



Academic Year 2025-2026 Syllabus

International Relations

CFU 12

Prof. Federiga Bindi – Prof. Maurizio Carbone - Amb. Patrizio Fondi

Course Description

The course of International Relations is divided into three Modules:

First module: International Cooperation and Development (Prof M. Carbone) - 6 CFU

Second module: Foreign Policy: An Introduction (Amb. P. Fondi) - 4 CFU

Third module: The EU in the World (Professor F. Bindi) – 2 CFU

First module

International Cooperation and Development

Course description

This module will investigate the interaction between the (Global) North and the (Global) South in the context of the changing system of international relations. To do so, it will explore the main strategies adopted by the international community to fight poverty and tackle global inequalities, the different means of cooperation used in North-South and South-South relations, the link between foreign aid and other development-related policies (e.g. trade, migration), and the impact of key international organisations, emerging economies, multinational corporations and civil society actors in North-South relations. A section of the course will be devoted to the role of the European Union in international development.

The main aims of this module are to:

- analyse different understandings and measurements of the concepts of development and inequality;
- discuss the main theories in the field of International Relations and International Development and their prescriptions;
- understand how the global architecture for development has evolved over the past six decades;
- assess why and how traditional and emerging donors give foreign aid;
- investigate the role of key international organisations (e.g. United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization) and civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the promotion of international development;
- explore the impact of selected policies of industrialised and emerging economies (e.g. trade, migration) on the economic and social development of developing countries;
- examine the evolution of the EU's policies towards developing countries.

Teaching method

This module is highly interactive. Students must do the assigned readings before each session as they will be asked to actively participate in class discussions.

Textbook and Materials

- There is no textbook for this module. Material will be available on DIDA.

Schedule of Topics

- International development and global inequality
 - Theories of development
 - International organisations and development
 - Foreign aid and 'traditional' bilateral donors
 - South-South cooperation
 - Multinational corporations and international development
 - Civil society actors and international development
 - Trade and development
 - Migration and development
 - Environment and development
 - Special topic: The European Union and international development
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Second module Foreign policy

The first section of the module (6 two-hour lessons) will focus on the role played in world politics by a variety of actors (states, institutions and interest groups), describing the most relevant approaches to the international relations. Moreover, it will be devoted to a concise historical introduction from the discovery of America to our times - in order to give an overview of the changes in the international order – as well as to the analysis of the theoretical aspects related to world peace in all their features. In the second section (8 two-hour lessons), eight case studies will be examined, where the concepts dealt with in section one can be usefully verified.

Teaching Method

Lectures of the first section will always be interactive and students are encouraged to make questions and comments. The second section will require a more direct and active participation: students are called to set up small groups, one for each case study; group members will jointly prepare a short paper on the specific subject (around 8 pages, in character Calibri 12, line space 1,5); the paper will be discussed in class.

Schedule of Topics

SECTION 1: Making sense of foreign policy: actors (states, institutions and different groups), interests and interactions. Theories of the international relations. Historical overview of the changes in the international order. War and peace: definitions, influence of domestic policies, role of the international institutions, civil war, terrorism.

SECTION 2: Lessons from recent history: selected cases

- a) Turkey: internal developments and foreign policy
- b) The issue of nuclear proliferation: useful deterrence or collective suicide?
- c) Africa between the past and the future
- d) The increasing importance of the Arctic area
- e) The many political crises in the Middle East
- f) President Trump and the Americas
- g) The relationship between USA and Russia
- h) The rivalry between USA and China

Textbook and Materials

'World Politics (*Sixth edition* – 2026): Interests, Interactions, Institutions; Frieden, Lake, Schultz, Hyde, Rickard; WW Norton and Co.

Introduction, Part 1 (Foundations), Part 2 (War and Peace), Part 5 (Looking Ahead).

Slides will be presented and readings will be suggested (also related to the discussions of the case studies).

Third module

The EU in the World

This module aims to give students the basic knowledge and analytical tools to understand and make informed projections about the integration process of the European Union and the relations of the European Union and with the rest of the world. It also aims at understanding how foreign policy decisions are negotiated and implemented in the EU, and how the EU interacts in the international arena.

