History of International Relations - Universidad del Salvador 2017

[Syllabus]

1. This is an elective course held at the Department of Social Studies at Universidad del Salvador for International Relations and Political Science students.

2. It is a course framed within the Disciplinary training cycle and Specific core for each Degree.

3. Instructor: Federico Verly. E-mail: federicoverly@gmail.com

4. 2 semester 2017 (54 hs.)

5. This course aims to:

- Present a theoretical framework to analyze the international systems, with the variables of actors, structure and processes.
- Promote critical thinking, encouraging the analysis of history with the specific theoretical toolkit and throughout discussion and class interaction.
- Train students in acquiring knowledge, analyzing and comprehending the historical evolution of the international system.
- Provide students with judgement in order to get conclusions and discern the beginning and evolution of the main problems regarding international history.
- Consider the main powers in history’s, their role and their interaction with other political units.
- Analyze the main international conflicts from Western history, as well as their impact on man’s social and cultural world view.
- Value the political legacy of ancient and medieval cultures within the modern and contemporary power structures.
- Use analytical diagrams from different schools of thought to comprehend the complexity of the processes disclosed during the course.
- Examine the development of international institutions through history.
- Gain skills regarding the use of bibliography and sources to study the international society in its different periods.

6. Content

1. Introduction and theoretical toolkit. [Weeks 1 -3]

2. Ancient and Classical World. [Weeks 4-9]:
   - Sumer international system
   - Assyrian Empire
   - Persian Empire
   - India
   - China
   - Greek city-states system
   - Macedonian system
   - Roman Empire
   - Islamic System


4. Westphalia, Modern Europe and European expansion. [Weeks 12-13]
5. The Napoleonic Empire. The order of the Congress of Vienna [Weeks 14-15]

6. The World Wars. [Week 16]

7. Cold War. [Weeks 17]

7. Readings

1. Introduction and theoretical toolkit.


2. Ancient and classical world.


4. Westphalia, Modern Europe and European expansion.


5. The Napoleonic Empire. The order of the Congress of Vienna.


6. Cold War


Note: Course instructor is entitled to change the schedule and list of readings if circumstances require it.

8. Assignments / Form of Assessment

Participation: As in any graduate course or seminar, active student participation is the core of the course. This means both carefully reading and interpreting the assigned texts and attentively listening to and contributing to class discussions.

Presentations: At least once, each student should prepare a presentation about a specific international system. Presentations should follow the theoretical framework provided by the instructor.

Analytic Essays: Each student should write an analytic essay by the end of the course. It should be up to 10 pages and should analyse the contemporary international system with the theoretical framework provided: actors, structure and processes.