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TOPICS ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Organised by

University of the Peloponnese

1. IDENTIFYING DATA.															
• Course Name.	Topics on International Studies														
• Coordinating University.	University of the Peloponnese														
• Partner Universities Involved.	-														
• Course Field(s).	International Relations														
• Related Study Programme.	Undergraduate														
• ISCED Code.	316 International Relations, European Studies, Area Studies ERA-14.6														
• SDG.	- Decent work and Economic growth - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - Reduced Inequalities														
• Study Level.	The course is part of a Bachelor (B) study program														
• EUNICE Key Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green – strongly • Orange - moderately • Red – partially • Blank cell - not at all 														
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Problem solving</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teamworking</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-management</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cognitive flexibility</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Digital competence</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical competence</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Problem solving		Teamworking		Communication		Self-management		Cognitive flexibility		Digital competence		Technical competence	
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	Teamworking														
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Technical competence															

	Global intercultural competence	
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• Number of ECTS credits allocated.	5 ECTS
• Mode of Delivery.	The course is delivered online live
• Language of Instruction.	The language of instruction is English
• Course Dates.	Spring semester 2026-2027
• Precise Schedule of the Lectures.	3-hour lectures on a weekly basis: Tuesday 9/3 Tuesday 16/3 Tuesday 23/3 Tuesday 30/3 Tuesday 6/4 Tuesday 13/4 Tuesday 20/4 Easter Holidays Tuesday 11/4 Tuesday 18/4
• Key Words.	International Relations, Political Economy, Geopolitics, Defence and Security, Emerging powers
• Catchy Phrase.	The Complex Effects of International Relations

• Prerequisites and co-requisites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The study level of this course is available for is B - Linguistic skills in English
• Number of EUNICE students that can attend the Course.	20 students
Number of EUNICE students that can attend the course per institution	-
• Course inscription procedure(s).	The standard EUNICE process

2. CONTACT DETAILS.

• Department.	Department of Political Science and International Relations
• Name of Lecturers.	Prof. Nikolaos Tzifakis, Assoc. Prof. Efstathios Fakiolas, Assoc. Prof. Sotirios Petropoulos, Assoc. Prof. Panagiota Manoli, Assoc. Prof. Antonios Klapsis, Assist. Prof. Dimitrios Rozakis, Dr. Maria-Eleftheria Galani, Dr. Maria Rontou.
• E-mail.	megalani@go.uop.gr
• Other Lecturers.	-

3. COURSE CONTENT.

This course explores critical themes and contemporary challenges in the field of International Studies, focusing on the interaction between global actors, structures, and processes. It covers the fundamentals of international politics, the political economy of global relations, and the dynamics of integration and disintegration, with emphasis on the European Union. Students will examine alternative governance models, such as Islamic perspectives, and assess regional geopolitics, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The course also investigates the privatization of defense, the management of global risks, and the role of emerging powers in reshaping global governance. Through case studies and interdisciplinary analysis, students develop a comprehensive understanding of international relations theory, policy-making, and strategic challenges in a globalized world.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES.

Upon successful completion of the course, students are able to:

Knowledge

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of various global political systems and their historical development.
- Explain key theories and concepts in international relations.
- Analyze the structure and function of global economic systems and their impact on international trade and development.
- Understand the role and influence of international law and organizations such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and International Monetary Fund.
- Identify and evaluate contemporary global issues such as climate change, human rights, migration, and security.

Skills

- Conduct thorough research and critically analyze international events, policies, and trends using appropriate methodologies.
- Integrate knowledge from various disciplines such as economics, political science, history, and sociology to analyze international issues.

- Interpret and utilize quantitative and qualitative data to support arguments and conclusions related to international studies.
- Apply conflict resolution strategies and negotiation skills in simulated international scenarios.

Competence

- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and global awareness in discussions and analyses of international issues.
- Exhibit ethical reasoning and decision-making skills in the context of international relations and global governance.
- Work effectively both independently and in teams to solve problems and complete projects related to international studies.
- Adapt to new and evolving international environments and commit to lifelong learning in the field of international studies.
- Show professional and ethical responsibility, particularly in areas involving international law, human rights, and cultural diversity.

5. OBJECTIVES.

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with a series of topics on the field of International Relations.

Students will be presented with a series of case studies within the field of International Studies exploring the various ways in which relevant actors are affecting significant developments.

By the end of the semester, students are expected to have generated a more in-depth knowledge of International Studies, main theories and analytical frameworks.

In addition, they will have acquired a broad perspective on current issues in contemporary global politics.

6. COURSE ORGANISATION.

UNITS

1.	Introduction to the fundamentals of International Politics: Agents, Actors, Structures, Processes
2.	The Political Economy of International Relations
3.	Theories of Integration and Disintegration and the future of the European Union
4.	Alternative Perspectives in Global Governance: The Islamic Ummah Confronts the Western Paradigm
5.	Geopolitics and Security in the Eastern Mediterranean
6.	The Privatization of Defense and Security

7.	Comprehending Global risks: The enterprise risk-management approach
8.	Emerging powers and the reformulation of global governance structures

LEARNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS.

The course uses extensively the e-class platform for several services (e.g., announcements, distribution of supplementary teaching material, essay topic assignment, submission of essays and feedback on performance).

