



Contemporary  
World  
Degree in  
International  
Relations



UNIVERSIDAD  
NEBRIJA

## GUÍA DOCENTE

**Asignatura:** Mundo Contemporáneo

**Titulación:** Grado en Relaciones Internacionales

**Carácter:** Básica

**Curso Académico:** 2019-2020

**Carácter:** Básica

**Idioma:** Castellano/Inglés

**Modalidad:** Presencial

**Créditos:** 6

**Curso:** 1º

**Semestre:** 1º

**Profesores/Equipo Docente:** Dr. Carlos López Gómez; Dra. Almudena González del Valle Brena; Dra. Susana de Sousa Ferreira

## 1. COMPETENCIES

### 1.1. Competencies

- Knowledge and understanding of the major events of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries
- Knowledge and understanding of the main ideologies that shaped the twentieth century
- Knowledge and understanding of the main elements and factors that shape the twenty-first century
- Knowledge and understanding of subject-specific vocabulary, actors and concepts.
- Public argumentation in an orderly and understandable fashion.
- Correct argumentation, logical structure and organization in papers.
- Ability to question ideas and to develop critical thinking skills.
- Efficient implementation of information and communication technologies.
- Ability to identify, transcribe, synthesize, analyze and interpret complex information in a systematic fashion, using different media (written, oral, visual and digital).
- Apply organizational and teamwork skills.

### 1.2. Learning outcomes

- Identify and become familiar with basic concepts of contemporary history
- Ability to judge and analyze various elements of the international political arena in an objective and reasoned manner
- Ability to identify, classify and compare political systems
- Ability to analyze and explain the distribution of global wealth in an objective and reasoned manner
- Express opinions in oral and in written form using correct terminology, which implies knowledge of the subject.

## 2. CONTENTS

### 2.1. Prerequisites

There are no specific requirements; however, an advanced level of English is necessary to follow the lectures and readings.

## 2.2. Content description

Study of the cultural history of the 20th century, along with an analysis of the contemporary world from a multicultural perspective. The course will help the student to analyse and understand historical processes of the contemporary age from different perspectives (cultural, political, economic, and sociological). It attempts to give the student the tools for understanding the present through a knowledge of the past. It examines the principal developments and events from the beginnings of the twentieth century until the present time with analysis of important figures and forces. Study of the political changes and cultural tendencies following the great conflicts of the century and the processes of decolonization and social development; study of the factors which have defined the contemporary world: ideologies, new social and economic norms, technological innovations and cultural changes.

## 2.3. Detailed content of the course

1. Presentation of course goals, objectives, and course contents
2. Beginning of the "short XX century": The 1st World War and the Paris peace
3. Soviet revolution and the creation of USSR
4. Interwar years (1917-1939)
5. The Rise of Totalitarian regimes and the involution of democracies.
6. International Politics in the 30's and World War II
7. A bipolar world and the Cold War. The United Nations. The partition of Europe
8. Western democracies after 1945 Europe's integration: The Treaty of Rome, the birth of the European Community. Western European modern democracies in the XX century.
9. USSR and central Europe: from Stalinism to Perestroika
10. Decolonization and neo colonialism. Trends in international relations. The emergence of the Third World.
11. Problems in Latin America in the XX century
12. China: from revolution to integration in world international trade
13. Post-communist Europe: Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Soviet Union; proliferation of an international capitalism.
14. The present world: globalization, post-Cold War, BRICS, new waves in technological and societal changes.
15. The Arab and Islamic world in the XX century

#### 2.4. Formative activities

Throughout the academic course there will be academic activities, directed by the lecturer, to familiarize students with documents and specific materials of diverse origin and type. These documents will be related to the contents covered in the subject, and may include literary works, historical research, feature-films, essays, press and another article news etc. Their use will allow students to get in touch with specific methods and techniques of the academic discipline, to work in group projects or individual exercises, written essays, or tasks.

The latter will be detailed in separate guidelines at the beginning of the course.

<b>Activity type</b>	<b>6 ECTS - 150 Hours- 50 % in class</b>
Lectures	42 hours – 100% in class
Tutorial sessions	15 hours – 80% in class
Practical sessions	27.5 hours – 33% in class
Individual work	50 hours – 0% in class
Debates	9 hours – 50% in class
Exam	7.5 hours – 100% in class

### 3. SYSTEM OF EVALUATION

#### 3.1. Marking system

The final marking system shall be expressed numerically as follows

- 0 – 4.9 Suspenso (SS).
- 5.0 – 6.9 Aprobado (AP)
- 7.0 – 8.9 Notable (NT)
- 9.0 - 10 Sobresaliente (SB)

“Matrícula de honor” (or honours) may be granted to students that have a final mark of 9.0 or over.

#### 3.2. Evaluation criteria

##### Ordinary evaluation dates

Evaluation system	Percentage
Assistance to and participation in class	10%
Guided academic activities (Individual exercises and group activities)	20%
Midterm written exam	20%
Final exam	50%

##### Repeat (reseat) evaluation

Evaluation system	Porcentaje / Percentage
Class participation	0%
Guided academic activities (Individual exercises and group activities)	20%
Midterm written exam	0%
Final exam	80%

#### 3.3. Restrictions

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##### Minimum mark

To successfully pass this course, the student needs to receive 50% of the total points available in the final exam. Any grade below that is considered a fail.

All class work will be assigned plenty of time in advance. Individual work must be turned in by the student on the due date; group projects must be turned in on the due date by the members of the group and then presented by the group in the class room. Late projects by the individual or the group will not be considered.

The student may re-submit all marked activities to get a better mark.

##### Assistance

The student must attend at least to 75% of classes to succeed the course.

### 3.4. Plagiarism

Universidad Antonio de Nebrija will not tolerate plagiarism or copying from uncited sources. Plagiarism means the reproduction of text coming from a different authorship than the student's themselves (Internet, books, articles, colleague's work) whenever the original source is not cited. Plagiarism is, in all cases, a serious academic offence which can result in a Serious Offence (Falta Grave) according to the Student Regulations.

## 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Basic bibliography

- Bell, Philip M.H. Gilbert, M. (2016). *The World since 1945: An International History*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Best, A. et al. (2014). *International History of the 20th century and beyond*. 3rd edition. Routledge.
- Howard, M. (2002). *The Oxford History of the Twentieth Century*, Oxford University Press.
- Hobsbawm, E.J. (1995). *Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991*. Hamburg, Germany: Abacus.
- Hobsbawm, E. (2005). *Historia del siglo XX*. Barcelona: Crítica.
- Judt, T. (2010). *Postwar*. London: Vintage Books.
- Mazower, M. (2008). *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*. UK: Penguin.

### Recommended bibliography

- Aart Scholte, J. *Globalization: A Critical Introduction*. NY/UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
- Alcock, A. (2002). *A short history of Europe*. Palgrave
- Applebaum, A. (2012). *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe*
- Applebaum, A. (2017). *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*. Penguin.
- Bayly, C.A. (2004). *The birth of the modern world*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Blanning, T.C.W. (1996). *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*
- Brendon, P. (2000). *The roots of fascism*. In *The Dark Valley. A panorama of the 30s*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Davies, N. (1997). *Europe: A History*. London: Pimlico, Random House.
- Dedman, M. (2009). *The Origins and development of the European Union 1945-2008*. London: Routledge
- Ferguson, N. (2012). *Civilization: The Six Killer Apps of Western Power*. London: Penguin.
- Fernández, A. (2011). *Historia Universal*. Vol. 4: *Edad Contemporánea*. Barcelona: Vicens-Vives.
- Gilbert, M. (2004). *Winston Churchill. The wilderness years*. London: Pimlico.
- Graebner, N.A., Bennett, E.M. (2011). *The Versailles Treaty and its legacy: The failure of the Wilsonian vision*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Held, David and Anthony MacGrew. (2007). *Globalization/Anti-Globalization Beyond the Great Divide*. 2nd Edition. UK: Polity.
- Keegan, J. (1999). *The First World War*. London: A. Knopf.
- Klemperer, V. (2006). *The language of the Third Reich: Lingua Tertii Imperii*. London: Continuum.
- Massie, R.K. (2007). *Dreadnought. Britain, Germany and the coming of the Great War*.

New York: Vintage Books.

- Massie, R.K. (2004). Castles of steel. Britain, Germany and the winning of the war at sea. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Piketty, Th. (2014). Capital in the Twenty-First Century. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Overy, R. (1995). Why the Allies won. London: Jonathan Cape

Throughout the course more recommendation will be given, in form of books, articles or videos.