

Course syllabus Politics and International Relations/Política y Relaciones Internacionales

March - July 2025

Term VIII

Del Castillo Reyes, Jorge

I. General features of the course

Nombre del curso:	Politics And International Relations / Política y Relaciones Internacionales		
Requisito:	Procesos Económicos del Perú y América Latina	Código:	P.E. 2016 10236 P.E. 2014 03128
Precedente:	No tiene	Semestre:	2025-1
Créditos:	4	Ciclo:	VIII
Horas semanales:	3	Modalidad del curso:	Presencial
Carrera(s)	Economía y Negocios Internacionales	Coordinadora del curso:	Franciskovic Ingunza Jubitza jfranciskovic@esan.edu.pe

II. Course summary

This course presents students with the most salient issues in Global Politics. It offers an overview of the International Relations system –its origins and foundations– and the basic configuration of the Middle East and Asia. It takes students through current challenges and pressures to democracy and the liberal order such as nationalism, populism and isolationism, and explores issues like global terrorism, political and economic trends in Latin America, and challenges to global leadership.

III. Objectives of the course

The course will introduce students to the main concepts, theories and trends in global politics. Students will work with others in order to understand the challenges and opportunities that current international events pose to individuals, states and transnational actors. Students will also be able to discuss in written and oral form their interpretation and analysis of the international context using the academic language of Politics and International Relations.

IV. Learning goals

General

Identify the different types of actors in the international system and classify them according to their characteristics, potential and behavior. Also, understand and explain the main political, economic and cultural ideas and trends that shape the international stage today.

Specific

After completing the course, the student:

• Applies previous knowledge of international trade and economic regionalism to

examine and interpret current events.

- Demonstrates knowledge of international political geography.
- Describes and analyze in an informed, articulate and respectful matter the main trends in current global politics.
- Follows current international events on a regular basis using trusted, critical sources.
- Summarizes his or her learning in written and oral forms using English.
- Displays critical thinking by interpreting and questioning the assigned materials and criticizing them in public.
- Displays empathy, tolerance and respect for diverse ideas and points of view.
- Works collaboratively in small groups to produce an academic project focused on a political issue in a specific region.

V. Methodology

The class meets once a week for a three-hour session where the instructor will facilitate the course contents.

Students will be required to follow current international events on a daily basis and prepare brief weekly presentations (newsflash) where they apply the concepts learned in class to a specific international situation. Eventually students will be required to take part in a discussion like forum and that will be evaluated as their overall participation.

Students will be regularly quizzed on the assigned readings, current events and geography. The instructor reserves the right to quiz students without prior notice.

Students will be required to debate and discuss real-life situations with a critical, constructive and respectful attitude. Difference of opinion will be valued and dialogue will be promoted as an important way of solving problems.

The midterm and final exam will be written tests.

VI. Evaluation

According to school policy, the evaluation system is continuous and integral. The final grade is calculated adding up the permanent evaluation (PEP) (70%) and the final exam (EF) (30%). The permanent evaluation is calculated according to the following chart:

CONTINUOUS EVALUATION SCHEME (PEP) 70%			
EVALUATION TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE %	
Quizzes	4 scheduled quizzes	50%	
Class activities, assignments and participation	According to schedule as determined by professor	30%	
Newsflash	Individual presentation	20%	

$PF = (0.70 \times PEP) + (0.30 \times EF)$

Where:

PF = FINAL AVERAGE

EF = FINAL EXAM

PEP = PERMANENT EVALUATION SCHEME

VII. Scheduled content of the course

WEEK	CONTENT	ACTIVITIES / EVALUATION	
LEARNING UNIT I: GLOBALIZATION AND THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD. LEARNING GOALS: • Apply previous knowledge of international trade and economic regionalism to examine and interpret current events. • Summarize his or her learning in written and oral forms using English. • Display critical thinking by interpreting and questioning the assigned materials and criticizing them in public. • Display empathy, tolerance and respect for diverse ideas and points of view			
1° March 17 th to 22 nd	1. Introductory class: World politics today	Introducing yourself. Readings in class. Elect course delegate. Select date for newsflash.	
	Readings: Beckley, M., Kendall-Taylor, A., Kofman, M., Blanchette, J., Hass, I (January-February 2025). The Strange Triumph of a Broken Ameri Affairs, 104 (1), 1-212.	•	
2° April 24 th to 29 th	2.1. The world today. The "end of history".2.2. Causes and effects of globalization. Winners and losers.2.3. The future of the liberal order.2.4. Where are international relations useful.		

