

# **Syllabus**

**– International Political Relations –**

**5 Credits**



**INSTITUT CATHOLIQUE DE KABGAYI**

**Faculty of Journalism and Communication**

**Department of Journalism – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

**Contents**

Introduction..... 2

Lectures ..... 3

    Introduction to International Political Relations..... 3

    Realism, Neo-Liberalism, Constructivism and Post-Marxism..... 3

    Role and Evolution of Diplomacy ..... 5

    Presentation of International Institutions..... 5

    The Most Important International Treaties ..... 5

    The Role of NGOs: Track 2 Diplomacy ..... 6

    World Geopolitics ..... 7

    2 Major International Issues: Terrorism and natural resources ..... 7

    Understanding International Relations Negotiation ..... 8

    Media and War ..... 8

    New wars? ..... 9

    Country Risk Analysis Methodology ..... 10

    Conflict Analysis: Israel/Palestine..... 10

    Conflict Analysis: Syria..... 11

    Conflict Analysis: Afghanistan ..... 11

    Question time..... 12

Workshops..... 12

Exams..... 12

**Introduction**

This course aims to empower students with knowledge and capacities to understand and analyze current international issues. This objective will be achieved reviewing the different school of thoughts theories and their relevance in the current diplomatic context, considering the international framework and the role of main actors, exploring country risk analysis through the scrutiny of several contemporary conflicts.

Lectures are a mix of theory and practical exercises to improve memorization, to increase students’ involvement and work capacities and to make lectures more dynamic. Practical exercises (workshops) entail written exercises (policy analysis and advocacy), oral presentations and role playing.

Students shall read compulsory readings before attending lectures and workshops. Readings are available on the website [www.guillaumenicaise.com/ICK](http://www.guillaumenicaise.com/ICK)

## Lectures

### Introduction to International Political Relations

Duration: 1 Hour

Content:

This lecture introduces students to a general framework for understanding international politics, that is to say the study of human organization at its highest and most complex level. The main purpose of this lecture is to introduce students to the notion of war and to show its evolution, to familiarize students with the process of theorization and with key notions regarding international relations (state, nation, power, war, civil war)

Related Documents:

**Sun Tzu**, The art of War, 6<sup>th</sup> Cent. B.C.

**Joseph Nye**, Soft Power, 1990

**Guillaume Nicaise**, Summary of Charles Tilly: theory on war occurrence, 2011

### Realism, Neo-Liberalism, Constructivism and Post-Marxism

Duration: 5 Hours

Content:

This lecture describes the main school of thoughts to explain how world politics work and which tenets shape its most visible outcomes, such as war, international crises, and revolutions.

At the end of the 5 hours lecture, students should be able to understand the interpretative framework of international relations and to formulate different interpretation to current events.

- Presentation of Realism theories: Classical Realism (T. Hobbes, E. H. Carr), Structural realism (K. Waltz), Offensive and Defensive Realism (Mearsheimer), Joseph Grieco (Theory of alliances)
- Description of Liberalism: The Kantian perspective, Democratic Peace (W. Wilson), Institutional theory (Keohane, Ikenberry)
- The constructivist approach of international relations: The social construction of power (Alexander Wendt), critical theory

- The English School: Hedley Bull and Martin Wight
- Post Marxism: the school of Frankfurt (Jurgen Habermas)

Related Documents:

Realism

**Stephen Walt**, The Renaissance of Security Studies, 1991

**Kenneth Waltz**, Structural Realism after the Cold War, 2000

**John I. Mearsheimer**, The False Promise of International Institutions, 1995

**Guillaume Nicaise**, What is war ? By Clausewitz (Summary), 2011

Liberalism/Neoliberalism

**Emmanuel Kant**, Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch, 1795

**Robert Keohane**, Governance in a Partially Globalized World, 2000

**Robert Keohane, R.O. & Joseph Nye**, . Interdependence in World Politics, 1997

Constructivism

**Alexander Wendt**, Social Theory of International Politics, 1999

**Martha Finnemore**, National Interests in International Society, 1996

**Peter Haas**, Knowledge, Power, and International Policy Coordination, 1997

The English School

**Stanley Hoffman**, Hedley Bull and His Contribution to International Relations, 1986

**Hedley Bull**, The Anarchical Society, 1977

**Martin Wight**, Power Politics, 1978

Post marxism

**Robert Cox**, Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations: An Essay in Method, 1983

## **Role and Evolution of Diplomacy**

Duration: **2 Hours**

Content:

