICT and group discussions	34	1.36	3, 4, 6
Type: Supervised			
Reading and preparation of texts that will be subject to control in class	8	0.32	3, 4, 6
Writing group report	13	0.52	6
Type: Autonomous			
Study of the syllabus of the course and complementary readings	56	2.24	3, 4, 6

The dedication of the students to this subject is divided into several types of activities, each one of them with a determined weight of working hours. This variety of work forms materializes in differentiated methodologies.

-Activities in the classroom, with the presence of the teaching staff: master classes (with the support of ICT and with the possibility of developing debates in a large group); seminars to discuss the readings and documentaries in which cases, problems and examples related to the course syllabus will be analyzed.

- Supervised activities carried out by the students outside the classroom according to a work plan, designed and subsequently supervised and evaluated by the teaching staff. Students must: read and prepare texts; conduct group work consisting of gathering documentation on a specific international relations topic and write an academic work, a report or a documentary

- Autonomous activities that the students do on their own and in accordance with the requirements of the course to successfully pass the course, can be basic and complementary readings, study of class notes or all those other activities that complement the training that is achieved in this course

The course content will be sensitive to issues related to gender perspective and the use of inclusive language.

A detailed schedule outlining the content of each session will be presented on the first day of the course and will be available on the course's Virtual Campus, where students will find all teaching materials and necessary information for effective course monitoring. Should the teaching modality change for reasons of force majeure according to the competent authorities, the teaching staff will inform students of any modifications to the course schedule and teaching methodologies.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assistance and participation (classes, seminars and debates, text comments and other activities prepared by the teaching staff)	10%	1	0.04	3, 5, 9, 8, 7, 6, 11
Evaluative practice	20%	4	0.16	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 8, 7, 6, 10, 11
Group work related to a topic of the current international agenda	20%	14	0.56	3, 6
Written exam in classroom on the totality of the content worked on in the programme (notes, obligatory readings and student research)	50%	3	0.12	3, 4, 6

Evaluation

The course will be evaluated by:

1. The completion of a comprehensive written exam related to the theoretical and practical content that represents 50% of the final grade for the subject and which must be passed with a minimum grade of five points (out of ten) as an essential condition to pass the subject.
2. The preparation of a group work written and defended orally (20% of the total final grade for the subject). This work is mandatory to pass the subject (it must be passed with a minimum grade of five points (out of ten). This evaluable activity is not recoverable.
3. Practical activity carried out in classes and with prior preparation by the students based on the teachers' instructions. The date will be communicated at the beginning of the course. 20% of the final grade. This activity is not recoverable.
4. Likewise, the student's participation in classes will be valued in the overall final grade. 10% of the final grade for the subject.

Students who do not pass the written exam will have the opportunity to take advantage of compensation activities, that is, they will be able to take the failed exam again on the date indicated for this purpose. Evaluable practice and group work cannot be done again, they do not have compensation activities. Students will be entitled to reassessment in the course if they have been evaluated on a set of activities accounting for at least two-thirds of the total course grade.

Important: Students who do not obtain the minimum score, five points out of ten, in the written exam, will have the subject failed, even if they have approved the work done in a group, the practice and other evaluation guidelines.

The fact of taking the comprehensive written exam exempts students from the "NOT PRESENTED" grade.

Comprehensive evaluation.

Students who request it in due time and form, may take advantage of a "Single Assessment" (Comprehensive evaluation) of the subject, which will consist of an activity consisting of an exam (50% of the final grade for the subject), a research project, whose theme it will be indicated at the beginning of the course and that it will be presented on the day of the evaluation (30% of the final grade for the subject and a practical activity (20% of the final grade for the subject). The procedure and notification period to request the single assessment will be announced by the Faculty.

This single evaluation will be carried out at the end of the semester, on the day for the ordinary evaluation of the subject, and will be made public well in advance. Each part of the mentioned activity must be approved with a minimum of five points out of ten (5/10). In case of not passing this test with a score of 5 points out of 10, the students will be able to retake the exam, but not the research work nor the practical activity on the date set for the compensatory evaluation.