Naim, M. (2013): The End of Power. New York: Gilden Media

Bevins, Vincent (December 20, 2016) "To Understand 2016's Politics, Look at the Winners and Losers of Globalization" New Republic Retrieved from: https://newrepublic.com/article/139432/understand-2016s politics-look-winners-losers-globalization

Rodrik, D. (2018). Populism and the economics of globalization. Journal of International Business Policy. https://doi.org/10.1057/s42214-018-0001-4

LEARNING UNIT II: THE FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ANALYSIS. LEARNING GOALS:

- Identify the different types of actors in the international system and classify them according to their characteristics, potential and behavior.
- Understand and explain the main political, economic and cultural ideas and trends that shape the international stage today.
- Follow current international events on a regular basis using trusted, critical sources.

3°	3.1. Introduction to IR theory. Realism, neorealism,	Class
	liberalism, constructivism.	discussion
March	3.2. Bipolarity, unipolarity, multipolarity and the balance	Newsflash
31 st to April 05 th	of power. Levels of analysis.	presentation.
	3.3. Hard power, soft power and smart power.	
	3.4. Diplomacy and foreign policy.	Debate #1:
	3.5. Introduction to world regions.	Examples of
		the exercise
		of power
		worldwide.

Readings:

Drezner, Daniel (2009). "Theory of International Politics and Zombies". Foreign Policy. Retrieved from: https://foreignpolicy.com/2009/08/18/theory-of international-politics-and-zombies

Walt, Stephen (1998). "International Relations: One World, Many Theories". Foreign Policy, No.110. Retrieved from: https://www.jstor.org/stable/1149275

Harari, Yuval Noah (2018). "Disillusionment", 21 lessons for the 21st century. (recommended)

Foreign Policy: How to deal with despots. (2022). The Economist. War crimes in

Tigray. (2023). The Economist.

Controlling the media. (2023). The Economist.

LEARNING UNIT III: BASIC CONCEPTS IN POLITICS. LEARNING GOALS:

- Identify the different types of actors in the international system and classify them according to their characteristics, potential and behavior.
- Describe and analyze in an informed, articulate and respectful matter the main trends in current global politics.
- Follow current international events on a regular basis using trusted, critical sources.

April
07th to 12nd

4°

4.1. The social contract. Leviathan.

4.2. Government, politics and the state. Nation-state; government; democracy, dictatorship; monarchies; democratic peace.

Newsflash presentation.
Class discussion.

N/A (Jan 21st, 2010) "Leviathan Stirs Again" *The Economist* Available online: http://www.economist.com/node/15328727

Harari, Yuval Noah (2015) "Building pyramids", Sapiens: A brief history of humankind.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce (2011). "Introduction", The Dictator's Handbook.

LEARNING UNIT IV: THE DIMENSIONS AND CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY TODAY. LEARNING GOALS:

- Follow current international events on a regular basis using trusted, critical sources.
- Display critical thinking by interpreting and questioning the assigned materials and criticizing them in public.
- Describe and analyze in an informed, articulate and respectful matter the main trends in current global politics.

