27192 - Política Internacional en la Época Actual
27192 - International Policy in the Present Day

Centre: Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication
Degree: Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration
Academic year: 2016/17
Year: 3rd
Course taught in: Spanish (English-Friendly Course)

Description and Contextualisation of the Subject Course

Optional subject course in the third year of the degree in Political Science and Administration. The fundamental aim proposed is to study contemporary International Policy in further depth, bearing in mind that students who have passed the subject course in International Relations in the first year of the degree have already had a general introduction to the study of this subject. The course content sets out to place students in a position to analyse the recent history and the current state of contemporary international society. The knowledge and skills acquired will equip them to appreciate the origins of the most important processes, problems and challenges faced by humanity at global level in the 21st century so far. These competencies will be relevant in coping with other third and fourth-year subject courses in the degree which deal with different aspects of international society today.

Competencies / Learning outcomes from this subject course

This subject matter develops the following competencies, associated with the degree in Political Science and Administration:

1. Acquiring knowledge and understanding the meaning and relevance of concepts, theories and methodological focuses in observing phenomena in the political environment.

2. Analysing in a synthetic way information about political issues and the needs of society, developing a critical attitude and applying intellectual and moral rigour in professional practice.

3. Understanding the structure and functioning of political institutions and systems from a comparative standpoint in order to identify their components and legal frame of action, interpret their inter-relations, draw conclusions about how they work and propose alternatives.

4. Understanding international politics by identifying their players, institutional, organisational and political structure and how they interact with other spheres.

5. Identifying the political players in a particular context, their capacities and their behaviour, in order to analyse their effects on the political system and predict scenarios.

The specific learning outcomes from this subject course will be the following:

1. Learning more about handling the basic concepts of international relations.
2. Learning to find and use documentary and information sources related to contemporary international politics.

3. Appreciating the historical development of contemporary international society from the mid-20th century to the present day.

4. Acquiring the ability to analyse the basic processes in the international system (cooperation, integration, conflict and war).

5. Becoming familiar with and knowing how to analyse issues in contemporary international policy from a historical perspective.

6. The ability to explain and exchange views on the topics dealt with on the subject course.

**Theoretical and practical content**

Theoretical content of the subject course:

1. Introduction: historical periods from the 2nd World War to the present day

2. Consideration of basic aspects of international relations: players, structures and basic processes in the international system, and the main theoretical currents

3. Formation of the bipolar international system and the Cold War period (1945-1953)

4. The era of coexistence and confrontation (1953-1969)

5. The era of détente (1970-1979)

6. The era of the Second Cold War (1979-1985)

7. Post-Cold War, détente and international changes (1985-1991)

8. The gestation of a new international order (since 1991)

**Practical content:**

1. Reading of texts related to the theoretical content of the subject course

2. Presentations and debates on the set texts

3. Documentaries and/or films about the topics dealt with on the course and discussion about them

4. Methodology for research into issues in contemporary international policy

**Methodology**

1. Lectures given by the tutor on the theoretical content of the subject course.
2. Practical classes on the set texts, consisting of presentations by students and debates arising from these.

3. Audiovisual materials, in particular documentaries and/or films about historical events and periods and discussion about them.

4. Practical classes in methodology for research into contemporary international policy. Regular pooling of ideas on problems students have encountered in working on their research project.

Systems of assessment

SYSTEM OF FINAL ASSESSMENT

Marking tools and percentages:

Ordinary Session: Guidance and Withdrawal:

Marking of the subject course will use two systems of assessment with their criteria. At the beginning of the subject course (by the second week) each student must express a preference regarding the system for their assessment. If they do not express a preference, they will be considered to have opted for the 2nd system.

1) For students who attend classes regularly, a mixed system of assessment will be used, based on two tools.

1. Examination on the theoretical and practical content of the subject course (60% of the final mark)

2. Individual research project (40% of the final mark)

2) For students who do NOT attend classes regularly:

Final examination: this will cover the contents that make up the syllabus of the subject course. This is to be prepared for using the basic bibliography specified for the purpose (consult the tutor).

Extraordinary Session: Guidance and Withdrawal

The two systems of assessment from the ordinary session will be used:

1) For students who attend classes regularly, a mixed system of assessment will be used, based on two tools.

1. Examination on the theoretical and practical content of the subject course (60% of the final mark)

2. Individual research project (40% of the final mark)

2) For students who do NOT attend classes regularly:

Final examination: this will cover the contents that make up the syllabus of the subject course. This is to be prepared for using the basic bibliography specified for the purpose (consult the tutor).
Obligatory materials

Not applicable.