



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

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Basic Information:

Course Title: International Relations

Lecturer: Professor Nadia Boyadjieva, Ph.D. in History (Modern and Contemporary World History (Balkan History), Doctor of Sciences in Law (International Law & International Relations)

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Total Teaching Hours: 30 hours lecture course, 20 credits

Annotation (up to 150 words)

This course offers a rigorous exploration of International Relations (IR) theory, bridging the gap between intellectual history and empirical social science. Students examine the fundamental evolution of global politics, beginning with the Westphalian order of 1648 and extending to modern globalization. The curriculum focuses on critical concepts such as state sovereignty, anarchy, and the distribution of power, while analyzing how polarity and hegemony shape world order.

In addition to exploring structural theories like Neo-Realism and Institutionalism, the course delves into domestic influences, including polity type, public opinion, domestic culture, and behavioral norms. Students gain analytical tools to evaluate state behavior and the diverse threats facing contemporary regional and international security. By engaging with Neo-Constructivist and Postmodern perspectives, participants learn to dismantle complex theoretical arguments and master the logical structures of foreign policy. Ultimately, the course prepares students to navigate the "Realist-Constructivist-Kantian" debate and contributes to discussions regarding the future of IR theory.

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

Topic / Module 1: Introduction to International Relations theory and its relationship to empirical social science.

Topic / Module 2: The historical evolution of global order from the Westphalian system to the modern era.

Topic / Module 3: Core concepts of the state system, including anarchy, sovereignty, and the levels of analysis.

Topic / Module 4: Power dynamics in world politics focusing on distribution of power, polarity, and global order.

Topic / Module 5: Theoretical frameworks of hegemony, hierarchy, and the mechanics of power transitions.

Topic / Module 6: Influence of domestic institutions, democratic systems, and strategic interaction on state behavior.

Topic / Module 7: Mechanics of international security, featuring security dilemma, bargaining, and diplomacy.

Topic / Module 8: The role of international institutions, culture, and ideas in shaping global cooperation.



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Topic / Module 9: Comparative analysis of Neo-Realism, Institutionalism, and the “Realist-Constructivist-Liberal” debate.

Topic / Module 10: Critical perspectives in IR theory, including Constructivism, Postmodernism, and future theoretical trends.

Teaching and assessment methods

Hybrid form of learning

Written form of assessment

Competencies acquired as a result of training (3–5 points)

- The ability to situate complex political arguments within the conceptual structure and intellectual history of IR theory, from Westphalian foundations to contemporary globalization.
- Proficiency in identifying the logical structures, assumptions, and implications of various theoretical positions regarding why states act the way they do on the international stage.
- The skill to analyze the distribution of power—including concepts of hegemony, polarity, and hierarchy—and determine their impact on regional and international stability.
- The capacity to evaluate the mechanics of international interaction, including security dilemmas, bargaining strategies, and the role of international institutions in mitigating threats.
- Competence in navigating advanced debates, such as the "Neo-Realist/Neo-Liberal" divide and the application of Neo-Constructivist or Postmodern approaches to modern foreign policy.

Literature:

The Balkans in the Cold War. Rajak, Sv., Botsiou, K., Karamouzi, E., Hatzivassiliou, E. (Eds). Palgrave Macmillan, 2017

The Routledge Handbook of Balkan and Southeast European History. John R. Lampe and Ulf Brunnbauer (Eds). Routledge, 2021

The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations. Ed. By Baylis, J.&Steve Smith, Oxford, 2001

Hedley Bull, "The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics," Columbia Univ. Press, 1977.

Boyadjieva, Nadia. The USSR and Yugoslavia's Policy of Nonalignment, 1955–1980. - The Soviet Union and Cold War Neutrality and Nonalignment in Europe. Kramer, M., A. Makko, P. Ruggenthaler (Eds). The Harvard Cold War Studies Book Series. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2021, pp. 356-375

Gallagher, T. The Balkans After the Cold War: From Tyranny to Tragedy. Routledge, 2003

Gallagher, T. The Balkans in the New Millennium: In the Shadow of War and Peace. Routledge, 2005

Evans, Graham and Jeffrey Newnham. The Penguin Dictionary of International Relations. L., 2002

Naimark, Norman. Stalin and the Fate of Europe: The Postwar Struggle for Sovereignty. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press, 2019

David J. Singer, “The Level-of Analysis Problem in International Relations,” in Klaus Knorr and Sidney Verba, eds., The International System: Theoretical Essays (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1961), pp. 77-92.



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Peter Gourevitch, “The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics,” *International Organization*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (Autumn 1978), pp. 881-911.

Michael Sullivan, "Theories of International Relations: Transition versus Persistence," Palgrave, 2001.

G. John Ikenberry, “Illusions of Empire,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 83, No. 2 (March-April 2004), pp. 144-156.

