

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Prague

Course Title: Conflict and Cooperation in International Relations - Case Study: Central and Eastern Europe

Course Code: PR/INTR 344

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: International Affairs / History, Political Science, Central & Eastern European Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Prior coursework in International Relations is recommended but not required

Description

The course starts with a brief overview of the main theories of international relations to summarize and build on students' previous knowledge and understanding of potential and limitations of the theories in the study of international politics. The first couple of lessons cover the most influential IR theories – realism, liberalism, behaviorism, English school, and constructivism. All of them focus on explaining two phenomena in international relations: conflict and cooperation.

The main focus of the course is on concrete examples of cooperation and conflict in international politics mostly in Central and Eastern Europe to acquire better understanding of the region in the light of IR theories. The topics include the Cold War with a number of selected events during its course (such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and invasion to Czechoslovakia in 1968), European integration and enlargement, dissolution of former Yugoslavia, contemporary Russia, EU election observation missions, Visegrád Group and Czech diplomacy, among others.

Objectives

After taking this course students should:

- be able to explain International Relations theories through a Central European context;
- be familiar with contending IR theories that attempt to explain international cooperation and conflict and have a capacity to understand, criticize, and apply them through the Central European context;
- be able to identify and describe some of the major processes in the international system, particularly issues of Cold War, European integration and Central and Eastern European states after the collapse of Communism;
- become critical readers of books and articles about international politics and assess the behavior of actors in international politics in light of IR theories.

Course Requirements

Students write short, weekly response papers and deliver one presentation (plus a 6-8-page written accompaniment which counts as the response paper for that week) in class on a syllabus topic of their choice. In addition, students are graded on their class participation and a final project that explores a theme from the course in greater depth.

Students are expected to abide by CET's Attendance Policy.

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Methods of Evaluation

Class participation	10%
Weekly response papers	20%
Presentation and its written accompaniment	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Primary Texts

S. Burchill et al.: Theories of International Relations. Third edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

B. Buzan: From International System to International Society: Structural Realism and Regime Theory Meet the English School. *International Organization* 47, 3, Summer 1993

B. Buzan: From International to wWrld Society? English School Theory and Social Structure of Globalization. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. J. T. Checkel: Constructivist Approaches to European Integration. Center for European Studies, University of Oslo, Working Paper no. 6, February 2006

M. Dangerfield: The Contribution of the Visegrad Group to the European Union's 'Eastern' Policy: Rhetoric or Reality? *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 61, No. 10 (Dec., 2009). M. L. Haas: Prospect Theory and the Cuban Missile Crisis. *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (June 2001)

M. Habanikova: August 21st, 1968: Political, strategic and ideological reasoning behind the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. GOSECA Conference 2012, Rightly stated? Contemporary and Historical Considerations of the State in Eastern Europe and Euroasia.

C. Kennedy-Pipe: International History and International Relations theory: a dialogue beyond the Cold War. *International Affairs* 76, 4 (2000)

R. Keohane, J. S. Nye, S. Hoffmann (eds.): After the Cold War: International Institutions and State Strategies in Europe, 1989-1991. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993

R. Koslowski, F. V. Kratochwil: Understanding Change in International Politics: The Soviet Empire's Demise and the International System. *International Organization*, Vol. 48, No 2 (Spring, 1994)

S. Luccareli: Europe and the Breakup of former Yugoslavia. The Hague: Kluwer Law International, 2000

B, Martill, U. Staiger (eds.): Brexit and Beyond: Rethinking the Future of Europe. ULC Press 2018

J. Mearsheimer: Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War. *International Security*, Vol.15, No.1 (Summer 1990)

A.J. Motyl: The Surrealism of Realism: Misreading the War in Ukraine. *World Affairs*, Vol. 177, No. 5 (January/February 2015)

J. S. Nye: Understanding International Conflicts: an Introduction to Theory and History. New York: Pearson 2007

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M. A. Pollack: International Relations Theory and European Integration. Journal of Common Market Studies, June 2001, Vol. 39, No. 2

N.L.P. Swanström, M.S. Weissmann: Conflict, Conflict Prevention, Conflict Management and Beyond: A Conceptual Exploration. Central Asia-Caucasus Institute Silk Road Studies Program, concept paper 2005 K.
Waltz: The Emerging Structure of International Politics. International Security, Vol.18, No.5 (Fall 1993)

A. Wendt: Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics. International Organization 46 (spring), 1992

Handbook for European Union Election Observation Missions

Slaughter: International Relations, Principle Theories

Supplementary Texts

Additional texts relevant to current events are provided weekly

Outline of Course Content

Week 1

Topics: Course introduction; administration of the course; classification of IR theories, the birth of IR as an academic discipline and its application to the study of history and current events.

Week 2

Topics: Realism: Europe after the Cold War

Week 3

Topics: Liberalism: International institutions and state strategies in Europe, 1989-1991; Behaviorism: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Week 4

Topics: English School: International society and collective security; raison de systeme and framing ISS; Societal approaches of the ES and International security and applications in Central/Eastern Europe.

Week 5

Topics: Constructivism: European integration; Critical Theory; Postmodernism

Week 6

Topics: Conflict in IR theories I: Cold War and invasion to Czechoslovakia in 1968

Review for midterm exam

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Week 7

Midterm exam

Topics: Conflict in IR theories II: dissolution of former Yugoslavia

Week 8

Topics: Conflict in IR theories III: current Russo-Ukrainian War

Week 9

Topics: Cooperation in IR theories I: European integration

Week 10

Topics: Cooperation in IR theories II: EU enlargement, Brexit

Week 11

Topics: Cooperation in IR theories III: Visegrád Group, current migration crisis in Europe

Review and consultations

Week 12

Topics: Excursion to Ministry of Foreign Affairs: EU election monitoring missions, Czech diplomacy

Week 13

Final Exam