

## MODULE I. PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE

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**Academic year:** 2020-2021

**Credits:** 3 ECTS

**Coordinator:** Dr. Valeria Bello

**Lecturers:** Dr. Valeria Bello, Dr. Oriol Costa, Onno Serroo, Dr. Daniel Nicholls, Anna Terrón

#### Overview

This subject aims to present and reflect on contemporary trends in international political structures, particularly under the light of globalization and a range of aspects related to it. Underpinning themes of the course include the nature of global political structures and how these structures have evolved, taught, thought and rethought as a result of modern and postmodern developments in the social, economic, environmental, cultural and technological spheres.

Students will become familiar with both the main actors that intervene in international political relations (especially with international powers), including among others UN agencies and the norms which shape their behavior. The subject will, therefore, focus on globalization, geopolitics, multilateralism, the UN system, as well as with key issues and concepts which inform new relations and new forms of organization and changing roles in the international sphere.

#### Contents

##### **1. Globalization and its effects on political structures (Dr. Bello)**

- Introducing Globalization: main elements and some paradoxes
- Globalization and Political Structures: a range of views
- Transformation of the 'Westphalian order'
- Introducing Governance

##### **2. States as international actors (Dr. Bello)**

- International actorness
- Statehood and sovereignty
- Agency and structure
- States and the current international system

##### **3. Non-state actors in the Global Governance (Dr. Bello)**

- Non-state actors: types, roles, and interests
- Modernity, Civil Society Agency and Global Governance
- Postmodernity and the role of media in the Global Governance

- Reality and Hyperreality: Knowledge, Communication, and Power

#### **4. The United Nations System (O. Seroo)**

- United Nations: the evolution of an idea
- The UN Organization
- The UN and the furtherance of international peace and security

#### **5. The United Nations and its agenda of Sustainable Development (O. Seroo)**

- The UN and the protection and promotion of human rights
- The UN and International Cooperation for Sustainable Development
- The Reform of the United Nations

#### **6. Geopolitics: inception and schools of thought (Dr. Nicholls)**

- The meaning of geopolitics
- The interplay with Political Geography and International Relations
- Imperial geopolitics
- Cold war geopolitics

#### **7. Regionalism and regional powers (Dr. Terrón)**

- Opposing tendencies: globalization and regionalism
- The debate on regionalism and regionalization
- Case studies

#### **8. Multilateralism: introduction and key concepts (Dr. Costa)**

- Multilateralism and Cooperation
- Multilateral Norms and the Norm of Multilateralism
- Multilateralism and Power
- Academic Perspectives: Why Should Multilateralism Matter?
- International Organisations
- International Regimes

#### **9. Conclusion and future prospects (Dr. Bello)**

9. Postmodern challenges to the international political structure
10. Future prospects
11. Instructions for the essays

#### **Methodology of the class**

This class is interactive. Students must read the materials suggested for each session, watch the videos suggested by the coordinator, and be ready to take part in a group discussion. Each session will also involve a presentation of contents by the relevant lecturers.

#### **Evaluation**

The final mark will consist of the result of a continuous learning method that will combine the evaluation of in-class debates (30%) and the submission of an individual final essay (approximately 2000 words) (70%) related to one of the topics proposed by the teachers, covering the overall workload covered in the course.

#### **Recommended Readings**

- Baylis, John; Smith, Steve and Owens, Patricia (eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations (7th edition)*, Oxford: Oxford University Press [Master's programme handbook]
- Baudrillard, Jean *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) (2015). *Global Trends to 2030: Can the EU meet the challenges ahead? Luxembourg?:* European Union, available at <http://ec.europa.eu/epsc/sites/epsc/files/espas-report-2015.pdf>
- Hale, T.; Held, D.; and Young, K. (2013). *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation is Failing When We Need It Most*. Cambridge: Polity Press
- Held, D. et al. (2005). *Debating Globalization*. Cambridge and Malden: Polity Press
- Mazower, M. (2010), *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press
- Slaughter, A.M. (2016). "Global Complexity: Intersection of Chessboard and Web Trends", *Notes Internacionales CIDOB*, 147, available at [https://www.cidob.org/en/publications/publication\\_series/notes\\_internacionales/n\\_1\\_147\\_global\\_complexity\\_intersection\\_of\\_chessboard\\_and\\_web\\_trends/global\\_complexity\\_intersection\\_of\\_chessboard\\_and\\_web\\_trends](https://www.cidob.org/en/publications/publication_series/notes_internacionales/n_1_147_global_complexity_intersection_of_chessboard_and_web_trends/global_complexity_intersection_of_chessboard_and_web_trends)
- Stiglitz, J. E. (2006). *Making Globalization Work*, New York: W.W. Norton and Company
- Weiss, T. G. and Daws, Sam (eds.) (2007), *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

### Recommended Videos

- Vienna Humanities Festival: Arjun Appadurai "Flows of Globalization"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paGfRUTBTAM>
- The Theory of Modernity (A Comparison of Anthony Giddens and Ulrich Beck)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT7SJSwaMBM>
- Living in and coping with world risk society - 42nd St. Gallen Symposium n (Ulrich Beck) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeKiD5JLGIE>
- Knowledge and Power: Introduction to Foucault  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGQ4qkp4i-8>
- The Hyperreal: Jean Baudrillard's "Simulacra and Simulation"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pupLQd3SRms>