5° April 14 th to 19 th	5.1. The three waves of democracy.5.2. Procedural democracy vs substantive democracy.5.3. Division of powers. Checks and balances.5.4. Challenges to democracy today: Nationalism and populism.	Quiz 1 Newsflash presentation. Class discussion.	
	Readings: N/A (2010) "Essay: Democracy" [Online multimedia special. Four chapters.] The Economist Retrieved from: http://www.economist.com/news/essays/21596796-democracy-was most-successful-political-idea-20th-century-why-has-it-run-trouble and-what-can-be-do Listen to this podcast: https://www.vox.com/policy-and politics/2018/2/2/16929764/how-democracies-die-trump-book levitsky-ziblatt		
6° April 21 th to 26 th	6.1. Challenges to democracy in the Latin American region: the end of the commodities boom, corruption.6.2. Import-led industrialization, the Washington consensus and the rise and fall of the "Pink Tide".	Class discussion. Newsflash Debate #2: Is Latin America's new "pink tide" for real?	

Castañeda, Jorge (2016). "The Death of the Latin American Left". The New York Times. Retrieved from: https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/23/opinion/the-death-of-the-latin american-left.html

Latinobarómetro report.

What Latin America thinks. (2023). The Economist.

10 Practical (and Sometimes Uncomfortable) Ideas to Fix Democracy. (2022). The Economist.

Turkey's looming dictatorship. (2023). The Economist.

LEARNING UNIT V: POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW LEARNING GOALS:

- Demonstrate knowledge of international political geography.
- Identify the different types of actors in the international system and classify them according to their characteristics, potential and behavior.

7° April 28 th to May 03 rd	7.1. International law as a political expression7.2. Legal foundations of the international system.7.3. IGOs: The World Bank and the IMF. The European Union.7.4. Supranational legal system.	Quiz 2 Class discussion. Newsflash presentation.	
		Readings:	
		Just give me a reason. (2023). The Economist.	

Chapter 13 International Organizations [In World Politics in a New Era]

LEARNING UNIT VI: SECULARISM, DEMOCRACY, NATIONALISM, MIGRATION AND MULTICULTURALISM.

LEARNING GOALS:

- Display empathy, tolerance and respect for diverse ideas and points of view.
- Summarize learning in written and oral forms using English.
- Describe and analyze in an informed, articulate and respectful matter the main trends in current global politics.

8° April 05 th to May 10 th	 8.1.Migration and multiculturalism. Xenophobia. 8.2.Mass migration: the Syrian and Venezuelan refugee crises. 8.3. The challenge of nationalism. xenophobia; migration; multiculturalism; transnational identities. 8.4. The "return" of fascism and white nationalism 	Class discussion. Newsflash presentation.
	Readings: N/A (2010) "Behind France's Burka Ban" The New Yorker Available online: http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/behind-frances burka-ban de Hass, Hein (March 21st, 20017) "Myths of Migration. Much of what we think is wrong" Spiegel Online Retrieved from: http://heindehaas.blogspot.com/2017/03/myths-of-	

migration much-of-what-we.html

Migration to Europe Explained in Seven Charts - BBC News : https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911

Miller, M., Peters, M. (2018). Restraining the Huddled Masses: Migration Policy and Autocratic Survival. Cambridge University Press.

LEARNING UNIT VII: THE ASIAN CENTURY. CHINA AND THE REGIONAL CONFIGURATION OF ASIA. THE THUCYDIDES TRAP.

LEARNING GOALS:

- Demonstrate knowledge of international political geography.
- Identify the different types of actors in the international system and classify them according to their characteristics, potential and behavior.
- Apply previous knowledge of international trade and economic regionalism to examine and interpret current events.

and mee	precedent exercise	
9° May 12 th to May 17 th	 9.1. The rise of China in the 21st century 9.2. The "pivot to Asia" 9.3. Xi Jinping's China 9.4. The trade war with the United States 	Class discussion. One child policy documentar y. Newsflash presentation.
	Feigenbaum, Evan A. (January/February 2017) "China and the World. De Reluctant Power" Foreign Policy Retrieved: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2016-12-12/china-and-world Allison, Graham (2017). "The Thucydides Trap". Foreign Policy. Retrieved	-

Allison, Graham (2017). "The Thucydides Trap". Foreign Policy. Retrieved from: https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/09/the thucydides-trap/

Schiavenza, Matt (2013). "What Exactly Does It Mean That the US is Pivoting to Asia?". The Atlantic. Retrieved from:

https://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/04/what-exactly does-it-mean-that-the-us-is-pivoting-to-asia/274936/

Command or control. (2023). The Economist.

