

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 3.0 Study time 90 h Contact hrs 30.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Biscop, Sven	PS03	staff member
Haesebrouck, Tim	PS03	staff member
Lesage, Dries	PS03	staff member
Vermeiren, Mattias	PS03	staff member
Van de Graaf, Thijs	PS03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Political Science (main subject International Politics)	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

International politics – topical issues – globalization and global trends

Position of the course

This course aims to present students with interpretations of current, topical developments in world politics. More precisely, it aims to provide deep insights into the actors, interests, mechanisms and trends that underpin current events. This course is related to the following competencies of the Master in Political Science: M. 1.2, M. 1.3, M. 1.4, M. 2.1, M. 3.1, M. 3.2, M. 3.3, M. 4.1, M. 5.2 en M. 5.3.

Contents

The contents of this course are completely dependent on what happens at the international stage. The headline events in international relations will be framed in a broader context. Wars, geopolitical shifts, international negotiations and agreements, sanctions, referenda and elections, and global economic issues are just the beginning of a long list of potential topics that could be dealt with in this course. Through lectures and debates, we will explore the specific issues and frictions linked to each topic.

Initial competences

The course builds on several competences of the courses 'History of World Politics' and 'Theory of International Relations'. Having passed these courses is highly recommended.

Final competences

- 1 Assess the dynamics and structure of topical developments in world politics, and find links with theories and concepts of international relations
- 2 Situate current developments in world politics in a broader (historical and theoretical) framework
- 3 Relate current issues in world politics to relevant academic research
- 4 Write a scientific report about a lecture or debate
- 5 Form a creative and nuanced opinion about topical issues in world politics, and support it with arguments
- 6 Interact with experts during lectures and debates

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Throughout the academic year, students have to attend a minimum of 4 activities about topical issues in international politics. An activity could be a lecture by (external) experts, evening debates, book launches with Q&A, colloquia, etc. The language of these activities will be Dutch or English. The activities will be organized by the instructors, but external activities can also be incorporated into the program. Students will then have to write a report in which they critically evaluate and reflect on the content of the lectures and debates. They also have to draw links to academic research and historical long-term trends in world politics.

Learning materials and price

De activities that the instructors organize will be free for students.
A small entrance fee and travel cost is possible for external activities.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Active participation and a written report about at least 4 debates or lectures. At each event, the student should have his/her attendance certificate signed by the lecturer or one of the organizers/speakers. For each event, paper should be submitted that explores the origins of the issue at hand, the academic relevance, the different viewpoints that surfaced during the debate/lecture, and the student's own, well-founded opinion.

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation (100%). Each of the 4 papers counts for 25% of the final mark. If there is no proof of attendance for a certain event (lecture or debate), no paper can be submitted. If an event is missed due to a valid reason (e.g., illness with a doctor's note), the student should immediately contact the lecturer, who will look for a compensating activity or assignment. Each student should attend at least 4 events. Students that do not attend an event and do not have a valid reason for their absence, can obtain a final mark no higher than 9/20.