



ICP
INSTITUT
CATHOLIQUE
DE PARIS

L'esprit grand ouvert sur le monde

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Bachelor of Social Sciences

Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law (FASSED)

Course information

Bachelor year 3 21 HOURS

Fall Semester 4 ECTS

Lectures (CM)

Professor: Dr. Justin D. Cook

Course Code: FASSED_PARIS_SEP_L3_S5_ENJINT

Course description

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of various concepts and ongoing debates concerning contemporary international matters. Through rigorous examination, we aim to shed light on the interests of various global actors and unveil the underlying factors that influence their perspectives on the world. The course will delve into real-world case studies, specifically focusing on critical areas such as security, energy, and identity-related concerns. These case studies will serve as invaluable tools to contextualize the policies and strategies adopted by global actors in response to their strategic interests. By doing so, we hope to equip students with the analytical skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the complex web of international relations and to critically assess the actions and decisions of key global players.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- gain insights into various perspectives and viewpoints on international events, fostering a well-rounded and informed approach to international affairs, including major global challenges, crises, and developments;
- develop strong analytical skills to critically assess the causes, consequences, and potential solutions for contemporary global issues;
- be able to identify and analyze the roles and interests of key global actors, such as governments, international organizations, and non-state actors, in shaping international contemporary events;
- will their ability to express their insights and analysis coherently and persuasively through a 2-hour written exam, ensuring they can communicate their understanding of international contemporary events effectively.

Course Prerequisites

International Relations 1000

Method of Instruction

Students are required to prepare the compulsory readings prior to each course and to participate in class discussions. All course readings and content are located on the ICP Moodle (formation.icp.fr). The course will be taught entirely in English (teaching, articles, videos, Powerpoint, etc.).

Assessment and Final Grade

Final Exam = 100% *** date to be determined by administration

The course assessment will be determined by a written final exam worth 100% of the grade. It will be 2 hours long. You will be informed of the final exam's date by the administration. An (un)justified absence from the final exam will automatically result in failing the course. You will be required to take a make-up exam in June 2023.

Exam guidelines and expectations:

→ Students should rely on the course PowerPoint, compulsory readings, course discussions and any content provided on the ICP Moodle (formation.icp.fr). Exam questions will be taken directly from these sources.

→ General knowledge and examples from outside the course are always welcome. However, it is imperative that students demonstrate that they have learned the course material. Any exam completed that contains very little information and/or examples from the course will receive a failing grade (less than 10/20).

→ The following criteria will be used to evaluate the exam: a clearly explained research objective or question, the answers provided to the initial question, argumentation, analysis provided, use of relevant examples, coherence in the organization of the work, the quality of the introduction and conclusion.

→ This is not an English course. Grading is based primarily on how well you convey your ideas on paper. Please be sure proof read your work carefully after completing your exam. Please write clearly in English. Points cannot be awarded if the writing is illegible.

Course Requirements

Attendance:

Course attendance is not mandatory, and attendance will not be taken. It is, however, expected that students attend class regularly. Course notes will not be distributed in any form. Be sure to acquire all information from a colleague when absent.

Punctuality:

Please arrive on time to class. Students more than five minutes late may be refused.

Special Accommodations:

All exchange students are guaranteed special accommodation for all in-course examinations. These accommodations include: a one-third time extension for the exam period (20 additional minutes per hour), permission to utilize a dictionary during the exam (Please note that you

must provide your own dictionary), and the right to indicate "Exchange student" or "Erasmus" on their exam sheet.

These provisions are designed to facilitate a more equitable and supportive examination experience for international exchange students.

Examination feedback:

All students may consult their final exam copies with their professor after corrections have been completed. Faculty administrators will organize a meeting with the professor for the consultation of exam corrections.

Plagiarism:

Please do not plagiarize. Plagiarism will be dealt with according to the standards of the ICP.

Course Schedule and Bibliography

CLASS # 1 -

Topic → Course introduction
The role of nuclear weapons

Readings: None.

CLASS # 2 -

Topic → The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

Readings:

Kali Robinson, "What is the Iran Nuclear Deal?", *The Council on Foreign Relations*, June 21, 2023. <https://www.cfr.org/background/what-iran-nuclear-deal>

Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Great Debate on Nuclear Weapons", *National Interest*, No. 109, 2010, p. 88-96.

Kenneth N. Waltz, "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities", *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 84, No. 3, September 1990, pp. 731-745.

CLASS # 3 -

Topic → Terrorism: causes, motivations and objectives

Readings:

Bekir Çınar, "The Root Causes of Terrorism", *METU Studies in Development*, No.36, 2009, p. 93-119.

Rex Hudson, *Who Becomes a Terrorist and Why? The Psychology and Sociology of Terrorism*, Skyhorse Publishing, 2018.

➤ Chapter on "Terms of Analysis", p. 27-32.

➤ Chapter on "The Psychology of the Terrorist", p. 40-64.

Robert A. Pape, "Introduction", p. 6-26, in: Robert A. Pape, *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*, Random House, 2006.

Adam Roberts, "The 'war on terror' in historical perspective", *Survival*, Vol. 47, No. 2, 2005, p. 101-130.

CLASS # 4 -

Topic → The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Readings:

"Collective defence – Article 5", *nato.int*, July 4, 2023.

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_110496.htm

Johnathan Masters, "What is NATO?", *The Council on Foreign Relations*, July 7, 2023.

<https://www.cfr.org/background/what-nato>

CLASS # 5 -

Topic → The Russo-Ukrainian War
Research seminar with Dr. Oksana Mitrifonova

Readings: None.

CLASS # 6 -

Topic → China's peaceful rise to power?

Readings:

David Lai, *The United States and China in Power Transition*, Strategic Studies Institute Book, 2011, p. 5-28.

John J. Mearsheimer, "Can China Rise Peacefully?", *The National Interest*, October 25, 2014, p. 1-43.

Jianyong Yue, "Peaceful Rise of China: Myth or Reality?", *International Politics*, No. 45, 2008, p. 439-456.

CLASS # 7 –

Topic → Russia's return to the international scene

Readings:

"Chapter 1. Introduction: How All Things Went Bad", in: William H. Hill, *Russia, the Near Abroad, and the West: Lessons from the Moldova Transdnistrian Conflict*, Woodrow Wilson Center Press and The John Hopkins University Press, 2012, p. 1-8.