

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Law, Business and Governance		
Course:	THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
Type:	Compulsory	ECTS credits:	6
Year:	4	Code:	7040
Teaching period:	Seventh semester		
Area:	International Agents		
Module:	Foundations for a Theory of International Relations		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	150		

Teaching staff	E-mail
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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a graduate level course focusing on the impact of Non-State Actors in the domestic and international contexts. The course will focus on several categories of non-state actors including, INGOs, International Organizations (IO), or mass media. The course will use case studies on the transnational impact of these groups.

GOAL

At the end of the course, students should be able to critically assess the impact of non-state actors in the international arena

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Students are expected to be familiarized with the current debates about international relations and International Organizations.

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Introduction to the concept of "civil society"
2. The role of civil society according to different modern philosophical-political trends
3. Global civil society
4. Non-state actors (NSA) and civil society organisations (CSO)
 - 4.1 Introduction to NSA
 - 4.2 Global social movements
 - 4.3 Transnational corporations
 - 4.4 NGOs
 - 4.5. The media

II. CSO AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

5. A new international landscape for CSO: the UN and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
6. The CSO in the UN system
7. CSO and other international organisations (IO)
8. CSO under authoritarian constraints
9. The role of CSO as promoters of international treaties
10. The role of CSO as watchdogs of international treaties

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The learning activities may include all or some of the following:

- Readings. Students must read in advance the papers provided to prepare the class, so they can follow the explanations and participate actively in the course.
- Group Presentations. Students must expose and explain to their colleagues a topic, chosen in collaboration with the professor.
- Debates. Journal papers, newspaper articles will be distributed among the students. They will be required to read and think about it and then take part in a discussion about its arguments.
- Essay. Students must elaborate one main critical essay based on the contents of the course and the compulsory readings.
- Tutorials. Meetings with the professor as to clarify specific points of the subject.
- Learning through case - studies. Students, individually or in groups, in the classroom or virtually, have to solve a problem regarding a topic, or answer some questions applied to the case to analyse.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
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60 hours	90 hours
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SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

To acquire critical, analytical, synthetic, reflective, theoretical and practical thought to be able to understand, analyse, interpret and rigorously and independently sum up international reality from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

To acquire the ability to consider and creatively respond to the essential questions as to the whys and wherefores, and the consequences of human, social, political and economic events of global society.

To be able to generate public opinion and build bridges with the various social sectors, allowing for the formation and dissemination of a message and culture for the benefit of humankind, conveying values based on the search for truth and common good.

Specific skills

To understand the meaning and foundations of human dignity and the fundamental dimensions of the human being in the context of international relations.

To be familiar with and assess the current world scenario with regard to decision-making bodies, stakeholders and institutions.

To be familiar with and apply the foremost concepts and terminology used in international relations from a range of multidisciplinary approaches.

To be able to coordinate, manage, supervise and carry out international studies and projects to provide proposals for improvement and measures to help solve various problems from a diplomatic, business, legal and communication perspective.

To foster dialogue and use communication tools to analyse today's world, and to lead processes and strategies in order to solve problems.

To be familiar with and assess the role of the media with regard to the international reality and their influence on public opinion.

To analyse human problems associated with conflicts, disasters and inequalities, and to exercise mediation duties.

To be familiar with the structure, operation and management of international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

LEARNING RESULTS

Distinguishing between subjects of international law and actors in international relations

Understanding how different philosophical positions influence the definition of "civil society" and the role they expect it to play

Identifying the main non-state actors and their basic features

Comparing the different channels of collaboration between CSOs and international organisations, in particular the United Nations

Analysing controversial issues related to CSO performance: accountability, representativeness, legitimacy.

Understanding the rationale behind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the process of humanisation of international law that has emerged since then and the subsequent rise of CSOs.

Analysing the role of CSO in the emergence of specific international norms (environmental, human rights, etc.) or in monitoring their implementation.

Understanding the role of the media and social networks in shaping global public opinion.

Analysing how far the CSO contribute to the global common good

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

ORDINARY SESSION

- Final exam: 40% . Students must score at least a 5/10 in the exam for it to count towards the average that will make the final grade. The exam may consist on/include a critical essay of a topic related to the course.

- Assignment related to the seminar of the IR Degree: 10%
- Participation: 10%
- Essays, group presentations, other assignments: 40%

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

If the students sits for the exam in the ordinary session but fails the subject, s/he will have to sit for the exam in the extraordinary session. In that case, the exam will amount to 70% of the final grade. New tasks requested by the professor will amount to another 30%. Students who got a 5 or more in the tasks handed in during the ordinary session might keep their grade if the professor decides so.

If the student does not sit for the exam in the ordinary session, s/he will have to sit for the exam in the extraordinary session. In that case, the final score will be a weighting between the final exam (50%) and the additional essays, text commentaries or book reviews specifically requested by the professor (50%) for that extraordinary session of exams.

ACADEMIC DISPENSATION OR STUDENTS IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

Students with approved academic dispensation. A student may be granted academic dispensation for reasons of work, incompatibility of timetables, illness or other reasons deemed necessary by the Directorate of the Degree Course, after requesting it from the Academic Coordination Office and providing the documentation required for this purpose. Once granted, both the lecturer affected and the student who has requested it will be officially notified by the Academic Coordination Office.

Students in second or successive enrolments and UFV students on exchange programmes. For these students, it is not necessary to request a waiver. They may attend the classes voluntarily but they must follow the alternative evaluation system described below. It is the student's responsibility to follow the course, as well as the aspects that make up their assessment.

Those students with academic dispensation, in second or successive enrolments or who are in exchange abroad will be assessed **according to the following system**:

Final exam – 50%

Essays on academic articles/text commentaries/ book reviews/ other assignments - 50%

GENERAL REMARKS

All students must fully participate in class and respect other people's opinions. All students must arrive on time for all classes. All assignments must meet deadlines; no extension will be granted in the absence of a genuine emergency. Failure to meet deadlines or adhere to the class expectations will result in a negative impact on the grade. Plagiarism, along with unlawful behaviour during examinations, will be punished according to the University's Assessment Rules and its Norms of Coexistence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

--- Papers will be provided to prepare each unit.

Some authors including: Kaldor, Keck & Sikkink, Mitrany, Muchlinski, Spini, Krut, Chinkin, Glendon, etc.