

# Introduction to International Relations

## Titulaire

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## Mnémonique du cours

POLI-D306

## Crédits ECTS

5 crédits

## Langue(s) d'enseignement

Anglais

## Période du cours

Deuxième quadrimestre

## Campus

Solbosch

## Contenu du cours

The major issues that are dealt with in International Relations concern war and peace, collective action, cooperation, international institutions and security issues. They generically refer to **interactions** between the **units** of the **international system**. All of these terms are themselves subject to controversy and are apprehended differently depending on the schools of thought which compete for the monopoly of 'legitimate international thought'.

The aim of this course is to incorporate theoretical elements and articulate them with empirical ones. It will obviously be difficult to address all relevant themes and events in international relations. The choice was thus made to give an overview of the theories, actors, principles, objectives, and practices of international relations. The aim is to show that the international system is the product of individual and collective decisions, interactions, power relations, and struggles; the international system is also legitimated and structured by specific narratives which are partly constituted by the different traditions of thought in IR.

## Objectifs (et/ou acquis d'apprentissages spécifiques)

This course's aim is to introduce students to the discipline of International Relations: the main objects of studies, concepts, and questioning, and to put these in practice through empirical examples.

More specifically, students will develop the following abilities:

- Acquire a body of **conceptual and empirical knowledge** to study international relations.
- Identify the **main actors, trends and dynamics** of international relations today
- Develop **critical thinking** towards the reporting of international current events.

- Develop student's awareness of the **social, historical, and geographical contingency** of the international system as they know it.

## Pré-requis et co-requis

### Connaissances et compétences pré-requises

It is important to show intellectual curiosity and to maintain a good knowledge of current events, it is therefore essential to read newspapers. This is needed to complete this course which can only provide an introductory reflection on international relations, and to engage more in depth with issues of international politics

## Méthodes d'enseignement et activités d'apprentissages

The course will comprise 2h lectures. Prior to each lecture, one text has to be read: these readings are **mandatory and must be read in a careful and reflexive way**.

There will be a continuous assessment with two exams during the terms with multiple choice questions (MCQ) exams, and possibly an open question.

## Autres renseignements

### Lieu(x) d'enseignement

Solbosch

## Méthode(s) d'évaluation

Examen écrit

### Examen écrit

Question fermée à Choix Multiple (QCM), Question fermée à Réponses Multiples (QRM) et Question ouverte à développement long

Examen hors-session

### Langue(s) d'évaluation principale(s)

Anglais

## Programmes

Programmes proposant ce cours à la faculté de  
Philosophie et Sciences sociales

BA-POLI | Bachelier en sciences politiques, orientation  
générale | bloc 3 et BA-SHUM | Bachelier en sciences humaines  
et sociales | option Bruxelles/bloc 3