Teaching method

This module is highly interactive. Students must do the assigned readings and to follow current international events before each session as they will be asked to actively participate in class discussions.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	The European Union's external relations / foreign policy in a historical perspective: this module will explain how the European Community first, and then the European Union gradually developed external relations to a (more) full-fledged foreign policy.
Topic 2	The EU foreign and security since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty: this module will focus the EU foreign policy since the Lisbon Treaty and in particular on an assessment of the first four EUHR EU High Representative and the European External Action Service.
Topic 3	Transatlantic Relations and their influence on the EU foreign policy.

Textbooks and Materials

- *The EU Foreign Policy* by F. Bindi, 2022, Brookings Institution Press
 - Ashton, C: *And Then What? Inside Stories of 21st Century Diplomacy*, Elliot & Thompson, 2022
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Assessment

Please be aware: students can reject ONLY the final grade of the average of the 3 exams total grade (average made with a grade of at least 16/30 for each module, otherwise the exam is failed). If they do that, they will have to retake in the second round (appello) ALL 3 exams: for the first module a written exam, for the second module an oral exam; for the third module an oral exam.

This second round is available to all students who fail the first round (attending and non-attending), who reject the grade of the first round, who did not attend the first round.

N.B. If an attending student does not show up to the first round, they can take the exam in the second round and keep the grades of the in class activities.

First module (6 CFU, 50% of the final grade):

Quiz 1, in-class (20% of the final mark), covering the first part of the course;

Quiz 2, in-class (20% of the final mark), covering the second part of the course;

For attending students:

Exam (60% of the final mark), with questions covering the whole course. They can do the final Exam in the first or second call.

If an attending student rejects the grade from the first round, they become non-attending for the second call (and therefore do not maintain the quiz grade)

For non-attending students:

Exam (100% of the final mark), with questions covering the whole course.

NB: Students who did not take either quiz 1 or quiz 2 will take the exam as non-attending students or will receive a 0 for the missed quiz.

Second module (4 CFU, one third of the final grade):

For attending students:

25%: case study discussion

75%: an oral final exam, covering the whole programme (relevant sections of the textbook, slides presented, mandatory readings in DIDA).

For non-attending students (students with less than 80% of presence in class):

will be assessed 100% on an oral final exam (covering the relevant sections of the textbook and ALL materials in DIDA related to the Second Module - Foreign Policy).

Third Module (2 CFU, one sixth of the final grade):

For attending students:

Multiple choice and short essay exam on the content of class and part of the textbook.

For non-attending students: Oral exam on the content of the textbooks (both books in their entirety)

Office hours

Professors will receive students after classes or by appointment:

Amb. Patrizio Fondi fondi.patrizio@gmail.com

Prof. Federiga Bindi federiga.bindi@uniroma2.it

Prof. Carbone Maurizio.Carbone@Glasgow.ac.uk

NOTE: If you are an Erasmus or a non Global Governance student who would like to attend one or more courses in the Global Governance programme, please be aware that, before enrolling in the course, you should have read the code of conduct and the procedural rules characterizing our programme. We assume that, if you enrol in the course, you have read and accepted all Global Governance values and rules. Notice that attendance is expected from the very first lesson and you need to attend at least 80% of the course to be considered an attending student.

Description of the methods and criteria for testing learning

The examination assesses the student's overall preparation, ability to integrate the knowledge of the different parts of the program, consequentiality of reasoning, analytical ability and clarity of presentation, in accordance with the Dublin descriptors (1. knowledge and understanding; 2. applying knowledge and understanding; 3. making judgements; 4. learning skills; 5. communication skills).

The examination will be graded according to the following criteria:

Unsuitable: important deficiencies and/or inaccuracies in the knowledge and understanding of the topics; the topics are exposed in an incoherent manner and with inappropriate language.

18-20: barely sufficient knowledge and understanding of most of the topics, with some missing items; sufficient capacity for analysis; the topics are sometimes exposed in an inconsistent manner and with inappropriate/technical language;

21-23: basic knowledge and understanding of most of the topics; ability to analyze and synthesize correctly with sufficiently coherent logical argumentation, with possibly some inaccuracy in the technical language.

24-26: good knowledge and understanding of most of the topics; good analytical and synthetic skills with rigorously expressed arguments, though with possibly a few inaccuracies in the technical language.

27-29: complete knowledge and understanding of the topics; good capacity for analysis and synthesis. Arguments presented in a rigorous manner and with appropriate/technical language, with only minor inaccuracies.

30-30L: very good level of knowledge and thorough understanding of topics. Excellent analytical and synthetic skills and independent judgement. Arguments expressed in an original manner and in appropriate technical language.
