

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Law, Business and Governance		
Course:	COMPARATIVE NATIONAL STRATEGIES		
Type:	Optional	ECTS credits:	6
Year:	3	Code:	7066
Teaching period:	Fifth semester		
Area:	Political Science		
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

Emphasis will be placed on formulating a national security strategy which allows governments to explain what model of security they intend to give their societies in a context of uncertainty and global risk.

National Security Strategies of important actors in world geopolitics will be studied, analyzing their security models and the possible implications of their actions within the global panorama in which we find ourselves.

GOAL

The world is an increasingly complex stage, where all the actors are more and more interconnected. This new global panorama, which has been accentuated in recent years, means that something as important as national security has undergone major changes, and an increasingly wide range of risks and threats, and the way in which they are dealt with, must be taken into account.

During the course, the new paradigm and the different National Security Strategies will be studied, analysing how the approach has changed over the last few decades and thus understanding the current actions of the main geopolitical actors and the consequences they may have, both at national and global level.

The specific aims of the subject are:

A liquid, interconnected world. Causes, consequences.

Bipolarity vs. multipolarity. Paradigm shift.

National security. What it is, what it is for, origin, changes during the last decades.

Variables affecting National Security. Risks and threats.

Analysis of different National Security Strategies.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Basic knowledge of the world's geopolitical regions and their main actors, as well as of intelligence and the current world.

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to National Security and National Security Strategies (NSS).
2. China. Geopolitics and NSS.
3. Russia. Geopolitics and NSS.
4. The US. Geopolitics and NSS.
5. Spain and its surroundings (the case of Morocco). Geopolitics and NSS.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

In this course, master classes will be combined with practical work, class and group discussions and presentations. There will be exercises applied to current problems to relate them to the theory already taught, case studies, introduction to analysis techniques and a final group presentation.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
60 hours	90 hours
Master classes, discussions, presentations, practical cases. 60h	Preparation of activities and presentations, practices, previous reading of documents for their later discussion in class, etc. 90h

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 apply group work with common objectives, fostering the analysis and pooling of various approaches.

To understand and analyse the international reality from the standpoint of respect and protecting democracy, human rights, cultural diversity and the values of equality, justice and solidarity. To be able to take part in discussions on current affairs, based on knowledge of international relations and an analysis of today's world.

To suitably use all possible sources that make it possible to be familiar with the international reality in the historical, political, economic, legal and social spheres, in all formats, in order to organise and plan the study and analysis of the international reality.

Specific skills

To study and analyse the historical evolution and present-day circumstances of international relations in terms of association, cooperation and conflict from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

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

To study, identify and analyse the various geostrategic regions and key areas of regional influence worldwide. To be familiar with the origin and development of world crisis and conflict scenarios.

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

To study, be familiar with and critically analyse the international legal system and its practical implications when guaranteeing its application, likewise being able to identify the adequacy of regulations when it comes to the ideals of justice.

To acquire the ability to express oneself fluently and effectively in Spanish and English, to analyse and study the various processes involved in international relations.

LEARNING RESULTS

Describes the current global panorama and its main geopolitical actors.

Defines National Security and its main challenges.

Compares the different National Security Strategies from different countries, analyzing the underlying reasons of their actions.

Is able to modificate or propose changes to a National Security Strategy, identifying needs or incomplete information on it.

Describes what a National Security Strategy should take into account.

Comprender el OJ Internacional, analizar cómo garantizar su aplicación en distintos escenarios políticos y económicos.

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

ORDINARY CALL:

Continuous evaluation (practical cases and analysis): 20%

Final presentation: 30%

Final exam: 50% (minimum 5 out of 10 points)

EXTRAORDINARY CALL:

Continuous evaluation (practical cases and analysis): 10%

Final presentation: 20%

Final exam: 70% (minimum 5 out of 10 points)

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM (ERASMUS AND AUTHORIZED STUDENTS):

Essay: 20%

Final exam: 80%

In any case, attendance is compulsory in order to pass the course. Students whose attendance is less than 80% will be penalised in their continuous assessment mark.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL SITUATIONS: ERASMUS OR SECOND AND SUCCESSIVE REGISTRATIONS:

Students with approved academic dispensation. A student may obtain academic dispensation for reasons of work, incompatibility of timetables, illness or others that the Directorate of the Degree Programme considers appropriate, after requesting it from the Academic Coordination Office, 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 visits. For these students, it is not necessary to request a waiver. These students may use the continuous assessment system, as long as they comply with all the requirements, including class attendance. Otherwise, they must follow the alternative evaluation system. In any case, it is the student's responsibility to follow the course, as well as the aspects that make up their assessment. Students are obliged to observe the elementary and basic rules on authenticity and originality in any training activity or assessment test.

When a student uses illegitimate means in an assessment test, commits plagiarism, or improperly claims authorship of academic work required for assessment, he/she will be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the University's Assessment Regulations and Coexistence Regulations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

DE LA CORTE IBÁÑEZ, Luis Seguridad Nacional, amenazas y respuestas 2014

Additional

Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DSN) Estrategia de Seguridad Nacional 2021 2021

FIIA The security strategies of the US, China, Russia and the EU 2018

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (IEEE) Russian National Security Strategy 2018

Summers, Marta Política Exterior y de Seguridad del Reino de Marruecos 2022

U.S. Government National Security Strategy of the United States of America 2017