In addition, most lectures are delivered with the assistance of projected presentations.

Final term marks are submitted and announced in a classweb platform (<https://e-secretary.uop.gr/classweb/>).

PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING METHODS.

Lectures

Multiple choice test

Writing of a full-length essay in English (2.500 words)

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS, CRITERIA AND PERIOD.

Final grades of students are based on the evaluation of the submitted essay (70%) and the results in the final exams (30%).

OBSERVATIONS.

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8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS.

Suggested Readings by Themes

- 1. Introduction to the Fundamentals of International Politics: Agents, Actors, Structure, Processes** John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (eds.), *The Globalisation of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations*, 6th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014

Henry R. Nau, *Perspectives on International Relations. Power, Institutions, Ideas*, 3rd ed., Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2012

Stephen M. Walt, The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations, *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 8, (2005), pp. 23-48

- 2. The Political Economy of International Relations**

Thomas Oatley, 'Chapter 1', *International Political Economy*, 6th edition, (available in

Documents_Eclass), Routledge

3. Theories of Integration and Disintegration and the future of the European Union

Mark A. Pollack, International relations theory and European integration, *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* Vol. 39 (2), 2001, pp. 221-244.

Hans Vollaard, Explaining European Disintegration, *The Journal of Common Market Studies* Vol. 52 (5), 2014, pp. 1142-1159.

Douglas Webber, How likely is it that the European Union will disintegrate? A critical analysis of competing theoretical perspectives, *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 20 (2), 2014, pp. 341-365.

Erik Jones, Towards a theory of disintegration, *Journal of European Public Policy* Vol. 25 (3), 2018, pp. 440-451.

4. Alternative Perspectives in Global Governance: The Islamic Ummah Confronts the Western Paradigm

Parekh, Bhikhu. (2008). European Liberalism and 'the Muslim Question'
<https://scholarlypublications.universiteitleiden.nl/handle/1887/12641>

Sachedina, Abdelaziz. (2006). The Role of Islam in the Public Square: Guidance or Governance, Amsterdam, ISIM
<https://scholarlypublications.universiteitleiden.nl/handle/1887/10071>

Wilson K Erin & Steger B. Manfred (2013), Religious Globalisms in the Post-Secular Age, *Globalizations*, 10:3, pp. 481-495 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2013.787774>

5. Geopolitics and Security in the Eastern Mediterranean

Hasan Selim Özertem, Turkish Foreign Policy and the Energy Bonanza in the Eastern Mediterranean, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 18(4) (2016), pp. 361-374

Frans Paul van der Putten, Infrastructure and Geopolitics: China's Emerging Presence in the Eastern Mediterranean, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 18(4) (2016), pp. 337-351.

Andreas Stergiou, Turkey-Cyprus-Israel Relations and the Cyprus Conflict, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 18(4) (2016), pp. 357-392

Zenonas Tziaras, Israel-Cyprus-Greece: A 'Comfortable' Quasi-Alliance, *Mediterranean Politics*, 21(3) (2016), pp. 407-427.

Kivanç Ulusoy, The Cyprus Conflict: Turkey's Strategic Dilemma, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 18(4) (2016), pp. 393-406.

6. The Privatization of Defense and Security

Tzifakis, N. (2012). *Contracting out to Private Military and security Companies*. Brussels: Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Leander, A. (2005). The market for force and public security: The destabilizing consequences of private military companies. *Journal of Peace Research*, 42(5), 605- 622.

Tzifakis, N. (2010). The Privatisation of Defense and Security: Risks and Opportunities. In: C. Arvanitopoulos and K. E. Botsiou (Eds) *The Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy Yearbook 2010*. Heidelberg: Springer, pp. 63-71.

Tzifakis, N., & Huliaras, A. (2015). The perils of outsourcing post-conflict reconstruction: Donor countries, international NGOs and private military and security companies. *Conflict, Security & Development*, 15(1), 51-73.

7. Comprehending Global risks: The enterprise risk-management approach

Olson, D. L., & Wu, D. D. (2017). *Enterprise Risk Management Models*. Springer. (Skim through)

Klüppelberg, C., Straub, D., & Welpel, I. (Eds.). (2014). *Risk -- a multidisciplinary introduction*. Springer. (Part I)

Raczkowski, K. (Ed.). (2017). *Risk Management in Public Administration*. Springer. (Mostly Ch.1, skim through Ch.3, Ch.4, Ch.7, Ch.10).

8. Emerging powers and the reformulation of global governance structures

Wang, H. (2017). New multilateral development banks: Opportunities and challenges for global governance. *Global Policy*, 8(1), 113-118

Armijo, L. E., & Roberts, C. (2014). The emerging powers and global governance: why the BRICS matter. *Handbook of emerging economies*, 503-520.

Kahler, M. (2013). Rising powers and global governance: negotiating change in a resilient status quo. *International Affairs*, 89(3), 711-729

Thakur, R. (2014). How representative are BRICS?. *Third World Quarterly*, 35(10), 1791-1808.

Keukeleire, S., & Hooijmaaijers, B. (2014). The BRICS and Other Emerging Power Alliances and Multilateral Organizations in the Asia-Pacific and the Global South: Challenges for the European Union and Its View on Multilateralism. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 52(3), 582-599.