



COURSE DESCRIPTION

HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Código 801819

NATURE	ELECTIVE	COURSE	4º
ECTS	6	SEMESTER	1ST
AREA	HISTORY		
DEPARTMENT	CONTEMPORARY HISTORY		
PROFESSOR	PROF. JOSÉ ANTONIO MONTERO JIMÉNEZ DEPT. OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY, BUILDING 'B', 10TH FLOOR, OFFICE 39 TEL. 91 394 59 13. E-MAIL: josemont@ucm.es		

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to the History of International Relations from 1815 to the present, focusing on the evolution of the international system. It pays special attention to the analysis of armed conflicts as well as the efforts to build a stable peace.

Due to its introductory nature, the course revolves around the historical evolution –both in time and in space- of the international system, as it was formed and led by the great powers. We understand that the best way to approach the History of International Relations is to concentrate on the study of great armed conflicts and international crises, as well as the efforts deployed to make the system more stable and, therefore, more peaceful. We will also dedicate some space to the ideas, representations, economic forces and social trends that helped shape International Relations in each phase.

Though Spain did not play a major international role, and was therefore a minor player, throughout the two hundred years covered by this course, we will try, both in the lectures and through the bibliographic and other materials offered in this course, to assess Spain's contribution to the shaping and evolution of the international system.

RESULTS

1. Familiarize and analyze the different elements pertaining to the History of International Relations from 1815 to the present, with a view to identify the successive phases in the evolution of the international system, as well as the nature of conflicts and the various attempts to promote peace and international cooperation.
2. Learn how to search, handle, organize and use the different kinds of written, oral, visual and digital resources at our disposal.
3. Prepare public presentations and open debates in class.
4. Prepare written essays, using the knowledge acquired both in the lectures and the seminars. They will take the form of tests, books reviews, topic reviews and other kinds of short papers relating the course.
5. Learn and handle the vocabulary specific to history, historiography and similar disciplines which may be applied to the study of International Relations.

TOPICS INCLUDE - Syllabus



1. History and theory in the study of international relations.
2. The Vienna system and post-1815 Europe.
3. 1830-1870. The rising of nationalities and the collapse of the Vienna system.
4. 1871-1918. Bismarck's diplomacy and the stabilization of international relations.
5. The expansion of Europe and the end of classical diplomacy.
6. 1890-1917. World politics and alliance systems.
7. The Versailles peace and collective security.
8. The international crisis of the 1930s
9. The 'Great Alliance', the Axis powers and the building of the postwar international order.
10. A Bipolar World: The Cold War.
11. Towards a New World Order.

SKILLS

Know, analyze and assess the basic interpretative trends within the History of International Relations from 1815 to the present.

Know, analyze and assess the History of the International System from 1815 to the present.

Know, analyze and assess the main international conflicts and the attempts at international cooperation from 1815 to the present.

Use, organize and interpret the most important sources for the History of International Relations.

Use with fluency and property the vocabulary specific to the History of International Relations.

Build a personal and informed vision of current international problems.

Contribute to the creation of a responsible and active international public opinion.

Know the most important research and information centers for the study of the History of International Relations.

TEACHING PRACTICES DISTRIBUTION

- Lectures (2 ECTS – 50h): Lectures will be used to present the contents that students must assimilate. They will count with a selection of readings and other materials to help them elaborate on what they learn in the classroom.
- Seminars (1 ECTS – 25h): Students will study different kinds of sources and materials –readings, archival material, maps, charts, tables, audiovisual content- which will help them prepare the practical sessions.
- Practical sessions (1 ECTS – 25h): Practical sessions may include visits to museums, archives and other institutions relating to the course, as well as individual and group presentations on different topics.
- Other activities (3 ECTS – 75h):
 - Small-group tutorials to discuss and prepare the oral presentations as well as to teach them how to analyze the materials distributed in class. Tutorials will also be used to solve questions and direct the students' work.
 - Student's personal work. It will be used to search, analyze and organize information destined to prepare the different tasks students will have to complete.
- TOTAL: 6 ECTS – 150h

ASSESSMENT



The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 60%: Either a written test, an essay or a combination of both, which will be based on the course contents.
- 30%: Practical sessions.
- 10%: Attendance and participation.

Alternative modes of evaluation will be offered and explained in separate instructions, if necessary.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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FUKUYAMA, Francis: *The End of History and the Last Man*, New York, Free Press, 2006.

GADDIS, John Lewis: *The Cold War. A New History*, New York, Penguin, 2006.

HUNTINGTON, Samuel P.: *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 2011.

KAGAN, Robert: *Of Paradise and Power. America and Europe in the New World Order*, New York, Vintage, 2005.

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KISSINGER, Henry: *Diplomacy*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1995.

MARTEL, Gordon (ed.): *A Companion to International History 1900-2001*, Oxford, Blackwell, 2007.

McMAHON, Robert: *The Cold War. A Very Short Introduction*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2003.

SCHROEDER, Paul W.: *The Transformation of European Politics, 1763-1848*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1996.

STEINER, Zara: *The Lights That Failed. European International History, 1919-1933*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007.

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TAYLOR, A. J. P.: *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe, 1848-1918*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1983.

YOUNG, John W. y KENT, John: *International Relations since 1945. A Global History*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013.