



Fundamentals of International Relations
Guía docente 2026-27

Foundations of International Relations

- **Degree:** Degree in Economics + Leadership and Governance
- **Module and field:** Módulo 7: Optativas Materia 7.2: Optativas Específicas no oficiales
- **Type of subject:** Required (OB)
- **Number of Credits:** 3 ECTS
- **Year and semester:** 2nd year / 1st Semester
- **Language:** English
- **Lecture schedule:** TBD
- **Aula:** Ed. Amigos. Piso TBD
- **Department:** Economics
- **Office:** Ed. Amigos, Torre, 2490, second floor
- **Student's Workload:** 75 hours
- **Professor:** Juan Luis López Aranguren

The International Relations sphere increasingly defines and shapes our domestic politics, our economic development, our cultural framework and our daily lives. From a purely Inter-State conception, the academic study of International Relations has been incorporating new actors and transnational phenomena that have been shaping a complex, interrelated and constantly evolving global system. Global Media, massive migrations, social movements, multinational companies and the global digital communication irruption are some of these phenomena that are increasing both the World Politics complexity and the international impact on the domestic dynamics.

In this course, students will acquire the conceptual and methodological tools necessary to understand international reality, analyze its evolution and identify the factors and subjects that shape its dynamics. The sessions methodology will be participatory, dynamic and interdisciplinary. These sessions will be composed of both theoretical and practical sessions in which students will perform presentations on various global issues applying their creativity, teamworking skills and analytical abilities. In order to reinforce the knowledge acquisition, the presentation will be complemented with public debates, audiovisual resources, exhibitions, computer practices and international cases resolution contests employing the main international organizations' databases.

RESULTADOS DE APRENDIZAJE (Competencias)

SSOP11	SSOP12	SSOP13	SSOP14	SSOP15
Acquiring principles of leadership, argumentation, and/or communication that allow for navigating complex and globalized economic environments.	Acquiring basic principles of philosophy and understanding their relationship with economics in a globalized environment.	Acquiring basic knowledge of law and understanding its relationship with economics in a globalized environment.	Acquiring basic principles of politics and understanding their relationship with economics in a globalized environment.	Acquiring basic principles of international relations and understanding their relationship with economics in a globalized environment.



CEOP11	CEOP12	CEOP13	CEOP14	CEOP15
Conocer principios de liderazgo, argumentación y /o comunicación que permitan desenvolverse en entornos económicos caracterizados por la complejidad y globalización	Conocer principios básicos de filosofía y entender su relación con la economía en un entorno globalizado	Conocer aspectos básicos de derecho y entender su relación con la economía en un entorno globalizado	Conocer principios básicos de política y entender su relación con la economía en un entorno globalizado	Conocer principios básicos de relaciones internacionales y entender su relación con la economía en un entorno globalizado

PROGRAMA

SYLLABUS

Lesson 1. Theoretical Foundations of World Politics

1.1. The shift from the IR paradigm to the Globalization paradigm

1.2. The 5 main factors of the shift

1.2.1 The economic victory of the US against the USSR

1.2.2 Japan as a world economic power

1.2.3 Adoption of capitalism by China

1.2.4 Growth of interdependence and interconnectedness

1.2.5 Emergence of global non-state actors

1.3. The 4 main consequences of the shift

1.3.1 From state-centrism to the mixed-actor model

1.3.2 From independence to interdependence

1.3.3 From domestic/international divide to transnationalism

1.3.4 From international anarchy to global governance

1.4. Globalization: definition, types and positions

Lesson 2. Approaches to World Politics

2.1 Introduction to Approaches to World Politics

2.1.1 Conflict and competition in World Politics: From Ancient Greece to Ukraine's War

2.1.2 Collaboration in World Politics: From Mesopotamia to Bretton Woods Agreements

2.2 Other approaches to World Politics

2.3 Institutionalization of Approaches to World Politics



Lesson 3. Models of World Politics I: Economy, Communication and Civilizations

- 3.1. Role of the models in the study of IR
- 3.2 Francis Fukuyama and The End of History
- 3.3. Samuel P. Huntington and the Clash of Civilizations
- 3.4. Joseph S. Nye and Smart Power, Strong Power and Soft Power

