



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Științe Politice,
Administrative și ale Comunicării

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

Introduction to International Relations – Second Semester, AY 2016/2017

General information on lecture and seminar

Title: Introduction to International Relations

Code:

Credits: 5

Location:

Schedule:

Information about the lecturer and teaching assistant

Name:

Lect. Univ. Dr. Bogdan Radu

Contact information:

bogdan.radu@fspac.ro

Office hours: TBC, after class or by appointment, room 207, Topaz building

Course description

This course will familiarize students with the field of international relations. The latter, understood as a subfield of social sciences, are a relatively new discipline, and one that suffers permanent changes. During this class you will gain both theoretical and more pragmatic knowledge. We will discuss different theoretical approaches, and we will verify their applicability on concrete international events, so that at the end of the class you will have a fairly complete image of what international relations as a subject are, and also you will be capable to realize whether you would like to specialize in this field.



UNIVERSITATEA BABES-BOLYAI
BABES-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITAT
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Științe Politice,
Administrative și ale Comunicării

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Form a general image over the international system and its components
- Understand the role of theoretical approaches in understanding international events
- Offer informed and critical interpretations of international events.

Key concepts: international actor, levels of analysis, international system, international society, paradigm, realism, liberalism, interdependence, balance of power, constructivism, globalization, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental international organizations, global civil society

Mandatory bibliography

All the readings for this course are available online. A dropbox link will be provided. Most readings are from a book edited by Baylis, Smith and Owens (2014); the others are separate articles/book chapters.

Schedule of weekly meetings and examinations

1. Introductory remarks, class structure and organization, students' evaluations, general comments on the topic.
2. Defining international relations and the historical evolution of the international system. We will discuss the chronological and conceptual evolution of the field of international relations. We will analyze several definitions of international relations and also of the key concepts in the field. (No mandatory reading for this meeting)
3. Levels of analysis. The three levels of analysis in international relations are systemic, state and individual. They are critically important in understanding the how theories within the field of IR developed.
Singer, J. David. *The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations*. World Politics, Vol. 14, No. 1, The International System: Theoretical Essays (Oct., 1961), pp. 77-92.



Isaak, Robert A. *The Individual in International Politics: Solving the Level-of-Analysis Problem Polity*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Winter, 1974), pp. 264-276

4. The international system from a realist perspective

Realism is one of the most important theories of international relations. Realism offers a unique understanding of the international system, based on a specific understanding of human nature, and introducing concepts such as balance of power and anarchy.

Dunne, Timothy & Brian C. Schmidt. *Realism*. (in Baylis and Smith)

5. The international system from a liberal perspective

Liberalism is the rival theory of realism. Liberalism accentuates cooperation and the importance of international peace.

Dunne, Timothy. *Liberalism*. (in Baylis and Smith)

6. Midterm exam

7. International organizations

We will discuss different types of intergovernmental organizations, while also mentioning the rise of the global civil society.

Taylor, Paul and Devon Curtis. *The United Nations*. (in Baylis and Smith)

Willets, Peter. *Transnational actors and international organizations in global politics*. (in Baylis and Smith)

8. International regimes

The international regimes are theoretical constructs that address the importance of having international common principles and the problems faced by international actors in upholding them.

Little, Richard. *International Regimes*. (in Baylis and Smith)

9. New/critical approaches in international relations

Constructivism is one of the new approaches in international relations, by criticizing on positivist grounds the weaknesses of both realism and liberalism.

Smith, Steve. *New Approaches to International Theory*. (separate pdf file)



10. Globalization

Globalization brought significant changes to the international system. In this class we will define globalization and trace its effects in different spheres of the international arena.

Linklater, Andrew. *Globalization and the transformation of political community.* (in Baylis and Smith)

Clark, Ian. *Globalization and the post-cold war order.* (in Baylis and Smith)

11. Terrorism international relations

Terrorism is one of the most debated upon issue in international relations; it is very important to understand how the international system is affected by the rise of this phenomenon.

Kiras, James. *Terrorism and globalization.* (in Baylis and Smith)

12. Foreign policy – diplomacy

In this class we will discuss the concept of diplomacy, and analyze Romania's foreign policy as a case study.

White, Brian. *Diplomacy.* (separate pdf file)

13. Discussing students' essay questions

14. Final review

During this meeting, students will have the chance of asking questions about any topic from the class.

VII. Grading policy

The students will be evaluated for their attendance and participation in class, both for the lectures and for the seminars, for their efforts of covering the weekly readings, and their participation in individual and collective projects. The final grade will be constructed by adding up grades from the course and from the seminar, each representing half of the final grade. Therefore, each student will be graded from 1 to 10 for the course and for the seminar, and the final grade will represent the average of these two partial



UNIVERSITATEA BABES-BOLYAI
BABES-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITAT
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



**Facultatea de Științe Politice,
Administrative și ale Comunicării**

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

grades. If a student obtains less than 5 points at either partial grade, the student will not be able to pass the class.

The partial grade corresponding to the course will consist of the midterm grade and final grade, both oral, each representing 50% of the course grade.

The partial grade corresponding to the seminar will be constructed as follows: 30% for attendance and participation (including un-announced reading quizzes), 30% for in-class presentation of the weekly reading material (chosen in the first week of class and submitting weekly international news reports), and 40% for a written essay, presented within the seminar towards the end of the semester. Each student will have to bring to each class a report on one piece of relevant international news. The essay topics will have to be presented to the class and to the instructor no later than the 4th week of class.

Organization and exceptional situations

According to article 29(2) from the Babes-Bolyai University Student's status, seminar attendance is mandatory in a proportion of at least 75%. Not complying to this regulation leads to not being accepted to take the final exam, in either the regular session of exams and in retakes. In such cases, the subject will have to be retaken in the next academic year.

The grade for the seminar cannot be modified during regular exams or retakes. If the criteria for seminar participation are not met, the student will have to re-enroll in the same subject in the next academic year.

Plagiarism is considered fraud and is defined and legislated by the Faculty of Political, Administration and Communication Studies (<http://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/>). Plagiarism and attempted fraud is punished with the failing grade "1" and the case is reported to the Dean's office for further examination and sanctioning. Fraud during the final exam is punished with elimination from the exam.