Universidad de Navarra

World Politics (Doble RRII/Der)

Teaching guide 2026-27

INTRODUCTION

This course evaluates the politics of the relationships between and among the different agents and subjects of global power and governance - state actors and non-state actors - as they manage global challenges, and opportunities. It does so from the ethical principle of the common good and its policy applications (human dignity, solidarity, and subsidiarity) further to the social doctrine of the Church and, more generally, the Western humanist tradition. *World Politics* allows students to give ethical meaning to the political function of each of the different dynamics - conflict, cooperation, competition and coexistence - that push and pull international relations through case studies that cover select global issues. These include war and weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and transnational organised crime, the environment and climate change, health and pandemics, migration and forced displacement, hunger and poverty reduction, and artificial intelligence and transhumanism. The course understands humanity as a global community and further understands that each person in that global community ought to attain "the full development of human personality" (*Mater et Magistra*, [65]). In this way, the course allows students to evaluate "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment" (*Gadium et spes* , [26]) through the ethical governance of the global.

- **Degree:** International Relations with Law
- **Course:** World Politics
- **ECTS:** 6 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits
- **Year / Semester:** Second Year / Second Semester
- **Course Type:** Compulsory
- **Course Teacher:** Dr Stephanie Villalta Puig
- **Course Language:** English
- **Class Schedule and Location:**
  - Class I: Mondays 15:30 - 17:15 (Amigos Aula 110)
  - Class II: Fridays 15:30 - 17:15 (Amigos Aula 111)

LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

Below is the statement on course competencies in the *Memoria oficial del Grado en Relaciones Internacionales*:

Básicas y generales:

- **CG04** - Usar el inglés con propiedad según la terminología científica y académica propia de las Relaciones internacionales.
- **CG05** - Saber expresarse oralmente de manera correcta y adecuada sobre temas internacionales.
- **CG07** - Valorar con espíritu crítico la realidad internacional y sus problemas específicos.
- **CB1** - Que los estudiantes hayan demostrado poseer y comprender conocimientos en un área de estudio que parte de la base de la educación secundaria general, y se suele encontrar a un nivel que, si bien se apoya en libros de texto avanzados, incluye también algunos aspectos que implican conocimientos procedentes de la vanguardia de su campo de estudio.
- **CB3** - Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética.

- **CB4** - Que los estudiantes puedan transmitir información, ideas, problemas y soluciones a un público tanto especializado como no especializado.
- **CB5** - Que los estudiantes hayan desarrollado aquellas habilidades de aprendizaje necesarias para emprender estudios posteriores con un alto grado de autonomía.

Específicas:

- **CE20** - Evaluar las relaciones internacionales y cada uno de sus componentes sociológicos, históricos, jurídicos, políticos y económicos.
- **CE01** - Conocer los conceptos y técnicas aplicadas al análisis de los actores y relaciones internacionales.
- **CE07** - Conocer las características de la geopolítica mundial y el concepto de la denominada sociedad internacional.
- **CE13** - Conocer y analizar las teorías e ideologías políticas contemporáneas.

SYLLABUS

Introduction:

- The Study of International Relations in Global Politics: Globalisation and Deglobalisation

Interests and Interactions in Global Politics:

- Power and Governance

Agents and Subjects in Global Politics:

- State Actors: Nation-States and Supranational Unions, International and Regional Organisations, Intergovernmental Forums
- Non-State Actors: International Non-governmental Organisations, Civil Society Platforms and Other Transnational Social Movements, Multinational Corporations and Mass Media

The Principle of the Common Good and Global Politics:

- Catholic Social Teaching
- The Western Humanist Tradition

Challenges for Global Politics:

- War and Security
- Terrorism
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Environment
- Health
- Refugees and Other Migrants
- Hunger and Poverty

Opportunities for Global Politics:

- Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention
- Economic Integration: Finance and Trade

Conclusion:

- Global Politics for the Common Good

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Class Schedule:

The course runs for 13 weeks in the first semester of the academic year – from Tuesday 1 September 2026 to Friday 27 November 2026 – and comprises two weekly 105 minute discussive in-class lecture sessions.

Workload Distribution:

The course weighs six European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25 hours of student work. While there are differences among students, the expectation is that an individual student would dedicate approximately 150 hours of work (contact and non-contact) in support of the 13-week programme. As an approximate break down, the estimation is that 11 hours per week of student work are necessary to successfully complete the course, with the average hours per week for each learning and teaching activity as follows (approximate figures):

Activity	**Mode**	**ECTS**	**Hours (per week)**	**Percentage**
Class Preparation	Out-of-Class	0.78	19.5 hrs (1.50 p/w)	14%
Discussive Lectures	In-Class	1.82	45.5 hrs (3.50 p/w)	30%
Personal Study	Out-of-Class	1.56	39 hrs (3.00 p/w)	26%
Assessment Preparation	Out-of-Class	1.82	45.5 hrs (3.50 p/w)	30%
Total	---	6.00	150 hrs (11.00 p/w)	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Exercise	**Percentage of Marks**	**Date and Location**
Socratic Debates	10%	Weekly (In-Class)
Evaluative Group Case and Live Critical Examination	20%	By Roster (In-Class)
Mutiple Choice Test I	10%	16 October 2026 (In-Class)

Multiple Choice Test II	10%	23 November 2026 (In-Class)
Final Examination	50% (subject to 50% hurdle)	10 December 2026
Reassessment Examination	100%	04 June 2027

OFFICE HOURS

For consultation, students must email the Course Teacher, **Dr Stephanie Villalta Puig**, with a request for an appointment: svillaltap@unav.es. Student consultations are held:

- in Room 1711, Ismael Sánchez Building;
- on Wednesdays of term time from 14:30 to 15:30.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The course textbook is Jeffry A Frieden, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (6th ed, WW Norton, 2026). Find it in the Library (Ed. 2026). Digital copies are available for purchase from WW Norton.