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Robert Jervis, “The Remaking of a Unipolar World,” *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Summer 2006), pp. 7-19.

Niall Ferguson, “The Unconscious Colossus: Limits of (& Alternatives to) American Empire,” *Daedalus*, Vol. 134, No. 2 (Spring 2005), pp. 18-33.

Andrew Hurrell, “Pax Americana or the Empire of Insecurity?” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (August 2005), pp. 153-176.

Jack Snyder, “The Crusade of Illusions: Review Essay,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 85, No. 4 (July/August 2006), pp. 183-189.

G. John Ikenberry, “Power and Liberal Order: America’s Postwar World Order in Transition,” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (August 2005), pp. 133-152.

David A. Lake, “Theory Is Dead, Long Live Theory: The End of the Great Debates and the rise of Eclecticism in International Relations,” *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (September 2013), pp. 567-587.

Robert Jervis, “Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate,” *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Summer 1999), pp. 42-63.

Gideon Rose, “Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy,” *World Politics*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (October 1998), pp. 144-172.

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Jeffrey W. Legro and Andrew Moravcsik, “Is Anybody Still a Realist?” *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (Fall 1999), pp. 5-55.

Michael W. Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 80, No. 4 (December 1986), pp. 1151-1169.

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, “Taking Stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics,” *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 4 (Palo Alto: Annual Reviews, 2001), pp. 391-416.

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security during the Cold War*, rev. and expanded ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 3-86.

Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007), pp. 11-84.

Robert Jervis, “Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?” *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Winter 2001), pp. 36-60.

Colin Dueck, *Reluctant Crusaders: Power, Culture, and Change in American Grand Strategy* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), pp. 82-113.

Colin Kahl, “Constructing a Separate Peace: Constructivism, Collective Liberal Identity,



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and Democratic Peace,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Winter 1998-9/Spring 1999), pp. 94-144.

Human Security Report Project, *Human Security Report 2013: The Decline in Global Violence: Evidence, Explanation, and Contestation*, (Vancouver: Human Security Press, 2013).

Boyadjieva, N. The Impact of the Cold War on the Origins and Evolution of International Human Rights Regimes. – In: *Krakowskie Studia Miedzynarodowe*, N3 (VI), Krakow, 2009, pp. 47-58

Joseph S. Nye, Jr., “The Future of American Power: Dominance and Decline in Perspective,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 69, No. 6 (November-December 2010), pp. 1-9.

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, “The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers in the Twenty-First Century: China’s Rise and the Fate of America’s Global Position,” *International Security*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (Winter 2015/16), pp. 7–53.

G. John Ikenberry, Michael Mastanduno, and William C. Wohlforth, “Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences,” *World Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (January 2009), pp. 1-27.

Daniel W. Drezner, “Why Military Primacy Doesn’t Pay (Nearly As Much As You Think),” *International Security*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Summer 2013), pp. 52-79.

Robert Jervis, “Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective,” *World Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (January 2009), pp. 188–213.

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G. John Ikenberry, “Power and Liberal Order: America’s Postwar World Order in Transition,” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (August 2005), pp. 133-152.

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, “The Once and Future Superpower: Why China Won’t Overtake the United States,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 75, No. 3 (May-June 2016), pp. 91-104.

Week 5. NATO and the Warsaw Pact: Alliance Dynamics and Cold War Politics
Stephen Walt, *The Origins of Alliances* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1987), pp. 33-40.

Charles S. Maier, “Hegemony and Autonomy within the Western Alliance,” in Melvyn P. Leffler and David S. Painter, eds., *Origins of the Cold War: An International History*, 2nd ed. (New York: Routledge, 2005), pp. 221-236.

Mark Kramer, “The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: Spheres of Influence,” in Ngaire Woods, ed., *Explaining International Relations Since 1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. 98-125.

Vojtech Mastny, “Imagining War in Europe: Soviet Strategic Planning,” in Vojtech Mastny, Sven S. Holtsmark, and Andreas Wenger, eds., *War Plans and Alliances in the Cold War: Threat Perceptions in the East and West* (New York: Routledge, 2006), pp. 15-45.

Stephen M. Walt, “Alliances in a Unipolar World,” *World Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 1



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(January 2009), pp. 86-120.

Robert B. McCalla, “NATO’s Persistence after the Cold War,” International Organization, Vol. 50, No. 3 (Summer 1996), pp. 445-475.

Gaddis, Strategies of Containment, pp. 274-358.

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, “International Relations Theory and the Case against Unilateralism,” Perspectives on Politics, Vol. 3, No. 3 (September 2005), pp. 509-524.

G. John Ikenberry, Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis, and Transformation of the American World Order (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011), pp. 1-32.

Xenia Wickett, ed., America’s International Role under Donald Trump (London: Royal Institute of International Affairs, January 2017), pp. 1-57

Additional information (optional) Lists of recommended reading (in addition to required reading) will be provided to students as the course progresses.

The course is held in English.