

MILTON FRIEDMAN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: FI83995

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Title of the course:	World politics		
Course ID:	VE-NPT017		
Level of education:	Erasmus	Academic semester:	Spring
Professor's name:	Gergely Ablaka	Academic title:	
Hours per semester:	30	Credits:	4
Exam:		Pre-requisites:	

Aims of the course

The purpose of this course (World Politics) is to serve as an introduction to concepts, theories and methods in international (world) politics, and a basic worldview of the different political ideologies about world order and conflict management. In the first part the course focuses on the schools of international relation theories in the 21st Century, after that on the types and forms of international conflicts. In the second part we will focus on the regions outside Europe, firstly on the US and Russia, secondly on the Third World, namely the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin-America and some parts of Asia. Finally, in the third part we will discuss thematic issues, which are important in the 21st century for example: the international terrorism, the nuclear non-proliferation, and the democratization process. During the semester we will discuss every subject with specific examples, like country and case studies. This course is designed to introduce students to key and important characteristics of some of the world's major and significant political conflicts and problems. At the end the students will come not only by the basics of the international relations and conflict management ideas, but also the employment of research models and thoughts.

Course outline

The topics of the course will be explored both by lectures and seminars discussing the mandatory readings of the week. We will combine readings, lectures and class conversations. Students' active participation in the course is a requirement. The lectures will touch on the readings, but they will not always use the reading materials. In order to facilitate a dynamic classroom, students should have finished the reading prior the class.

During the weeks the students will have lectures and conversations about the topics below:

1.

Introduction I.: The main theories of international relations in the 21st Century: Alternative designs for the future. The question of the nation state and other old concepts (world government). The „End of History” or the „Clash of Civilizations”? Technology and the diffusion of power (world federalism, regionalism, etc). The positive and negative consequences of the diffusion of power.

2.

Introduction II.: The main actors of the international politics in the 21st Century: A new world order? Multipolar or nonpolar world? Future configurations of power, the prison of old concepts, the evolution of a hybrid world order. The changing roles of the international organizations, and the new international actors (ex. non-governmental groups, multinational companies, terror organizations).

3.

Introduction III: The Conflicts of the 21st Century: Peace or war time? The classical/old, and the modern/new international conflicts (The Conflict Typology). The modern (asymmetrical) form of the war. New challenges: Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and transnational challenges to security (energy, environment, economic and social problems).

4.

Regional Studies I.: The Role and Position of the US in the World: The classical theories of the American foreign policy (isolationism and interventionism)? The worldview of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party? The foreign policy of the Obama Administration: Continuity or Change? The main challenges for the US in the 21st century: conflict zones and new power challengers.

5.

Regional Studies II.: The Post-Soviet Area in the 21st Century: The Post-Soviet Area after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The resurgence of nationalism, separatist movements and autonomy conflicts, territorial disputes and wars. The Colorful Revolutions in the Post-Soviet Area: change in political orientations? The renaissance of the Russian Realm via international and oil politics?

6.

Regional Studies III.: Asia in the 21st Century: Under the grab of colonial and cold war legacy? Ethnic and religious conflicts, autonomy and nationalism problems, nuclear rivalry and research problems, power rivalries and economic interests, border disputes and territorial conflicts. The social and economic situation in Asia, the universal asian values and the modernization process?

7.

Regional Studies IV.: The Middle East in the 21st Century: Why is there so much conflict in the Middle East? Ethnic, religious, economic, and territorial conflicts, ideological disputes and power rivalries, and the inner political, economical

and social problems. (Islam in crisis?) The relationship between the Middle East and the Western World: a civilizational conflict?

8.

Regional Studies V.: Sub-Saharan Africa in the 21th Century: A forgotten continent? The present and future problems of Africa: the old and new wars of the continent (ethnic, religious, territorial and economic conflicts), the poverty and inequality problems, the underdevelopment and technological gap, institutional weaknesses, the debt crisis and the overdependence on foreign aid.

9.

Regional Studies VI.: Latin-America in the 21th Century: Continent without serious conflicts? Border and territory disputes, regional conflicts and rivalries, anti-government protests and IMF-rebellions, Indian conflicts and autonomy issues, and finally the ideological conflicts. Left turn in Latin-America? The social problems, and the continent's dependence on world economy.

10.

Thematic Issues I.: Democratization process outside Europe, an international trend in the 21th Century? Democratic transitions in the Third World: The opportunities and difficulties of the democracy-export in the world outside Europe. The „authoritarian renaissance“: the causes and opportunities of the modern dictatorships in the Third World.

11.

Thematic Issues II.: International terrorism and world politics. The definition and typology of terrorism. The new (supranational) form of terrorism (Al-Qaeda), and the emergence of the religious radicalism. Anti-terrorism strategies in the US and in Europe: How can we deal with the terrorism? War on Terror: Afghanistan and Iraq. The importance of Pakistan.

12.

Thematic Issues III.: The problems of the weapons of mass destruction. Nuclear research programs and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty System. The Iranian and North-Korean nuclear example: nuclear research and regime stability (legitimacy)? The consequence of nuclear proliferation: new arms races in the world? Opportunities and difficulties in the Non-Proliferation Regime.

Readings

The students have to read the basic books (required texts) and one or two essays about the timely topic. The readings below are just some excerpt from the international relations and world politics library. It's advisable to check out the periodicals of international affairs, for example the Foreign Affairs (<http://www.foreignaffairs.org>), International Relations (<http://ire.sagepub.com>), Journal of Conflict Resolution (<http://jcr.sagepub.com>), and finally the Security Journal (<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/sj/index.html>).

Required Books:

Richard J. Payne & Jamal R. Nasser: Politics and Culture in the Developing World: The Impact of Globalization; Pearson / Longman Publishers, New York, 2008.

Joseph S Nye, Jr.: Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History; Pearson / Longman Publishers, New York, 2009.

Other useful links:

The International Crisis Group (<http://www.crisisgroup.org>), The International Conflict Research (<http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk>), The Carnegie Endowment (<http://www.carnegieendowment.org>), The Radio Free Europe – Radio Liberty (<http://www.rferl.org>), The Carter Center (<http://www.cartercenter.org/homepage.html>), and the Institute for Conflict Research (<http://www.conflictresearch.org.uk>), etc.