

Course manual
Joint Master's Programme in
International Humanitarian Action

University of Warsaw

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International Relations in Humanitarian Action

Semester 1



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Credits awarded: 5 ECTS, equivalent to 125 work hours (1 ECTS = 25 hours)**Period:** First semester, block 1.**Venue & hours:** Room 308, Old Library, Tuesday 11.30–13.00**1. Introduction**

The module is an element of the second component (Core Course, 25 ECTS of the NOHA Joint Master's Degree in International Humanitarian Action to be completed during the first semester. It forms a recognised part of the curriculum and is a requirement for obtaining the NOHA Master's degree.

Aim of the course is to offer to the participants a panorama of both geopolitical and institutional elements and factors which defines the structure and dynamics of today's International Relations. The course will cover political, normative and economic problems, including power relations which form the context for Humanitarian Action. Special emphasis will be put upon security problems. Conflicts are changing their nature but at the origins are still very often power ambitions. Conflict management and solution of humanitarian dramas are part of the imperfect international order we live in

2. Learning outcomes**Knowledge:**

- Has shown familiarity with the main approaches and concepts of international relations.
- Has demonstrated a clear understanding of the international humanitarian system in its geopolitical context, with an emphasis on the power relations between actors.
- Has a thorough interdisciplinary knowledge of the current themes in international humanitarian action and the operational processes and changes in political, military, economic and social structures and institutions in the international dimension; has a thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of political and economic decision-making in these entities at the nation state level and on the international scale.

Skills

- Has shown the ability to anticipate new crisis situations in geopolitical settings. Has demonstrated the capacity to identify the roots and causes of conflicts/complex emergencies in a particular case.
- Has shown the ability to apply certain key concepts of International Politics to concrete disaster situations.

- Has developed basic skills for acting in and reacting to intercultural contexts.

Competences

- Has shown to be able to transfer acquired knowledge to other humanitarian situations.

3. Course material

Recommended readings:

- SIPRI Yearbook,
- S.P. Huntington, Clash of civilizations and the Remaking of World Order
- M. Kaldor, New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era.
- M. Walzer, Just And Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument With Historical Illustrations.
- J. Baylis., J. Witz, C.S. Gray, E. Cohen (ed.), Strategy in the contemporary world.
- H.A. Kissinger, World Order 2014.
- For Polish readers: Kuźniar et al., Bezpieczeństwo międzynarodowe, Scholar 2012.

4. Teaching and learning methodology

Lecture in classroom. Q&A sessions.

At the end of the course written exam.

5. Programme and training activities

Week 1

Transition from Cold War bipolar order into brief neo-Western World

- J.L. Gaddis, The Cold War: A New History, New York 2005.
- Z. Brzezinski, Grand Chessboard, New York 1997.

Week 2

Pax Atlantica – new role of NATO and the US

- R. Asmus, Opening NATO's Door, New York 2002
- I. Daalder, J. Goldgeiger, Global NATO, "Foreign Affairs" Sept/Oct 2006

Week 3

Rebirth of Europe – united for the first time and ready to engage

- N. Davies, Europe. A History, London 1997, chapter XII
- European Union on the Global Scene: United or Irrelevant, Ed. By B. Góralczyk, Warsaw 2015

Week 4

United Nations after Cold War – new promises and unsatisfactory achievements

- B. Boutros-Ghali, Agenda for Peace, New York 1992

- K. Annan, In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All, Report of the Secretary-General, UN, March 2005

Week 5

'90s – Golden Age of Human Rights

- Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, UN 1993.
- Human Rights: Concept and Standards, Ed. by J. Symonides, UNESCO Aldershot 2000)

Week 6

From the Third World to regional disorders

- S.P. Huntington, Clash of civilizations?, New York 1996

Week 7

Omnipresent globalization as driving force of change at all levels of IR

- D. Rodrik, Sense and nonsense in the globalization debate, "Foreign Policy" summer 1997;
- A.M. Slaughter, The real new world order, "Foreign Affairs", Sept/Oct 1997

Week 8

New century's sudden turn: from US bid for hegemony to Chimerica (new bipolarism?)

- H. Kissinger, Does America Need a Foreign Policy?, New York 2001;
- F. Zakaria, A Post-American World, New York 2008

Week 9

Post-Cold War international security environment – main features

- H.J. Giessemann, R. Kuzniar, Z. Lachowski (ed.), International Security in a Time of Change. Nomos, Baden-Baden 2004.
- SIPRI Yearbook (s). Armament, Disarmaments and International Security, by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Week 10

Weakening institutions – rising powers

- R.D. Kaplan, The Revenge of Geography. What the map tells us about coming conflicts and the battle against fate. New York 2012

Week 11

Disarmaments in regress, armament in progress

- SIPRI Yearbooks..., as above

Week 12

„Out of area” policies illusions and consequences

- J. Moore (Ed.), *Hard Choices. Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention*, Lanham (Oxford) 1998; *What Have We Learned? Lessons From a Decade of War*. Special section in: “Foreign Affairs” Nov/Dec 2014.

Week 13

Quo vadis new (not so brave) world

- H. Kissinger, *World Order*, New York 2014

6. Workload

Max. 30H of the lecture (15x1,5H)

Max. 100H of reading and study in order to prepare for lectures and for the exam

7. Assessment methods

Written exam (open questions) 80%.

Participation during classess 20%.

8. Assessment criteria

90% of points - grade 5

80% of points - grade 4,5

70% of points – grade 4

60% of points – grade 3,5

Over 50% of points – grade 3

9. Appendices