Irregularity

If a student commits any irregularity that may lead to a significant alteration of the grade of an assessment activity, that assessment will be graded with a 0, regardless of any disciplinary process that may be initiated. If multiple irregularities occur in the assessment activities of the same subject, the final grade for that subject will be 0.

Artificial Intelligence

For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for some support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction, or translations. Students must clearly identify any parts generated with these technologies, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how AI has influenced the process and final outcome of the assignment. Failure to disclose the use of AI in this assessed activity will be considered a breach of academic integrity and may result in a partial or total penalty to the assignment grade, or more serious sanctions in severe cases.

Bibliography

Bibliography

Mandatory readings

- BARBÉ, Esther, International Relations, Madrid: Tecnos, 2020 (4th edition). This book serves as a manual for the whole subject. It also includes a series of complementary readings (brief texts of political or analytical order) that must be made throughout the course following the instructions of the professor. In each of the chapters there is complementary bibliography on the subjects of the program.

- McMahon, Robert, *The Cold War. A brief introduction*, Madrid: Alianza, 2009. This book serves to follow the origins and evolution of the international Cold War system, very important for part III of the agenda (The International Global Society)

- Reading of the international section of the national and international press.

- Other readings that the teacher considers appropriate for the correct monitoring of the topics that make up the program. These readings range from news items to academic journals and can be provided by the teacher in class or posted on the Virtual Campus.

Although it is not compulsory reading, they are highly recommended:

- BAYLIS, J.; SMITH, S. OWENS, P. *The Globalization of World Politics* (9th), Oxford-New York, Oxford University Press, 2023, last edition of BAYLIS, John (et. al) (ed.). *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2017 (there are editions of 2014, 2011, 2005)

- LUNDESTAD, Geir, *East, West, North, South. Major developments in International Politics since 1945* (Seventh Edition), SAGE, 2014.

Recommended Bibliography (Basic texts and reference material)

AA.VV., *El estado del mundo*, Madrid: Ed. Akal (20...).

Anuario Internacional CIDOB, Barcelona, Fundación CIDOB.

ARACIL, Rafael.; OLIVER, Joan.; SEGURA, Antoni., *El mundo actual: De la Segunda Guerra Mundial a nuestros días*, Barcelona: Publicacions Universitat de Barcelona, 1995.

ARENAL, Celestino del, *Introducción a las relaciones internacionales*, Madrid: Tecnos, 1990 (3^a edició)

ARON, Raymond., *Paz y Guerra entre las Naciones*, Madrid: Alianza, 1985 (2 vols.)

ATTINÀ, Fulvio, *El Sistema político global: introducción a las relaciones internacionales*, Barcelona: Paidós, 2001

BANCO MUNDIAL, *Informe sobre el Desarrollo Mundial (anual)*, Washington, Banco Mundial.

BIMBI, Linda (ed.), *No en minombre: Guerra y Derecho*, Madrid: Editorial Trotta, 2003

BOYD, Andrew, *An Atlas of World Affairs*, Londres: Routledge, 1991 (9^a ed.)

BRZEZINSKI, Zbigniew, *El Gran Tablero Mundial*, Barcelona: Paidós, 1998.

BULL, Hedley, *La sociedad anarquica: un estudio sobre el orden en la política mundial*, Madrid: Los Libros de la Catarata, 2005.

CALVOCORESSI, Peter, *Historia Política del mundo contemporáneo. De 1945 a nuestros días*, Madrid: Akal, 1999 (Setena edició).

CARLSNAES, Walter; RISSE, Thomas.; SIMMONS, Beth A. (eds.), *Handbook of International Relations*, Londres: SAGE, 2002.

CARR, Edward H., *La crisis de los veinte años (1919-1939). Una introducción al estudio de las relaciones internacionales*, Madrid: Los Libros de la Catarata, 2004.