The conduct of diplomacy has changed significantly over the past sixty years. Prior to World War II, diplomacy was essentially a government-to-government relationship. Since the war, it has broadened to include as it is the diplomacy of the global economic system, cultural centers, international organizations, civil society organizations, etc. This lecture will try to explain the evolution of diplomacy, from the Westfalia treaty (1648) to contemporary diplomacy, identifying its key developments.

Related Documents:

**Alex De Waal**, Darfur and the failure of the responsibility to protect, 2007

**Jan Melissen**, Wielding soft power: the new public diplomacy, 2005

**Laurence-Camille Richard**, Diplomacy in the Twenty-First century: Change and Evolution, 2011

**Ingrid D'hoogue**, The rise of China's public diplomacy, 2005

**Mark Leonard**, Public Diplomacy, 2002

## **Presentation of the main Intergovernmental Institutions**

Duration: **3 Hours**

Content:

Intergovernmental Institutions are organizations composed primarily of sovereign states and established by treaty which provides to these institutions an international legal personality. This lecture aims at presenting the role of those intergovernmental institutions, in particular in the security sector, and to present the most important of them, that is to say the United Nations, the OSCE, the European Union, NATO, the African Union, the ASEAN, the Arab League, NAFTA.

Related Documents:

**David M. Law**, Intergovernmental Organizations and Their Role in Security Sector Reform

## **The Most Important International Treaties**

Duration: **2 Hours**

Content:

The lecture intends to give insights on the process to achieve binding treaties, as well as the goals and impacts of the most important treaties framing international relations.

- Treaties making process
- The law of war
- Human Rights law

Related Documents:

**UN Charter, 1945**

**Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, 1961**

**North Atlantic Treaty, 1949**

**The Rome Statute instituting the International Criminal Court, 2002**

**Yubaraj Sangroula, *International Treaties: features and Importance***

## **The Role of NGOs: Track 2 Diplomacy**

Duration: **2 Hours**

Content:

Track II diplomacy generally involves informal interaction with influential unofficial actors from civil society, business or religious communities, and local leaders. It generally seeks to supplement Track I diplomacy by working with middle and lower levels of society and often involves non-traditional methods, such as facilitating dialogue mechanisms and meetings that include participants from both government and non-government institutions. This lecture gives insights on the role of Non-Governmental Organizations and Institutional Organization as well as the limits of their influence to influencing and framing international issues.

Related Documents:

**Herman Joseph Kraft, The Autonomy Dilemma of Track Two Diplomacy in Southeast Asia.** Kraft, 2000

**Cynthia J. Chataway, Track II Diplomacy: From a Track I Perspective, 2007**

**Dalia Dassa Kaye, Rethinking Track Two Diplomacy: The Middle East and South Asia, 2005**

**Oliver P. Richmond, Rethinking Conflict Resolution: The Linkage Problematic Between "Track I" and "Track II", 2001**

## **World Geopolitics**

Duration: **2 Hours**

Content:

Geopolitics traditionally studies the links between political power and geographic space, and examines strategic prescriptions based on the relative importance of land power and sea power in world history. This lecture will try to give a broad picture on who has got power in the world today and why, from a global to a regional perspective, trying to show how this notion of power has evolved with the evolution of technology and perceptions.

