

TEACHING GUIDE OF THE COURSE: "INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS"

Academic year XXXX/XXXX

Introductory remarks

The present teaching guide is intended to provide guidance to both students and professors of the course "International Relations", taught in English during the academic year XXXX/XXXX. It is mainly aimed, *inter alia*, at: *i*) offering further details on the theoretical and practical programmes followed during the lectures, *ii*) presenting and explaining its learning activities, *iii*) describing the available evaluation systems, *iv*) and arranging all the necessary materials to prepare the course and to achieve the learning objectives stated on the general teaching guide. Generally speaking, there is no prerequisite to register for the course, but it is highly recommended to have a general knowledge of International Law, and being informed of international news, in addition to being committed to prepare the required readings and the individual and collective workloads.

Objectives

The general and specific goals of the course developed in the present educational guide are a selection of the most representative ones of the course teaching guide. On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

A. General objectives:

- Pursue argumentative reasoning in writing and orally.
- Improve critical thinking and writing skills.
- Apply theoretical concepts in the study of empirical processes.

B. Specific objectives:

- Identify the fundamental features of central concepts and theories in international relations.
- Analyse and understand the major topics of international relations and world politics.
- Explain the importance of key historical events and processes in the development of the study of international relations.
- Demonstrate the ability to describe the legal, social, political, and economic forces that influence social behaviour and the global system.

- Compare different theories in international relations and their underlying basic assumptions and premises.
- Use knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving manner to address issues of immediate international concern.

Learning tools and methodology

All teaching activities encourage students' active participation and commitment during the whole semester, in particular those following the continuous assessment system.

The learning and teaching activities, which will be further detailed in the section "Programme of learning activities", include:

- Lectures
- Thematic seminars on particular topics of International Relations
- Group work
- Autonomous learning
- Academic supervision

Throughout the semester, the learning activities and the methodology will be adapted to take into account the specific needs of the students. For that and other reasons linked to teaching/learning, the instructors will use different methods and tools to adapt the contents of the programme to the different needs and learning pace of the students, including diverse learning activities to assess the complete learning process of students during the whole semester.

Programme

The programme is based on Prof. Diego J. Liñán's «Relaciones Internacionales» course. It has been adapted and detailed by prof. Lucas J. Ruiz Díaz and prof. Ozana Olariu.

PART I. INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Unit 1. Understanding International Relations

- International Relations: definition and object of study
- International Relations today
- International Relations Theories

Unit. 2. The development of the International System

- The classical period (1648-1789): the Westphalian system of States
- Transitional Period (1789-1945): the Vienna and Versaille models

- The post–World War II system (1945): the UN Charter model
- The international system today

PART II: ACTORS

Unit 3. State Players

- State actors in world affairs
- States and power
- States and foreign policies

Unit 4. International Organizations

- Definition and international legal personality
- Powers and competences
- Regional Organizations
- The United Nations

Unit 5. Other Actors

- Introductory remarks and common traits of non-state actors
- International Non-Governmental Organizations
- Multinational Corporations
- Subnational entities
- Other international actors

PART III: PROCESSES

Unit 6. War and conflicts

- Definition and the nature of current conflicts
- The use of force in international relations

Unit 7. International Security

- International crisis/conflict management
- The Institutionalization of the response. The role of International Organizations

Unit 8. International Cooperation

- Interdependence and world politics
- Global concerns and international cooperation
- Regionalism and regionalization

Learning achievements

At the end of every unit, students will be able to:

Unit 1: Understand the basic concepts of International Relations theory and the main paradigms or schools of thought.

Unit 2: Analyze and understand the evolution of the international system from an historical perspective, its main elements and how it is configured today.

Unit 3: Understand the role played by the State in international relations, how it has been analyzed by the different schools of thought, and its place in the international system.

Unit 4: Define International Organizations as a subject of International Law and understand their role in international relations.

Unit 5: Identify other international actors, their main characteristics and how they influence or impact international relations.

Unit 6: Interpret the root causes of war throughout History, its regulation under the contemporary international system, and current dynamics and explanations of international and domestic conflicts.

Unit 7: Define the basic concepts of international security, the main threats to international peace and security, and the role of the UN system in crisis management and conflict prevention.

Unit 8: Identify and understand why States and other international actors cooperate and the dynamics of world politics in present times.

Programme of learning activities

Unit 1: Understanding International Relations

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Micro-videos (Edpuzzle in PRADO) → Quizzes (Mentimeter/Quizizz) 	Weeks 1 and 2
Practical and group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Podcast on latest issues on IR (throughout the whole semester) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Spotify (or other open platforms) 	
Autonomous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings 	

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Unit 2: The development of the International System

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Quizzes (Mentimeter/Quizizz) 	Week 3
Practical and group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Visual Thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Miro / Canva 	
Autonomous work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings 	

Unit 3: State Players

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Micro-videos (Edpuzzle on PRADO) → Quizzes (Mentimeter/Quizizz) 	Weeks 4 and 5
Practical and group activities			
Autonomous work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings 	

Unit 4: International Organizations

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Micro-videos (Edpuzzle in PRADO) 	Weeks 6 and 7
Practical and group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Thematic seminar on the UN system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → PRADO → Readings → Simulation game 	
Autonomous work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings 	

Unit 5: Other actors

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Micro-videos (Edpuzzle in PRADO) 	Weeks 8 and 9
Practical and group activities			
Autonomous work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings 	

