

**Course GA-11 POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN MODERN EUROPE (XVI – XVIII CENTURIES)**

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**45 CONTACT HOURS/3 SEMESTER CREDITS**

**THIS CLASS MEETS: MON/WED 3-5PM**

**Objectives:**

This Course aims to provide students with a working knowledge of the history of Europe's International Relations during the Modern Era, while furnishing them with the analytical tools which will enable them to approach, in historical terms, the system of power relations upon which our present-day world is founded.

**Methodology:**

As key features by which the sessions involving the analysis of systems and international scenarios will be carried out, wherein debate and active student participation play a major role, the Course will take on board a methodology that combines lecturers' theoretical explanations and practical classes (the exploration of maps, historical texts, timelines; computer-powered presentations, films, and documentaries).

**Syllabus:**

1. INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
  - History and International Relations.
  - Power Struggles and Peace: Hegemony and Balance.
  - The Foundations of International Power.
  - Diplomacy during the Renaissance.
  - The System of European States *circa* 1520.
  
2. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY (I): THE AGE OF CHARLES V.
  - The Beginnings of the Struggle for European Hegemony: The Hapsburgs pitted against France.
  - Charles V and the Failure of Universal Monarchy: the Consolidation of Political and Religious Pluralism.
  
3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY (I):

## THE ERA OF SPAIN'S HEGEMONY.

- The Catholic Monarchy of Philip II.
- The Religious Wars in France and Turmoil in the Low Countries.
- The Role of Northern and Eastern Europe within International Relations.
- The Mediterranean Scenario and the Ottoman Threat.
- *Fin de Siècle* and a Change of Trend: the Failure of Philip II's Counter-Reformation.
- The Relevance of the Colonies beyond Europe within Sixteenth-Century International Relations.

## 4. THE PROTO-HISTORY OF *THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR*.

- France's Emergence as a Power.
- The Struggle for Ascendancy in the Baltic and the Rise of Sweden.
- Cold War and Local Conflicts in the Europe of the Religious Confessions at the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century.

## 5. *THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR*.

- The Powers Involved, the Distribution of Forces, the Evolution of the Conflict.
- *The Treaty of Westphalia*.
- A Law of Peoples.

## 6. EUROPE, circa 1660-1700

- New Balances of Power and New Power Relations.
- The Transformation of International Order.
- The Beginning of the End of Turkey's High Tide.
- The Century of Louis XIV: France's Hegemony.

## 7. THE MAJOR CONFLICTS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (I).

- The War of Spanish Succession and the Treaty of Utrecht. Great Britain as a Major Power.
- The Second War in the North: Structural Change in Eastern and Central Europe. Russia, Prussia, and Austria as Major Powers.

## 8. THE INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO DURING THE INTER-WAR PERIOD

- The Doctrine of the Balance of Power.
- Revisionism as a Destabilizing Factor.
- Systems of Alliance.

9. MAJOR CONFLICTS DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (II).
- The War of Austrian Succession.
  - *The Seven Years' War*.
  - The Struggle for Hegemony between France and Great Britain.
  - The Colonial Components of the Century's Conflicts.
  - A Multipolar International Scenario.
10. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN MODERN-DAY EUROPE.
- Europe at War; the Ideal of Peace.
  - Taking Stock of an Era.

**Bibliography:**

- Heinrich LUTZ: *Reforma y Contrarreforma*, Madrid: Alianza, 1992.
- Heinz DUCHHARDT: *La época del absolutismo*, Madrid: Alianza, 1992.
- Gaston ZELLER: "Los tiempos modernos", in Pierre RENOUVIN (dir.): *Historia de las Relaciones Internacionales*, Madrid: Aguilar, 1960, vol. 1.
- Manuel RIVERO RODRÍGUEZ: *Relaciones exteriores en la Edad Moderna, 1453-1794*, Madrid: Alianza, 2000.
- Garret MATTINGLY: *La diplomacia del Renacimiento*, Madrid: Instituto de Estudios Políticos, 1970.
- Michel PÉRONNET: *Historia Moderna*, Madrid: Akal, 1990-1991, 3 vols. Vol. 1: *El siglo XVI. De los grandes descubrimientos a la Contrarreforma*. Vol. 2: *El Siglo XVII. De la Contrarreforma a las Luces*. Vol. 3: *Del Siglo de las Luces a la Santa Alianza*.
- Günter BARUDIO: *La época del absolutismo y la Ilustración, 1648-1779*, Madrid: Siglo XXI, 1983.
- E. MARTÍNEZ RUIZ & A. GUTIÉRREZ CASTILLO & E. DÍAZ LOBÓN: *Atlas histórico. Edad Moderna*, Madrid: Alhambra, 1986.
- Hermann KINDER & Werner HILGEMANN: *Atlas histórico mundial*, Madrid: Istmo, 1992, 2 vols.
- F. VERCAUTEREN: *Atlas histórico y cultural de Europa*, Barcelona: Ediciones Nauta, 1965.
- Agustín GUIMERÁ & Víctor PERALTA (coords.): *El equilibrio de los imperios: de Utrecht a Trafalgar*, Madrid: Fundación Española de Historia Moderna, 2005.

**Assessment:**

Student assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Regular attendance and active participation in class sessions.
- 2) A voluntary assignment with a bibliographical basis, the subject-matter of which will be agreed upon in consultation with lecturers, and which will deal with one of the aspects of syllabus content.

- 3) The presentation in class of the completed assignment.
- 4) The grades derived from the two exams required by the Program's regulations, one mid-way through the semester and another, a final exam, at its close.

In any case, both exams need to be passed. The remaining assessment mechanisms constitute 30% of the final grade.