Related Documents:

**Halford Mackinder**, The Geographical Pivot of History, 1904

**Samuel Huntington**, Clash of civilizations, 1993

**Zbigniew Brzezinski**, The Grand Chessboard : American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives, 1953

**James R. Hudson**, Braudel's Ecological Perspective, 1987

**Yves Lacoste**, La Géographie du sous-développement, 1965

## **2 Major International Issues: Terrorism and natural resources**

Duration: **2 Hours**

Content:

The lecture will first try to define terrorism (and explain this phenomenon) as an international threat (and to explain why states didn't succeed to find a common definition for it) before to clarify its roots in local grievances. Secondly, the lecturer will try to map the key natural resources in the world and their impact on international relations. Finally, the lecturer will analyze the correlation between the existence of natural resources and weak institutions in a country.

Related Documents:

**William F. Shughart II**, An Analytical History of Terrorism, 1945-2000, 2006

**Carlos Pascual**, The Geopolitics of Energy: From Security to Survival, 2008

**Bryan Caplan**, Terrorism: The Relevance of the Rational Choice Model, 2006

**Paul R. Ehrlich, Jianguo Liu**, Some Roots of Terrorism, 2002

**James D. Fearon**, Primary Commodity Exports and Civil War

**CSIS**, The geopolitics of energy: emerging trends, changing landscapes, uncertain times, 2010

## **Understanding International Relations Negotiation**

Duration: **2 Hours**

Content:

Understanding international negotiation is fundamental to appreciate the capacity of decision makers to ratify international treaties or to defend their national interest abroad. However, the complexity of international negotiations limits rationality of behaviors and the amount of information available for actors. Without trying to give a clear cut “formula” for successful negotiations (as there is not), the lecture aims at giving a broad picture of factors which may positively influence the outcome of a negotiation. In particular, this lecture focuses on Putnam and the two level game analysis, the game theory and the negotiation theory.

Related Documents:

**Putnam**, Two level Game Theory

**Daniel, Lieberfeld**, Secrecy and "Two-Level Games" in the Oslo Accord: What the Primary Sources Tell Us, 2008

**Druckman**, Turning Points in International Negotiation: A Comparative Analysis

**Christian Downie**, Managing Complexity in International Negotiations: Is there a role for treaty secretariats?, 2008

## **Media and War**

Duration: **2 Hours**

Content:

This lecture emphasized the role of the media in war coverage and in determining policies and outcomes of significant events (known as the CNN effect). In particular, it will emphasize the role of online media and new “propaganda” (or storytelling) to influence the perception on conflicts. Furthermore, the lecture questions the neutrality and objectivity of journalists, presenting the propaganda model and its opponents to explain current media behavior.

Related Documents:

**Eytan Gilboa**, The CNN Effect: The Search for a Communication Theory of International Relations, 2005

**Christian Christensen**, Uploading dissonance: *YouTube* and the US occupation of Iraq, 2008

**Peter Goddard, Piers Robinson and Katy Parry**, Patriotism meets plurality: reporting the 2003 Iraq War in the British press, 2008

**Edward S. Herman**, The Propaganda Model: a retrospective, 2000

**Jenny Pickerill, Frank Webster**, The Anti-War/Peace Movement in Britain and the Conditions of Information War, 2006

**Thomas M. Cioppa**, Operation Iraqi Freedom strategic communication analysis and assessment, 2006

**Thierry Balzacq**, The Three Faces of Securitization: Political Agency, Audience and Context, 2005

**Matt Mc Donald**, Securitization and the Construction of Security, 2008

## **New wars?**

Duration: **2 Hours**

### Content:

Since the middle of the 1990s, numerous analysts have argued that qualitative changes have occurred in the nature of violent conflict and that it is now possible to think in terms of ‘new wars’ that are distinct in significant ways from earlier forms of conflict. This new pattern focuses on ethnic competition as a source of conflict and distinguishing "new" civil wars as criminal, rather than political phenomena. The lecture’s intent is to explain the categorization of war and its consequences and to help students make their own opinion on this phenomenon. A brief focus will highlight the privatization of war and the use of private security companies.