Unit 6: War and conflicts

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Micro-videos (Edpuzzle in PRADO) 	Weeks 10 and 11
Practical and group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Thematic seminar on civil conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → PRADO → Readings → Miro board or Mind Map (Canva) 	
Autonomous work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings → Documentaries 	

Unit 7: International Security

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Micro-videos (Edpuzzle in PRADO) 	Weeks 12 and 13
Practical and group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Thematic seminar on violent non-state actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → PRADO → Readings → Miro board or Mind Map (Canva) 	
Autonomous work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings 	

Unit 8: International Cooperation

Activities	Methodology	Educational Resources (Apps)	Time schedule
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Master classes → Discussions and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Live interactive presentations → PRADO (Badges) → Micro-videos (Edpuzzle in PRADO) 	Weeks 14 and 15
Practical and group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Thematic seminar on the EU integration process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → PRADO → Readings → Miro board or Mind Map (Canva) 	
Autonomous work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Documentary analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Readings 	

Basic and recommended readings

The basic textbook to study and prepare the course are:

- ROCHESTER, J. M. (2010). *Fundamental Principles of International Relations*, Routledge. Available at ProQuest Ebook Central.
- BAYLIS, J.; SMITH, St. y OWENS, P. (2020). *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction of International Relations*, Oxford University Press.

In addition, students need to complement the theory and practice with these recommended readings hereby detailed by units:

Unit 1:

- BAYLIS, J.; SMITH, St. y OWENS, P. (2020). *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction of International Relations*, Oxford University Press (Part I).
- DOYL, M. W. (2018). *New Thinking in International Relations Theory*, Routledge, London.
- FRIEDEN, J. A., LAKE, D., and SCHULTZ. K. (2021). *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Fifth Edition. New York & London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- JACKSON, R. y SØRENSEN, G. (2018). *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, Oxford University Press.

Unit 2:

- IKENBERRY, J. (2018). The end of liberal international order? *International Affairs*, 94 (1), pp. 7–23.

Unit 3:

- NYE, J. (1990). Soft Power. *Foreign Policy*, Autumn, 1990, No. 80, Twentieth Anniversary (Autumn, 1990), pp. 153-171.

Unit 4:

- KLABBERS, J. (2015). Chapters “The rise of International Organizations” and “The legal positions of International Organizations”. In KLABBERS, J. *An Introduction to International Organizations Law*, 4th edition, Cambridge University Press.
- UNITED NATIONS (2022). *United Nations Handbook 2022–23*. Available at: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/our-work-with-the-un/un-handbook/>

Unit 5:

- COLD-RAVNKILDE, S. and BAR, B. (2022). *Unpacking ‘new climate wars’: Actors and Drivers of Conflict in the Sahel*. Danish Institute for International Studies. Available at: <https://www.diis.dk/en/research/actors-and-drivers-of-conflict-in-the-sahel>
- CORNAGO, N. (2010). On the Normalization of Sub-State Diplomacy. In CRIEKEMANS, D.. (ed.). *Regional Sub-State Diplomacy Today* (pp. 11-37), Martinus Nijhoff, Leiden.
- MANDEL, R. (2013). *Global Security Upheaval. Armed Non-state Groups Usurping State Stability Functions*. Stanford University Press, in particular pp. 37-61.

Unit 6:

- KALDOR, M. (2012). *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era*, Third Edition. Polity Press.

Unit 7:

- AUGER, V. (2020). Right-Wing Terror. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, Vol. 14, No. 3, pp. 87-97.
- KRAMER, r. (2021). An examination of hybrid organized criminal groups’ alliances with terrorist groups. *Trends in Organized Crime*, 25, pp. 338–360.
- SCHMID, A. (2023). Defining Terrorism. ICCT Report.

Unit 8:

- Hurd, I. (2022). The case against international cooperation. *International Theory*, 14(2), pp. 263-284. doi:10.1017/S1752971920000470

Assessment systems and criteria

A) Continuous assessment system:

As the general rule, evaluation in the course is carried out in the form of continuous assessment. That means assessing students’ progress throughout the whole semester, evaluating their course assignments and participation in classes and seminars as detailed in

the programme of learning activities. The items and criteria to be taken into account for the final grade in the ordinary call (June) are described as follows:

Evaluation instruments	Criteria	Percentage over the total grade
Thematic seminars	Clarity and structure of the arguments defended, oral expression, active participation	40%
Podcast	Relevance to the study of current international relations, originality, oral expression	
Final written exam	Clarity and structure of the arguments, written expression, assimilation of contents and key concepts of IR theory	60%

As a reminder, students need to pass the written exam (i.e., minimum of 5 out of 10 points, or 50% of the total grade) in order for their marks of the practical activities to be taken into consideration for the final grade. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and may result in not passing the subject. In the event that the student does not further comply with the minimum requirements to attend the continuous assessment system or does not pass the subject in the ordinary call, he/she will have to pass the extraordinary or special call, in which case the final grade will be the only result of the exam; that is, the final exam shall account for 100% of the final grade.

B) Single-test assessment system:

In some particular cases defined by the individual regulations of the UGR, students may ask for, and obtain, the recognition of a differentiated status to be evaluated through the single-test assessment system. In that instance, the exam shall account for 100% of the final grade and the questions might cover the complete programme.