International Relations Module

Institution: Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals

Year: Year 2

Course type: Core course (modular format)

ECTS: 4

Brief description (including learning outcomes): Students will deepen their knowledge of International Relations through taking one of four options that develop an applied understanding of the subject. As a second-year modular component, existing knowledge of political science, IR and regional studies is consolidated through advanced-level courses focusing on a sub-system of the international system, or on contemporary issues. Students will take one of the four courses listed below to comply with this programme requirement. Additional courses can be taken as elective options.

Contemporary Issues in IR

The objective of the course is to provide students with introductory knowledge about a number of important contemporary themes of international relations (IR) scholarship. Each week a different issue is introduced, and classes mix student-led learning and lectures by the professors, providing an engaging and thorough discussion of each area. Students are encouraged to apply theoretical and methodological knowledge gained in other courses to complement the material studied here.

International Relations of Latin America

How do countries in Latin America interact with each other and the rest of the world? What institutional structures do they use to promote regional cooperation and participate in an increasingly interconnected world? This course engages students in debates about the key dynamics of Latin American international politics, with a special focus on the contemporary period.

International Relations of the Middle East

This course examines the key theoretical frameworks for understanding the international relations of the contemporaneous Middle East. The goal throughout is to offer a systematic study of the actors, structures and dynamics important to comprehend the international political reality of this region. The course concentrates on the emergence, evolution and current features of the regional order, as well as the sub-regional orders of the Maghreb and the Gulf. The second part examines the foreign policy decision-making processes of the five regional powers, namely Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Israel and Turkey. Finally, it examines the role of external actors in shaping the regional system and its dynamics –mainly, China, the United States and the European Union.

International Relations of Asia

This course analyses the different actors and processes which make up the distribution of power and wealth in Asia, as well as the region's position and participation in the international system. The course comprises twelve 2-hour sessions which are organized

along four different blocs: a) a first, introductory bloc that presents the socio-political geography of the region and its position within the study of international relations; a) a second bloc devoted to the features and roles of the main actors shaping Asia's international relations; a third bloc focused on the evolution and transformation of Asia's international relations during and after the Cold War; and finally, a four bloc devoted to the analysis of the economic and security dimensions of Asia's international relations.