### Related Documents:

**Deborah Avant**, From Mercenary to Citizen Armies: Explaining Change in the Practice of War, 2000

**Caroline Holmqvist**, Private Security Companies: The Case for Regulation, 2005

**Christina Hellmich**, Al-Qaeda—terrorists, hypocrites, fundamentalists? The view from within, 2005

**Mats Berdal, David M. Malone**, Greed and Grievance, Economic Agendas in Civil Wars, 2000

## **Country Risk Analysis Methodology**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

### **Content:**

This lecture gives insights on the process and difficulties to forecast crisis, presenting the main methodologies and indicators used by international institutions and private companies to determine country risks.

### **Related Documents:**

**Criminal Intelligence Service Canada**, Strategic Early Warning and Criminal Intelligence, 2007

**Michael D. Ward, Nils W. Metternich, Christopher Carrington, Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, Florian M. Hollenbach, Anna Schultz, Simon Weschle**, Stepping into the future: the next generation of crisis forecasting models, 2012

**Guillaume Nicaise**, Horizon Scanning Methodologies, 2012

## **Conflict Analysis: Israel/Palestine**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

### **Content:**

The lecture aims at giving a general understanding of the peace process in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the impact of international political relations on its current development.

- Historic development of the peace process
- The empirical situation
- An international law approach: strengths and weaknesses
- The regional dynamic: war in Syria, turmoils in Egypt, Lebanese threat and Jordan's alliance
- The International recognition of the State of Palestine and its economic and political perspectives

### **Related Documents:**

**Intelligence Economist Unit**, Country Report: Israel, September 2013

**International Crisis Group**, Report: Israel, May 2013

**United Nations**, UNGA Resolution 181 (1947)

**Camp David Agreement, 1978**

## **Conflict Analysis: Syria**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

**Content:**

Following the Arab Spring, social protests have been repressed by the Syrian Government. Against all expectations, a bloody civil war started, opposing Sunni tribes against the Shia minority at power, dividing the country and generating a humanitarian crisis. The analysis of the Syrian conflict will enable students to better understand the internationalization of a conflict and the geopolitics of the region. A particular emphasis will be given to the refugee situation in Lebanon and its consequences.

**Related Documents:**

**Intelligence Economist Unit, Country Report: Syria, September 2013**

**Intelligence Economist Unit, Country Report: Lebanon, September 2013**

**International Crisis Group, Syria report, June 2013**

**International Crisis Group, Lebanon report, May 2013**

## **Conflict Analysis: Afghanistan**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

**Content:**

War in Afghanistan is a very complex and multidimensional issue. Current war started in 2001 and has known several phases before partial withdrawal from the coalition of countries which invaded the country. Analyzing war in Afghanistan is an excellent exercise to understand the securitization process to go at war, current terrorism issues and the difficulties to build a strong and stable state. This analysis will specifically focus on:

- Recent history of the country (from the soviet invasion until today)
- 09/11 attacks and the legitimacy to attack Afghanistan
- The protracted war and the failure to create stable institutions and to fight against terrorism

**Related Documents:**

**Intelligence Economist Unit, Report: Afghanistan, 3rd Quarter 2013**

**International Crisis Group, Report: Afghanistan, June 2013**

## Question time

Duration: 2 Hours

## Workshops

### ➤ **Simulation of an international conflict**

Students are divided into small groups and represents different actors involved in a crisis: media, terrorist group, the UNSC, countries at war, neighboring countries, NGOs, P5.

### ➤ **Simulation of a United Nations Security Council meeting**

Students represent the five UNSC member states having a veto rights and must defend their national interests. At each table negotiation, a President is in charge of mediating discussions.

### ➤ **Writing a policy analysis**

Students have to prepare a policy paper based on a specific subject in a short time frame and to present it in front of the class.

### ➤ **Writing a political analysis**

Students have to prepare a narration on an international factual event, according to 3 different schools of thoughts.

## Exams

The final examination will be an oral test, with a set of 3 main questions on different topics that have been exposed during lectures. The student has to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the subject in order to pass the exam.

Participation and performance during workshops represent 25% of the overall core for this unit.