Asia's biggests beasts. (2023). The Economist.

LEARNING UNIT VIII: GLOBAL LEADERSHIP, HEGEMONY AND ALLIANCES IN CONFLICT-PREVENTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY. THE ROLE OF IGOS.

LEARNING GOALS:

- Summarize his or her learning in written and oral forms using English.
- Identify the different types of actors in the international system and classify them according to their characteristics, potential and behavior.
- Display critical thinking by interpreting and questioning the assigned materials and criticizing them in public.

10°	10.1. War and Peace and the New World Order: the First World War 10.2. The interwar period and the creation of the League of	Class discussion Newsflash presentation
May 19 th to 24 th	Nations 10.3. Origins of the UN. Reform of the UN. 10.4. Current challenges in conflict prevention.	Debate #3:

	Could Russia's invasion of Ukraine incite
	China to do the same in Taiwan?

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Alastair Smith (2012) Chapter 9, *The Dictator's Handbook:* Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics. New York: PublicAffairs..

Spiegel, Steven (2012) "International Organizations" [Book chapter] in World Politics In a New Era New York: Oxford University Press.

China and Russia: The alternative order. (2022). The Economist. .How to deal

with despots. (2022). The Economist.

Trading with the enemy. (2022). The Economist.

LEARNING UNIT IX: APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. THE WEST AND THE REST? LEARNING GOALS:

- Display empathy, tolerance and respect for diverse ideas and points of view.
- Demonstrate knowledge of international political geography.

11° May 26 th to 31 st	11.1 Environmentalism; transnational challenges. 11.2. International efforts on climate change.	Class discussion. Newsflash presentation.
	Readings:	
	Nuclear Energy: Can it get cheaper?. (2022). The Economist.	
	Why people struggle to understand climate risk. (2023). The Economist.	
	Thirsty planet. (2019). The Economist.	

LEARNING UNIT X: MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. LEARNING GOALS:

- Display empathy, tolerance and respect for diverse ideas and points of view.
- Demonstrate knowledge of international political geography.
- Summarize his or her learning in written and oral forms using English.
- Display critical thinking by interpreting and questioning the assigned materials and criticizing them in public.

12° June 02 nd to 07 th	12.1. Theocracy, religion and nationalism. Five pillars of Islam; monotheism; Abraham; proselytizing religions.12.2 Political Islam: origins and effects. The role of Islam in the Middle East. Pan Arabism. Saudi Arabia and Iran	Quiz 3 Class discussion. Newsflash presentation	
	Readings:		
	Ayoob, Mohammed (2008). "Defining concepts, demolishing myths", The Many Faces of Political Islam		
	Esposito, John (2002). Pp.4-27, What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam		
	MBS: Despot in the Desert. (2022). The Economist.		
	A new dawn, a new day. (2023). The Economist.		
	Will the violence spread out of control?. (2024). The Economist. Islam in	the west.	
	(2019). The Economist.		
LEARNING UNIT XI: CONTINUING CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. LEARNING GOALS: • Display empathy, tolerance and respect for diverse ideas and points of view.			
• Demonstrate	knowledge of international political geography		
13° June 09 th to 14 th	13.1. Palestine-Israel conflict: the Balfour Declaration, Sykes Picot. Zionism; 13.2. Current events in the Middle East: the Syrian civil war, global Islamic terrorism	Class discussion. Newsflash presentation	
		Debate #4: Muslim practices in western societies: prejudice or truth?	
	Deadings:		

Wright, Robin (2016) "How the Curse of Sykes-Picot Still Haunts the Middle East", *The New Yorker*. Retrieved from:

 $\frac{https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-the-curse-of sykes-picot-still-haunts-the-middle-east}{haunts-the-middle-east}$

LEARNING UNIT XII: SOURCES OF FOREIGN AID. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND INTERVENTION. STATECRAFT. ALTERNATIVES TO DEVELOPMENT. MILLENNIUM GOALS. LEARNING GOALS:

- Demonstrate knowledge of international political geography.
- Apply previous knowledge of international trade and economic regionalism to examine and interpret current events.