CARRILLO SALCEDO, Juan Antonio (comp.), *Textos básicos de Naciones Unidas*, Madrid: Tecnos, 1982.

CASTELLS, Manel., *La era de la Información. Economía, sociedad y cultura* (3 vols.), Madrid: Alianza, 1997-98.

CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN PARA LA PAZ (CIP), *Anuario del CIP. Conflictos y dilemas de la sociedad internacional*, Madrid: CIP / Icaria.

CHALIAND, Gerard i RAGEAU, Jean P., *Atlas stratégique et géopolitique*, Brussel·les: Complexe, 1994

DER DERIAN, James (ed.), *International Theory. Critical Investigations*, London: MacMillan, 1995

DONELLY, Jack, *Realism and International Relations*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

DOUGHERTY, James E. i PFALTZGRAFF JR., Robert L., *Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive Survey (4th edition)*, New York: Longman, 1997.

DOYLE, Michael W., *Ways of War and Peace*, New York / London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997.

DUROSELLE, Jean-Baptiste. "El Estudio De Las Relaciones Internacionales: Objeto, método, Perspectivas", *Relaciones Internacionales*, n.º 37, febrero de 2018, pp. 173-91. Recurs electrònic disponible UAB.

EVANS, Graham i NEWNHAM, Jeffrey, *The Penguin Dictionary of International Relations*, London: Penguin Books, 1998

FISAS ARMENGOL, Vicenç *Hegemonías, bloques y potencias en el siglo XXI. El orden mundial tras la guerra de Ucrania*, Madrid, Los Libros de La Catarata, 2022.

GARCÍA DE CORTÁZAR, Fernando i LORENZO, José María, *Historia del mundo actual, 1945-1989*, Madrid: Alianza, 1990.

GRIFFITHS, Martin, *Fifty Key Thinkers in International Relations*, London: Routledge, 1999.

GRIFFITHS, Martin i O'CALLAGHAN, Terry, *International Relations: The Key Concepts*, London: Routledge, 2002

HALLIDAY, Fred, *Las relaciones internacionales en un mundo en transformación*, Madrid:Los Libros de la Catarata, 2002.

HELD, David, *La democracia y el orden global: del estado moderno al gobierno cosmopolita*, Barcelona: Paidós, 1997

IFRI, Ramses, *Rapport annuel mondial sur le système économique et stratégique*, París.

IGNATIEFF, Michael, *Los derechos humanos como política e idolatría*, Barcelona: Paidós, 2003

JACKSON, Robert i SORENSEN, Georg, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003

JOUVÉ, Edmond, *Relations Internationales*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1992.

KALDOR, Mary, *Las nuevas guerras*, Barcelona: Tusquets Editores, 2001.

LAWSON, Stephanie (ed.), *The New Agenda for International Relations: From Polarisation to Globalisation in World Politics?*, Polity Press, 2001

LINKLATER, Andrew (ed.), *International Relations. Critical Concepts in Political Science (5 vols.)*, London: Routledge, 2000.

MC GLINCHEY, Stephen. *Foundations of International Relations*. Editorial: Bloomsbury Academic, London, 2022

MERLE, Marcel, *Sociología de las relaciones internacionales*, Madrid: Alianza Universidad, 2000 (3^a edición revisada y ampliada).

MORGENTHAU, Hans, *Escritos sobre política internacional*, Madrid:Tecnos, 1990.

NAÍM, Moises, *El fin del poder*, Madrid: Debate, 2014.

NASSAU, Adams *Worlds apart: the north-south divide and the international system*, London: Zed Books, 1993.

NEILA HERNÁNDEZ, José Luis, et. Al. *Historia de las Relaciones Internacionales*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 2018.

NYE Jr., Joseph S., *La paradoja del poder norteamericano*, Madrid: Taurus, 2003.

