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## International Order and World Politics

PROF. ALESSANDRO QUARENGHI

### OVERVIEW

**Area:** International Relations

**Dates:** 26 June - 6 July (2 weeks)

**Campus:** Milan

**Term:** Summer School 2018

**Credits:** 6 ECTS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course aims to provide students with essential tools to understand some of the most pressing issues in contemporary international order, in its relation to world order, from an international relations theory perspective.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be familiar both from a theoretical and empirical perspective with the features and working mechanisms of the main models of international order. In addition, students will be aware of the main concepts of the most established approaches in International Relations Theory and will be able to employ them to interpret some of the main issues in contemporary international politics. Finally, they will be familiar with some of the most important issues shaping contemporary politics and the contemporary international order.

### COURSE CONTENTS

The course is divided in main two parts. In its first part, the course focuses on an overview of features and working mechanisms of the main models of international order: the balance of power in its multipolar and bipolar (and unipolar) variants, the hegemonic, and the constitutional models, assessing their theoretical features against their historical record. While exploring the models of order, it sketches the most established International Relations Theory approaches and their understanding of the models of order. The second part of the course will discuss some of the most relevant issues in the contemporary politics: the decline of US power and the rise of China, the re-creation of a multipolar balance of power, the role and future of the European Union, Globalization as a transformative process and the reaction to it with the rise of anti-



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(modern/Western/liberal/Global capitalism) actors, the contemporary threats to international security, the new forms of warfare, the role of the State in the international order, and the challenge to international order from civil society and the efforts to create a global movement.

## **METHOD OF TEACHING**

The first part of the course will consist of lectures. In the second part of the course, and depending on the number of students, some sessions will be introduced by a student or groups' presentation (20-25 minutes), which can be supported by the assigned readings. The issues raised by the presentation and by the essential readings will foster a discussion led by the instructor, which will constitute the bulk of the class. The instructor will then conclude by briefly (10-15 minutes) summarizing the most important points made during the discussion.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Students are expected to regularly attend sessions and to actively take part in debate;
- b. Before each class, students are expected to have read the compulsory readings (and are strongly advised to read the recommended readings);
- c. Students are required to orally present one of the topics outlined in the syllabus according to the instructor's instructions;
- d. Students will have to take a final written exam.

## **GRADING**

Class participation	10%
Presentation	30%
Final written exam	60%

## **COURSE READING AND MATERIALS**

All the readings and lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.

## **RULES OF CONDUCT**



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**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and no absence/s will be excused. Unexcused absences will prevent students from being admitted to the final exam. In case of health issues, students will need to inform both UCSC International Office (at [international.advisor@unicatt.it](mailto:international.advisor@unicatt.it)) and the professor and provide a medical certificate.

**Exam Date:** The exam date cannot be re-scheduled. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. In cases of unforeseeable circumstances such as illness or injury on the day of the exams, the student must submit a medical certificate and communicate his/her absence to the Professor and UCSC International Office via email prior to the exam. If the student does not justify his/her absence through sufficient documentation and with adequate notice before the final test, the student will receive an automatic Failed.

## SCHEDULE

### PART ONE. INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, WORLD POLITICS AND ORDER

#### **Lesson 1: Introduction to the course (Tuesday, 4 hours)**

- Presentation of the course: aims, organization, class-by-class overview. Assignments: suggestions on how to successfully complete the course.
- International Politics, World Politics, and Order: Concepts and Issues.
- Understanding International Politics: Brief review of 'schools' and 'approaches' to International Politics through an historical review of International Relations Theory.
- English School.

#### **Lesson 2: Types of Order: Balance of Power (Wednesday morning and afternoon, 6 hours)**

- The historical multipolar balance of power (1648-1945): Features and issues
- The historical bipolar balance of power (1945-1990): Features and issues
- Realism and Neorealism.

#### **Lesson 3: Types of Order: Hegemony (Thursday, 4 hours)**

- English and US hegemonies
- Realism, neo-Marxism

#### **Lesson 4: Types Of Order: Constitutional Order, And Images Of The Contemporary Order (Friday, 4 hours)**

- The post-1990 Order: Unipolarity, End of History, Clash of Civilizations, Empire, Soft Constitutional Order, Liberal, Asymmetric Multipolarity, etc.



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- Constitutional Order and Liberal Order
- Liberalism, Constructivism, Postmodernism, Critical Theory

**VISIT/GUEST LECTURE (Friday afternoon, 2 hours)**

## **PART TWO. CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF ORDER**

**Lesson 5: The Transition of International Power: towards Multipolarity and/or Hegemonic Change (Monday, 4 hours)**

- The case for a multipolar system: Russia, China, the United States (and the European Union?)
- The case for hegemonic competition: the US facing the rise of China

**Lesson 6: Globalization and Anti-Globalization Politics (Tuesday, 4 hours)**

- What is globalization.
- The resistance to globalization.
- Post-colonialism and the raising of the colonized. Anti-Americanism, anti-Western, anti-modernization movements.
- The 'Return of God' and ideology.
- The reshaping of international political power and people's identities.

**Lesson 7: The end of development (Tuesday afternoon, 2 hours)**

- From the 'Non-Aligned' Movement to BRICS to the 'Next-11s'
- The rebalancing of international power: the case of Mexico

**Lesson 8: Contemporary Threats to International Order: Violent Jihadism, Contemporary Warfare, and Migration (Wednesday, 4 hours)**

- Capabilities and ideologies of violent jihadism.
- Asymmetric warfare and the Revolution in Military Affairs.
- Migration: analysis of the phenomenon; national and international policies.

**Lesson 9: Cybersecurity (Wednesday afternoon, 2 hours)**

- A new warfare: features and relationship to politics



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**Lesson 10: CONTEMPORARY THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL ORDER: THE RESHAPING OF STATEHOOD, THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND NEW PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE (Thursday, 4 hours)**

- The transformation of the State, the crisis of democracy, the role of social media, and the 'new authoritarianism'.
- The strength of international institutions.
- Civil society and the global movement.
- New forms of governance.
- Cosmopolitanism.

**Lesson 11: CONCLUSION: THE END OF LIBERAL ORDER? (Thursday afternoon, 2 hours)**

- Wrap-up of the course

**FINAL EXAM (Friday, 3 hours)**

**INSTRUCTOR BIO**

**Alessandro Quarenghi** is a Lecturer in International Politics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, where he teaches on International Relations and International Relations of the Middle East. He holds a degree in Law, a PhD in International Relations, a Specialization in International Economics and Politics, and Masters Degrees in Postcolonial Politics and Cross-cultural Mediation. His work focuses on international Order, Middle Eastern Order, regional security issues, Democratization processes, and Middle Eastern regional cooperation.

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