14° June 16 th to 21 th	14.1. Post colonialism and ethnic conflicts. Intractable conflicts; colonialism; ethnic conflict; failed states. The danger of a single story. Development and international aid. Alternatives to development. White man's burden.	Quiz 4 Class discussion Newsflash.	
	Readings:		
	Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Alastair Smith (2012) Chapter 7, <i>The Dictator's Handbook:</i> Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics. New York: Public Affairs		
	Swanson, Ana (May 13th, 2015) "Why trying to help poor countries might actually hurt them" [Blog post at Wonkblog] The Washington Post Retrieved from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/10/13/why trying-to-help-poor-countries-might-actually-hurt-them		
	Werker, Eric and Faisal Z. Ahmed (2008). "What Do Nongovernmental Organizations Do?" Journal of Economic Perspectives 22:2.		
PROJECT IN WHI LEARNING GOAL Display em Summarize Work colla	XII: STUDENTS WILL INTEGRATE CONCEPTS LEARNED IN CLASS TO A ICH ROLE PLAYING, ORAL EXPRESSION AND RESEARCH SKILLS WILL IN ICH PLAYING, ORAL EXPRESSION AND RESEARCH P	BE DISPLAYED.	
15° June 23 rd to 28 th	15.1. Applying concepts in International Relations to a specific situation. Designing scenarios. Reflecting on learning and performance. Listening to others.	Class discussion Newsflash.	
16°	FINAL EXAM		
June 30 th to July 05 th			

VIII. Literature

Allison, Graham (2017). "The Thucydides Trap". Foreign Policy. Retrieved from: https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/09/the-thucydides-trap/

Ayoob, Mohammed (2008). "Defining concepts, demolishing myths", *The Many Faces of Political Islam*

Beckley, M., Kendall-Taylor, A., Kofman, M., Blanchette, J., Hass, R., Maloney, S. (January-February 2025). The Strange Triumph of a Broken America. *Foreign Affairs*, *104* (1), 1-212.

Bevins, Vincent (December 20, 2016) "To Understand 2016's Politics, Look at the Winners and Losers of Globalization" *New Republic* Retrieved from: https://newrepublic.com/article/139432/understand-2016s-politics-look-winners-losers-globalization

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Alastair Smith (2012) The Dictator's Handbook: Why

Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics New York: PublicAffairs.

Bourgignon, Francois (January/February 2016) "Inequality and Globalization" *Foreign Affairs* Retrieved from: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2015-12-14/inequality-and-globalization

Bremmer, Ian and Nouriel Roubini (March/April 2011) "A G-0 World" *Foreign Affairs* Retrieved from: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2011-01-31/g-zero-world

Castañeda, Jorge (2016). "The Death of the Latin American Left". *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/23/opinion/the-death-of the-latin-american-left.html

Chatzky, Andrew and Masters, Jonathan (2019). "The World Bank Groups' Role in Global Development". Council on Foreign Relations.

Cooper, Andrew, Jorge Heine and Ramesh Thakur (editors) (2013) "The Challenges of 21st-Century Diplomacy" *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy* Retrieved from:

http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199588862.001.000 1/oxfordhb-9780199588862-e-1?print=pdf_DOI:

10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199588862.013.0001

de Hass, Hein (March 21st, 20017) "Myths of Migration. Much of what we think is wrong" *Spiegel Online* Retrieved from:

http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/eight-myths-about-migration-and refugees-explained-a-1138053-druck.html

Drezner, Daniel (2009). "Theory of International Politics and Zombies". *Foreign Policy*. Retrieved from: https://foreignpolicy.com/2009/08/18/theory-of-international politics-and-zombies