NYE Jr., Joseph S., *The Future of Power*, New York: Public Affairs, 2011

PALOMO GARRIDO, Aleksandro *Apogeo y declive de la Globalización*, Madrid, Los Libros de La Catarata, 2022 (vol. 2)

PALOMO GARRIDO, Aleksandro *Auge y expansión de la Globalización*, Madrid, Los Libros de La Catarata, 2022 (vol. 1)

PEÑAS, FranciscoJ., *Hermanos y enemigos. Liberalismo y Relaciones Internacionales*, Madrid: Los Libros de la Catarata, 2003.

PNUD, *Informe sobre el Desarrollo Humano* (anual).

SIPRI *Yearbook on Armament and Disarmament*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (anual).

SMOUTS, Marie-Claude. *Dictionnaire des relations internationales: approches, concepts, doctrines*. Paris: Dalloz, 2006 (2^a edició).

STEGER, Manfred, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

TAIBO, Carlos *El decrecimiento explicado con sencillez*, Madrid, Los Libros de La Catarata, 2022 (existe e-book)

TRUYOL, Antonio., *La sociedad internacional*, Madrid: Alianza, 1993 (2^a edició).

VIOTTI, Pauk.and Mark V..KAUPPI, *International Relations Theory. Realism, Pluralism, Globalism, and Beyond*,Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999 [3^a edició]

WALZER, Michael., *Guerras justas e injustas.Un razonamiento moral con ejemplos históricos*, Barcelona: Paidós, 2001.

WHITE, Brian, LITTLE, Richard i SMITH, Michael (eds.), *Issues in World Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2001 (Second Edition - Revised, Expanded and Updated)

ZORGBIBE, Charles, *Historia de las Relaciones Internacionales* (2 vols), Madrid: Alianza, 1997.

Journals

- Afers Internacionals (CIDOB)
- Alerta 20..! Informe sobre conflictos, derechos humanos y construcción de paz (Escola de Cultura de Pau de la UAB)
- Anuario 20.. de Procesos de Paz (Escola de Cultura de Pau de la UAB)
- Anuario Internacional CIDOB
- Cooperation and Conflict
- European Journal of International Relations (UK)

- Foreign Affairs (USA)
- Foreign Affairs en español (Méxic)
- Foreign Policy - Edición Española (Espanya)
- International Affairs (UK)
- International Organization (USA)
- International Security (USA)
- International Studies Quarterly
- Keesing's World New Archives (www.keesings.com)
- Le Monde Diplomatique (França-Espanya)
- Política Exterior (Espanya)
- Revista Electrònica d'Estudis internacionals (Espanya): <http://www.reei.org>
- Review of International Studies (UK)
- Third World Quarterly (UK)
- La Vanguardia Dossier (Espanya)
- World Politics (USA)
- The World Today (UK)

Web pages

Amnistia Internacional: <http://www.a-i.es/>

CIDOB: <http://www.cidob.es>

Comitè d'ajuda al desenvolupament de l'OCDE: <http://www.oecd.org/cad>

FIRST(Facts on International Relations and Security Trends) - <http://first.sipri.org/>

FMI: <http://www.imf.org/external/spa/index.htm>

ForeignAffairs -<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/>

Foreign Affairs en español -<http://www.foreignaffairs-esp.org>

Foreign Policy - Edición Española -<http://www.fp-es.org>

Heidelberg Institute of International Conflict Research (HIIK) - <http://www.hiik.de/en/index.htm>

International Relations and Security Network - <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/>

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) - http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?home_index.html

Le MondeDiplomatique: <http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/>

Naciones Unidas: <http://www.un.org/spanish>

Observatori de crisis del Cidob: http://observatori.barcelona2004.org/observatorio/home_c.htm

Revista electrònica de relacions internacionals: <http://www.reei.org>

The Swedish Institute of International Affairs - <http://www.ui.se/>

The WWW Virtual Library: International Affairs Resources <http://www2.etown.edu/vl/>

Software

This class does not require any specific software.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(SEM) Seminars	11	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	12	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	90	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed