

International Policy of the United States and Transatlantic Relations

Master's Degree in International Relations

UNIVERSIDAD NEBRIJA

TEACHING GUIDE

Course: International Policy of the United States and Transatlantic Relations
Title: Master's Degree in International Relations
Academic Year: 2025-2026
Type: Compulsory
Language: English
Modality: Classroom attendance
ECTS: 3
Semester: 2nd
Teacher: Ricardo Añino Vázquez

1. COMPETENCIES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.1. Competencies

Basic Competencies

CB1: Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding in a field of study that builds on general secondary education and is typically at a level that, while relying on advanced textbooks, also includes some aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.

CB2: Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the competencies typically demonstrated through the development and defense of arguments and problem-solving within their area of study.

CB3: Students must be able to communicate their conclusions—and the knowledge and underlying reasons supporting them—to both specialized and non-specialized audiences in a clear and unambiguous manner.

General Competencies

CG1: Students must acquire up-to-date knowledge of Political, Economic, and Social Relations at the international level.

CG2: Students must be able to systematically understand complex concepts, relevant information, its context, and how to apply it to specific situations, considering how it affects different actors and agents in each scenario.

CG3: Students must master advanced techniques that enable them to obtain and analyze information, assess its relevance and validity, synthesize it, and adapt it to different contexts.

CG4: Students must be able to understand and handle complex situations and arguments systematically and creatively, with critical judgment, incomplete information, risk-taking, decision-making, and the ability to communicate these decisions to any type of audience.

CG5: Students must be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, in Spanish and a second language, using the most up-to-date technology.

CG6: Students must be capable of acting autonomously in evaluating socio-political events and anticipating possible future scenarios.

CG7: Students must be able to perform different roles within a team.

CG8: Students must be able to recognize the need for change and possess the necessary skills to manage it.

CG9: Students must be able to act autonomously within a framework of responsible freedom.

CG10: Students must be able to add value to an organization through creativity and active participation.

Specific Competencies

CE58: Ability to thoroughly understand current dynamics in International Relations from the perspective of the European Union's stakeholders.

CE64: Ability to assimilate the growing role of the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) in the new world order.

CE65: Ability to understand the integration process in Latin America and its insertion into the international sphere.

CE66: Ability to analyze the role of non-state actors in different geopolitical areas. CE67:

Ability to understand the evolution and future of U.S.-Latin America relations.

CE68: Ability to analyze the evolution of political Islam and the challenges of democratic development in the Arab world.

CE69: Ability to understand the specific issues of the Mediterranean context and the relations between the EU and North African and Middle Eastern countries.

CE70: Ability to analyze international relations in strategic and prospective terms to assess possible future geopolitical scenarios.

CE71: Ability to understand the evolution of the emerging power China and its asymmetric strategy for international advancement.

CE72: Ability to understand the evolution of the emerging power India and its international strategy.

CE73: Ability to analyze and interpret current international conflicts and alliances from multicultural perspectives.

CE59: Ability to understand the European Union's foreign policy decision-making process following the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty.

CE60: Ability to understand current tensions in International Relations.

CE61: Ability to comprehend the major international events that have shaped the current international status quo.

CE62: Ability to understand the global economy from a geopolitical perspective.

CE63: Ability to develop strategic thinking on International Relations, considering current geopolitical interests.

2. CONTENT

2.1. Requisites

Students must have completed the modules on Advanced Analysis of the International Order and International Politics and Foreign Service.

2.2. Description of the contents

The objective of this course is to delve into the study of the foreign policy of the United States of America from its inception to the present day. The approach focuses on understanding the main institutions and theoretical foundations on which U.S. political theory is based, as well as examining the historical development of its foreign actions, paying special attention to both internal and external transformations influenced by the historical context. The chronological exploration of U.S. international relations will provide insight into the decisions made by the most recent White House leaders and help understand the protectionist shift of the Trump Administration.

2.3. Detailed contents

1. The “America First” Realignment (Present)
2. The “Sullivan Doctrine” (The Strategic Alternative, 2023)
3. The Great Rule (1796)
4. Hemispheric Denial and its Inversion (1823 & 1904)
5. The Open Door (1899)
6. The Wilsonian Challenge (1918)
7. The Bipolar World (1947-1950)
8. The Unipolar Mirage (2022)
9. Final Synthesis: The New Realism (Present)

2.4. Educational activities

Theory: Lectures and seminars. Contemporary theories in the study and analysis of International Relations, their concepts, foundations, and methodological tools, as well as the main trends in interpretation and the most influential schools of thought, will be explained.

Practical Work: Case study-based learning.

Individual Work: Student group work.
The student will create and present an original group project for the course that shows an example of advanced application of the methods and techniques developed in the course.

3. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

3.1. Grading procedure

Final grades will be expressed numerically the following

way: 0 - 4,9 Fail (Suspenso) (SS)
5,0 - 6,9 Pass (Aprobado) (AP)
7,0 - 8,9 Notable (NT)
9,0 - 10 Excelent (Sobresaliente) (SB)

'Honours' mention can be granted to students with grades equal or superior to 9,0.

3.2. Evaluation criteria

Ordinary call

Activity	Rate
Attendance, participation, daily work	20%
Individual or collective assignments	30%
Final exam	50%

Extraordinary call

Activity	Porcentaje
Individual or collective assignments delivered at the ordinary call	30%
Final exam	70%

It is up to the teacher to receive and assess again the assignments in case these were not delivered originally or the students wants to improve the grade obtained at the ordinary call.

3.3. Restrictions

Minimal grade at the exam

In order to be weighed with the other grades, it is necessary to tet at least 5 at the final exam.

Attendance

Any student missing over 25% of the clases with no justification could be deprived of the right to take the exam at the ordinary call

Quality of writing

Special attention will be paid to both presentation and content in written assignments and projects, as well as exams, particularly to grammar and spelling. Failure to meet the minimum acceptable standards may result in points being deducted from the assignment.

3.4. Warning about plagiarism

Antonio de Nebrija University does not tolerate plagiarism or copying under any circumstances. Plagiarism is considered the reproduction of paragraphs from texts other than the student's own work (from the Internet, books, articles, fellow students' work, etc.), when the original source is not cited. The use of quotations cannot be indiscriminate. Plagiarism is a crime.

If this type of practice is detected, it will be considered a Serious Offense and the sanction provided for in the Student Regulations may be applied.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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