De la Torre, Carlos (2016) "Will Democracy Survive Trump's Populism? Latin America May Tell Us" *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/15/opinion/will-democracy-survive-trumps-populism-latin-america-may-tell-us.html

Economy, Elizabeth (2013) "China's Environmental Future: The Power of the People" *McKinsey Quarterly* Retrieved: http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/asia http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/asia pacific/chinas-environmental-future-the-power-of-the-people

Esposito, John (2002). Pp.4-27, What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam

Feigenbaum, Evan A. (January/February 2017) "China and the World. Dealing With a Reluctant Power" *Foreign Policy* Retrieved: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2016-12-12/china-and-world

Friedman, Thomas L. (2008) "Can Red China Become Green China?" in *Hot, Flat and Crowded*. New York: Picador.

Gerges, Fawaz (2016). Introduction, Isis: A History. Princeton University

Press. Harari, Yuval Noah (2018). "Disillusionment", *21 lessons for the 21st century*.

Harari, Yuval Noah (2015) "Building pyramids", Sapiens: A brief history of humankind.

Hurd, Ian. International Organisations.

Henkin, Nature of International Law.

Lee, Alexander and Stanley, Timothy (2014). "It's Still Not the End of History". The Atlantic. Retrieved from: https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/09/its-still-not-the-end-of-history-francis-fukuyama/379394/

McCormick, John (2011) "What is the European Union?" in *Understanding the European Union* [Book chapter] pp 1-23 London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Naim, M. (2013): The End of Power. New York: Gilden Media

N/A (2010) "Behind France's Burka Ban" *The New Yorker* Available online: http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/behind-frances-burka-ban

N/A (2010) "Essay: Democracy" [Online multimedia special. Four chapters.] *The Economist* Retrieved from: http://www.economist.com/news/essays/21596796-democracy-was-most-successful-political-idea-20th-century-why-has-it-run-trouble-and-what-can-be-do

N/A (Jan 21st, 2010) "Leviathan Stirs Again" *The Economist* Available online: http://www.economist.com/node/15328727

Schiavenza, Matt (2013). "What Exactly Does It Mean That the US is Pivoting to Asia?". *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from:

https://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/04/what-exactly-does-it-mean-that the-us-is-pivoting-to-asia/274936/

Spiegel, Steven (2012) "International Organizations" [Book chapter] in *World Politics in a New Era* New York: Oxford University Press. [Available here]

Swanson, Ana (May 13th, 2015) "Why trying to help poor countries might actually hurt them" [Blog post at Wonkblog] *The Washington Post* Retrieved from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/10/13/why-trying-to-help-poor-countries-might-actually-hurt-them

The A to Z of international relations. (n.d.). The Economist.

Walt, Stephen (1998). "International Relations: One World, Many Theories". Foreign Policy, No.110. Retrieved from: https://www.jstor.org/stable/1149275

Werker, Eric and Faisal Z. Ahmed (2008). "What Do Nongovernmental Organizations Do?" Journal of Economic Perspectives 22:2.

Wright, Robin (2016) "How the Curse of Sykes-Picot Still Haunts the Middle East", *The New Yorker*. Retrieved from: https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how the-curse-of-sykes-picot-still-haunts-the-middle-east

Shin Tang, Y. (2017) "The international politics of legal reforms: hard bilateralism, soft multilateralism and the world bank's "doing business" indicators" In Revista Brasileira de Politica Internacional. Retrieved from: https://www.scielo.br/pdf/rbpi/v60n1/1983-3121-rbpi-0034-73292017001017.pdf

Zaretsky, Robert (April 2016) "How French Secularism Became Fundamentalist" Foreign Policy Magazine Retrieved from: http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/04/07/thebattle-for-the-french-secular-soul-laicite-charlie-hebdo/

I. Laboratory

Not Required

II. Professor

Jorge del Castillo Reyes jdelcastillor@esan.edu.pe