

History of International Relations

Prof. Armando Barani

Course aims

➤ Knowledge and understanding skills

The course has the following aim:

- to introduce students to the scope and definition of the History of International Relations, outlining its methodologies, scientific specificities, and interdisciplinary connections.
- with regard to the historical processes covered, to deepen understanding of the evolution of international relations from the end of the Cold War to the present, examining the complex historical, geopolitical, legal, economic, social, and cultural forces that shape global dynamics. Through this, students will acquire interpretative tools to analyze the causes and consequences of key events in international politics, with attention to contemporary developments.

➤ Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

The student should be able to:

- recognize the specific methodological features of the discipline and apply them to historical events with independent critical thinking and awareness (objective: Independent judgment)
- understand the key factors driving the historical development of international relations during the period covered by the course, in order to acquire analytical tools for interpreting both recent and future events (objective: learning ability);
- communicate effectively using appropriate terminology to present and discuss the knowledge and skills acquired (objective: communication skills)

Course contents

Introduction to the discipline

- definition and scope of the history of international relations
- methodological approaches and interdisciplinary relevance
- emergence of the modern state and the significance of diplomatic history
- key forces shaping the evolution of the international system:
 - the industrial revolution
 - socialist and moderate internationalism
 - causes and consequences of world war i:
 - peace treaties
 - socio-economic challenges related to war debt repayment
 - aftermath of world war ii
 - globalization and its dynamics

- deglobalization trends
- the rise of geoeconomics
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- From the end of the cold war to the present
- transition from a bipolar world to U.S.. hegemony
- geopolitical changes in various global scenarios: the former USSR; the former Yugoslavia; the Gulf Wars; the rise of China; tensions in Central Asia;
- the European Union in its relations with NATO and the US
- NATO's strategic evolution
- international terrorism
- the Middle East situation
- the global economic crisis of 2008 and the decline of American hegemony
- the transition to a polycentric order (critical analysis)

Exam

- Oral

Bibliography

- Attending students:

Lecture notes and teaching materials—focused on documentary sources and regulatory texts—will be provided to students in electronic format. These resources should be studied in alignment with the topics addressed during class sessions. Students are also encouraged to consult the reference text (listed below), specifically the chapters indicated during the lessons.

- Non-attending students:

Only the specified sections of the reference text (listed below) are required for study.

- Reference text:

Monzali L. – Imperato F.- Milano R. – Spagnulo G., *Storia delle relazioni internazionali (1919-2021) – Tra Stati nazionali, potenze continentali e organizzazioni internazionali*, Milano, Mondadori Università, 2022 (or the latest available edition), also available as an e-book

To be studied: Parte seconda [Le relazioni internazionali nell'epoca del bipolarismo. Stati Uniti, Unione Sovietica e l'emancipazione dei popoli dell'Asia e dell'Africa (1948-1952)]; Parte terza (La politica mondiale contemporanea fra globalizzazione economica e finanziaria e disordine politico) - for a total of approximately 663 pages.

Lalir Mantova, 10.09.2025