

Name of course: THEORY AND PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Short description:

Course dedicated mainly to second cycle students in English in the following fields: Postgraduate Program in International Relations and Postgraduate Program in Political Science. The objective of the course is to increase the practical skills of students and apply the theory of International Relations in the analysis of foreign policy in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The course will take place in the form of a seminar. During the classes, individual case studies will be carried out using theoretical perspectives and methodologies typical of International Relations and Foreign Policy.

Full Course Description:

The objective is to understand the main framework of theories of International Relations 'discipline in order to explain Foreign Policy as a part of it.

The course will give an approach to the main processes of development of international relations and foreign policy in the Latin American and Caribbean region with the use of the main theories of International Relations. It will be given through an approach to theoretical foreign policy analysis as part of the ground of International Relations, main authors and literature about it. Then studying the principal approaches about Foreign Policy analysis, conceptualization and the methodological proposals.

The integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean, the dynamics of international relations and the main economic and political challenges; the United States' strategy towards Latin America, and the strategies of the European Union and emerging powers (including China) vis-à-vis Latin America.

Title of courses

1. Introduction.
2. International Relations theory and the theoretical foreign policy analysis as a part of it, principal authors (Rossenau, Merle, Hoffman, Calduch, Seminatore, Hudson, etc.) and a review of the literature of the field.
3. Main approaches of Foreign Policy analysis, conceptualization, and the principal aspects of methodological proposals to the analysis of Foreign Policy: actors, factors (internal and external), decision making process, national character, power, national interest, delimitation of objectives, strategy, and evaluation, among the most important.
4. Analysis of the foreign policy of the main states of the region (including Brazil, Argentina and Mexico).
5. Analysis of the foreign policy of the smallest states of Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. The integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean (Latin American Integration Association, Central America Integration, Caribbean Association) and the political organisms (CELAC, CEPAL, OEA) and their impact on the foreign policy of the States.

7. The United States' strategy towards Latin America and the importance of the relationship with the great power.
8. The strategies of the European Union and emerging powers (including China) vis-à-vis Latin America.

Literature (detailed course description and literature will be given during lectures)

Assessment criteria:

- The first assignment - in-class presentation of research proposals for the analytical paper (20%);
- The second assignment - an analytical paper (2,800 – 3,500 words) will count for 70% of the final grade.

1) Course Length:

2) Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

Knows and understand:

- Knows the different International Relations and Foreign Policy's theories in Latin-America and the Caribbean
- Understands the relations between foreign policy and theories of the international relations, as an important brand where theories are applied.
- Knows the reality of Latin America and the Caribbean region from a methodological analysis of the foreign policy of Latin-American countries.

Skills:

Is able to:

- Make a multidisciplinary analysis of the foreign policy of Latin America and the Caribbean using the theories of International Relations to explain a political, economic, and social process.
- Apply models, theories, and methods to the analysis of international reality.
- Make links and relations between Latin American and Caribbean countries and others outside the American continent.

Social Competences

Is able to:

- Make a critical analysis of their own reality and others.
- Being more sensitive and analytical when trying to give solutions to social, economic and political problems.

3) Mode of teaching: Seminary

4) Teaching Method: The course will take place in a seminary mode, but students will participate using the given bibliography. There will also be interactive discussions at the end of each class.

5) Language of Instruction: English

6) Major readings: see 1)

7) Description of the requirements related to participation in the classes, including the

admissible number of absences which may be excused: Participation in class is mandatory and required to have a better understating of the course. It is obliged to read every lecture. Only one absence is possible

8) Assessment Tasks: This course will be passed based on daily participation, assisting to a minimum of 7 sessions, and a final research paper related to the analysis of the foreign policy

of a Latin America or Caribbean State using an International Relations theory (3,000-word length).

9) Learning Outcome Assessment: Analytical paper and participations

10) Assessment Criteria:

- Participations 10%
- Proposal of a topic to be study 20%
- Final paper (3000 words) 70%

11) Maximum number of participants: X