Lesson 4. Models of World Politics II: Geography, Society, Military Deterrence, and Development

- 4.1 Amartya Kumar Sen and the Human Development Index
- 4.2 Hans Rosling and the macro analysis in International Relations
- 4.3 Von Neumann and Game Theory
- 4.5. Ian Morris and the geographical factor in IR

Lesson 5. International Subjects and Actors

- 5.1 New global powers I: BRICS
- 5.2 New global powers II: MINT and others
- 5.3. International Organizations: Notions and typology
- 5.4 The United Nations (UN)
- 5.5 The UN Treaty Database

ACTIVIDADES FORMATIVAS

Formative Activities

Oral presentations: The student must perform, in groups, an oral presentation on an international topic. The teacher will guide both the subject choice and the subsequent debate. The oral presentation can include graphs, pictures, audiovisual elements and a PowerPoint presentation. Both the research work and the presentation will be assessed. After the exposition, a debate moderated by the professor will be held with the rest of the students on the topic explained.

The presentation will be 20% of the final mark.

Short essays and debates: For each lesson, the professor will upload a small reading on the lesson's main ideas and a list of short questions. The student will have to read it, reflect on it and critically answer the questions briefly and concisely in a document. In each lesson, a small debate will be conducted where the students will participate, in turns, to share their views and ideas that have been reflected in the document. At the end of the semester, the student will submit to the professor all the answers that have been elaborated during the course in a single document. Both participation in the debates and the writing job will be assessed. Critical thinking, creativity, and the capacity to dialogue and debate constructively will be valued.

The short essays and debate activity will have a weight of 10% in the final mark.

EVALUACIÓN

Assessment



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CONVOCATORIA ORDINARIA

The final mark of the course will be based on the elements listed below. Both the practical part and the theoretical part must be passed in order to pass the course:

I Final Exam: 60% of the final mark

The final exam will consist of a series of questions in which the student must demonstrate the acquisition of the theoretical knowledge taught in the subject.

Value: 60% of the final mark.

II Practical part: 40% of the final mark

II.I Oral expositions

A set of oral presentations in which the student will deep into International Relations aspects and specific cases. These exhibitions will be held in groups, and the grade will be the same for all group members.

II Short essays and debates

Individual research deepening in World Politics readings through a Q&A document and a debate on the answers. The document must be done individually, and there will be a brief debate with the entire class for each reading on the conclusions reached by the student.

HORARIOS DE ATENCIÓN

Contact jlopezar@external.unav.es

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

BAYLIS, J., SMITH, S. and OWENS, P., *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, (6th Ed.), Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2015. [Find it in the library.](#)

DUNCAN, W.G.; B.JANCAR-WEBSTER and B. SWITKY, *World Politics in the 21st Century*, Boston & New York, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. [Find it in the library.](#)

FUKUYAMA, F. *The End of History and the Last Man*. New York, Free Press. 1992. [Find it in the library.](#)

HUNTINGTON, S. P. *The clash of civilizations and the remaking of world order*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1997. [Find it in the library.](#)

IKENBERRY, G. J. and MASTANDUNO, M., *Introduction to International Relations: Enduring Questions and Contemporary Perspectives*, London, Palgrave, 2015.

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MORRIS, I. *Why the West Rules—For Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future*, New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2010.

NAU, H. R., *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions and Ideas*, (4th Ed.), Thousand Oaks, Sage & CQ Press, 2015.

NYE, J.S. *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*. New York, Public Affairs, 2004.

RUSSETT, B., STARR, H. and KINSELLA, D., *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*, (9th Ed.), Boston, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010.

SUTCH, P. and ELIAS, K., *International Relations: The Basics*, London, Routledge, 2007.

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