



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

<b>Course code</b>	<i>POL104</i>
<b>Course name</b>	<i>International Relations</i>
<b>Type of the course</b>	<i>Main</i>
<b>Study Level</b>	<i>1st</i>
<b>Department</b>	<i>Bachelor studies</i>
<b>Year of study</b>	<i>3rd</i>
<b>Semester</b>	<i>Fall</i>
<b>ECTS credits</b>	<i>6 credits: 24 hours lectures; 24 hours of seminars; 112 hours of individual work; 2 hours of consultation</i>
<b>Study form</b>	<i>Full-time</i>
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	<i>Introduction to Politics</i>
<b>Language of Instruction</b>	<i>English</i>
<b>Coordinating lecturer</b>	<i>Dr. Jonathan Boyd jonathan.boyd@faculty.ism.lt</i>

### Annotation

This course is an introduction to International Relations (IR), which is a branch of Political Science that studies the political and social consequences of the division of the world into separate territorially-based political units. It is also typically extended to include international organisations and non-state actors, and it focuses on issues broadly conceived of as having global—rather than limitedly domestic or local—significance.

The course is divided into four parts. In part one, students will be provided with background knowledge of the historical evolution of the state system. Building on that, students will then explore the central explanatory concepts of IR—power, interest, and identity—and their IR theory counterparts—Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism. In the second part, students will engage with and learn the methods of a compelling alternative theoretical approach to IR: the Strategic Perspective. It both challenges and differs significantly from traditional theories of IR by arguing that the preferences of leaders and their constituents—rather than national interests or the state system—are the primary drivers of foreign policy. In the final sections, students will use this Strategic Perspective and the logic of strategic interaction to explain major characteristics of, events, and trends in global politics. The focus of the third part will be warfare and conflict; specifically, the use of military force, military alliances, nuclear deterrence, terrorism and military intervention. The fourth part will examine significant aspects of peace, governance and world order, namely, international ethics, climate change, human rights and international law.

### Aim of the Course

The course will introduce students to the academic study of International Relations (IR), and give an overview of the major concepts, traditional theories and pressing issues in contemporary global politics. The primary aims of the course are to provide students with (i) a perspective of international relations as being predominately driven by individually-motivated strategies that shape war, peace, and world order; (ii) an understanding of the strategic calculations underlying the actions of the leaders of nations, international organisations and non-governmental interest groups; and (iii) the tools to understand empirical regularities by using strategic theory approaches.

### Subject learning outcomes

Subject Learning Outcome		Study methods	Assessment methods
SLO1	Compare and contrast the primary concepts and traditional theoretical approaches to the study of international politics.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO2	Explain the the Strategic Perspective's response to traditional theories of IR.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO2	Analyse case studies of international relations and foreign policies according to the methods of strategic theory, selectorate theory, and game theory.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.

SLO3	Model causes of war, brinkmanship, the security dilemma, bargaining, deterrence and compellence processes.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO4	Explain the rationale behind the formation of alliances; apply the concept of alliance portfolio to the analysis of the preferences of national leaders.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO5	Analyse the logic of terrorism and attendant issues of credibility.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO6	Assess the empirical evidence supporting democratic peace theory.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO7	Explain the purposes and formations of several international organisations and assess the extent to which common problems constrain their effectiveness and level of cooperation.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO8	Analyse climate change agreements as collective action problems.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.
SLO9	Critically assess the constructivist and strategic approaches to the formation of international law, norms and human rights.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Examinations, seminar presentations.

### Quality issues

The lecturer assures a variety of teaching methods as well as modes of self-assessment. The feedback from students will always be highly valued and appreciated.

### Cheating issues

The teaching and testing methods are chosen taking into account the purpose of the minimization of cheating opportunities. The ISM regulations on academic ethics are fully applied in the course.

### Topics:

Week	Topic	Contact Hours		Readings
		Lecture	Seminar	
1	Introduction to course and topics	2		
	The evolution of the state system		2	GWP: pp. 35-90
Part 1: Major IR Theories				
2	Realism	2	2	GWP: pp. 99-110
3	Liberalism	2	2	GWP: pp. 113-123
4	Constructivism	2	2	GWP: pp. 155-167
5	<b>Midterm exam</b>			
Part 2: The Strategic Perspective				
6	Foreign policy and domestic politics	2	2	PIP: pp. 1-33; 64-94
Part 3: War and Conflict				
7	Domestic theories of war	2	2	PIP: pp. 165-237
8	Terrorism	2	2	PIP: pp. 415-442 GWP: 357-371
9	Military intervention and democratisation	2	2	PIP: pp. 443-473 GWP: 479-496
Part 4: Peace, Governance and World Order				
10	Morality and International Relations	2	2	GWP: 199-210
11	Environmental Issues	2	2	PIP: pp. 267-291 GWP: 341-356



12	Human rights	2	2	PIP: pp. 293-319 GWP: pp. 463-478
	<b>Final Examination</b>			

#### Individual work and assessment:

TYPE	TOPICS	TOTAL HOURS	EVALUATION %
Midterm Exam	1 -- 4	28	25
Final Exam	5 -- 12	34	30
Assignments (3 in total)	1 -- 12	50	45
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Course assignments and evaluation:

##### 1. Midterm exam

The midterm will be held in week 5 of the term, during the lecture. It will be a closed-book test, including multiple choice questions, open questions, and problem solving. It will count towards 25% of the final grade. The midterm test will be based on topics 1-4.

##### 2. Assignments

Details of the assignments will be provided during the first week of the course. The first two assignments (documentary assignment and journal article assignment) will be worth 15% each of the course grade; the 'strategic perspective' exercise will be worth 20% of the course grade.

##### 3. Final exam

The final exam will count towards 30% of the final grade. It will be a closed-book test, including multiple choice questions, open questions and problem solving. It will test conceptual and analytical skills acquired in the course of the semester. The exam will be based on topics 5-12.

In the case of a negative final grade, students are allowed a retake exam. It will cover all course material. The weight of a retake is 55%. The assignments cannot be re-done, but their evaluations (if positive) will not be annulled.

#### Main readings:

TBA : In the course of the semester students will receive a packet of materials via e-Learning, containing both the required as well as the supplementary readings.