



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

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CIHS

ANALYSIS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Degree: Bachelor's Degree in International Relations (E-6)

Credits: 4.5

Department: International Relations

DESCRIPTION: This subject focuses on the analysis of different case studies in international politics which lets students make practical use of their previously acquired knowledge on international relations.

SUBJECT SPECIFICATIONS:

The subject gives students a current view of some of the main ongoing conflicts in the global political sphere, at the same time that it provides them with tools for a practical application of the knowledge they have already acquired on International Relations. By means of practical case studies, the students develop their capacity to analyse the dynamics, involved parties, power relations and future scenarios present in the conflicts under study. The applied nature of this subject encourages students to use their abilities to critically discuss and debate current controversies in international politics, based on appropriate approaches, levels of analysis and sources of information from an interdisciplinary perspective. In addition to this, the oral presentations of the analysed cases will develop the students' essential skills for future professional practice.

SKILLS

General Skills:

- Analysis and synthesis capacity
- Organisational and planning capacity
- Basic knowledge of the area of study
- Research and information management capacity
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Critical and self-critical capacity
- Teamwork
- Working in an interdisciplinary team
- Recognition of diversity and multiculturalism
- Working in an international context
- Ethical commitment
- Capability for intellectual work
- Capability to put knowledge into practice
- Capability to generate new ideas
- Leadership
- Understanding the cultures and customs of other countries
- Ability to work and learn independently
- Concern for quality



Specific Skills:

- The ability to use analytical and interpretive skills in issues and phenomena with regard to international relations
- The knowledge and ability to critically analyse questions and events relevant to the current international agenda

Thematic blocks

Block 1: Analysing international politics

- International Relations and global politics
 - Political conflicts and Theories of International Relations
 - The paradigm of globalisation

Block 2: Case Studies

- The nature of political regimes
 - Russia: from Yeltsin to Putin
 - Venezuela's political regime
- Decision making in the European Union
 - The EU and the Greek debt crisis
 - The EU and the refugee crisis
- Processes of political change
 - The Arab Spring in Egypt
 - The Syrian conflict
- Nationalism and independentist movements
 - The referendum on Brexit
 - The Ukraine conflict
- Foreign policy styles: from Bush to Obama to Trump
 - New relations with Cuba
 - The nuclear deal with Iran
- International terrorism
 - The Islamic State
 - The attack on Charlie Hebdo
- International environmental agenda
 - The United States policy regarding global warming

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

Work dynamics: Throughout the course, the following activities will be included:



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- Presentation by the lecturer on the topic being studied according to the programme, followed by discussion between students and the lecturer to clear doubts and promote participation and debate. The audiovisual documents are designed to complement the contents described in each session, therefore it is necessary that they be studied before the corresponding sessions. Tests may eventually be carried out in class in order to verify whether the contents are being studied.
- Group presentations by students on case studies assigned by the lecturer from the topics under study, followed by a collective discussion. The contents of each presentation may be shared with the rest of the students as examination material, once they have been reviewed by the lecturer. Instructions on how to prepare the presentations will be given at the beginning of the subject.
- Debates on current international topics by teams constituted beforehand
- Preparing an individual essay ("position paper") where the students defend their position on a controversial topic in international relations, based on the class readings and analysed approaches. Instructions on how to prepare the essays will be given at the beginning of the subject.

CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY: ACTIVITIES

Explanatory readings:

At the beginning of each topic

Face-to-face classroom percentage (100%)

Practical exercises/problem solving

Discussion between students and the lecturer on assigned readings, participation in classroom debates and solving practical exercises

Face-to-face classroom percentage (25%)

Individual and group assignments

Individual essays on one controversial topic in international politics from those proposed by the lecturer

Face-to-face classroom percentage (20%)

Individual and group presentations

Group presentations of case studies assigned by the lecturer from those included in the syllabus- Holding debates on current international topics

Face-to-face classroom percentage (40%)

NON-CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY: ACTIVITIES

Personal study and documentation

Reading academic texts and consulting other sources of information to acquire a deeper knowledge of the topics discussed in classroom sessions and preparing all assigned tasks.



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SUMMARY OF STUDENT STUDY HOURS

Classroom hours: Explanatory readings: 45.00

Non-classroom hours: Practical exercises/problem solving: 68.00

Assessment and grading criteria

Written examination: 55%

Assessment of individual essay: 15%

Assessment of the group presentation of the case study, or where applicable, the assigned debate: 20%

Active participation of the student: 10%

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 93.1 of the General Regulation of the University "absence from more than one third, or even a lower threshold where so established in the academic rules of the Centre, of the classroom hours of each subject shall result in the student's inability to attend the examination in the ordinary session of the same academic year. The academic rules of the Centre may extend such consequence to the extraordinary examination session also".

Classroom hours: 60

Non-classroom hours: 90

REFERENCE AND MATERIALS

Basic Reference

- Lamy, S., Baylis, J y Owens, P. (2014). *Introduction to Global Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 3rd ed.

- Smith, S. Hadfield, A. y Dunne, T (eds.) (2012). *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2nd ed.

Additional References

- Art, R.y Jervis,R. (2014). *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, Pearson, 12th ed.

- Baylis, J., Smith, S. y Owens,P. (eds.) (2014) *The Globalization of Politics. An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford:Oxford University Presss,6th Ed

- Blair, A. Y Curtis, S. (2009). *International Politics: an Introductory Guide*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh Univesity Press.

- Brown, C. y Ainely, K. (2009). *Understanding International Relations*. New York: Palgrave McMillan.

- Dunne, T, Kurki, M. y Smith, S. ed. (2013). *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 3rd ed.



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- Hay, C (ed). (2010) *New Directions in Political Science: Responding to Challenges of Interdependent World*, Basingstoke: Palgrave
- Hadson, V. (2014). *Foreign Policy Analysis*, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2nd ed. Lawson, S. (2012) *International Relations*, Cambridge: Polity, 2th ed