1 Description

This module offers an overview of contemporary topics in international politics, as well as themes related to Irish politics and society. The international system is a complex and constantly evolving environment. Interactions between states and non-state actors, such as multinational corporations and international non-governmental organizations, produce outcomes that we read about in the news every day. This module offers the student a set of theoretical tools to help understand why these outcomes emerge. Examples of questions that we will cover in this module include: Are wars becoming more infrequent? Do international institutions matter? Why are civil wars so difficult to end? Does foreign aid work? Is a comprehensive climate change agreement possible? Are international courts effective?

2 Objectives

This module aims to build an understanding of the major theoretical approaches and empirical findings in the field of global politics. General topics include international conflict, international political economy, international institutions, global environmental politics, and human rights. Further, the analytic approaches covered in the first half of the module are applied to various salient contemporary political topics in Ireland, Europe, and the Middle East.

3 Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical approaches used to explain variation in global political outcomes.
- Understand the domestic and international political forces that determine the international political economy, effectiveness of development policy, and global environmental cooperation.
• Identify the key determinants of inter- and intra-national conflict as well as international terrorism.
• Learn the structure and impact of different types of international regimes and their effectiveness in constraining state behavior.
• Become acquainted with a range of salient political issues, including the 2016 Irish General Election, security crises in Ukraine and Middle East, as well as the ongoing European economic and migrant crises.

4 Module Requirements and Policies

Each session will include a mix of lecture and seminar discussion. Some sessions will include in-class simulations. Students are required to attend each session, complete the readings prior to each meeting, and participate in class.

4.1 Written Assignments (40%)

Students are expected to complete two written assignments of approximately 1,500 words on a topic from the following list:

1. “Should foreign aid to the developing world be increased?”
   Suggested additional readings:

2. “Information is now more detailed and readily available than ever before. How might this affect the propensity of states to go to war?”
   Suggested additional readings:
3. “Under what circumstances is international law effective? Answer drawing on at least two issue areas (trade, laws of war, human rights, the international criminal court, European law), demonstrating knowledge of course readings.”

Suggested additional readings:
  Chapter on trade-in-fish disputes between Developing Countries and US / EU.
- David Bosco, Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2014)
  REST OF BOOK

The first assignment is due on June 20th, and the second on June 27th. All written assignments must be submitted through http://www.turnitin.com.

4.2 In Class Assessment (40%)
A short written examination will be held at the end of the module. Questions will be based on the assigned readings and in-class discussion. Students will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

4.3 Participation (20%)
Each student is expected to come prepared to class and to actively participate in class discussions.

4.4 Format
The Class will meet for two hours per day for the first three weeks and will then meet each Friday for the following six weeks for one two hour seminar session.

5 Academic & Professional Ethics
Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the programme. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others’ ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar. If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one’s character. Lastly, students are
required to only submit “new work" in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

6 Syllabus Modification Rights
The instructors reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule, although I may add reading assignments as well.

7 Readings
This class does not have a textbook. Readings consist of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and articles from journals intended for wider audiences. All readings are available through Trinity College Library.

8 Course Outline

- Week 1: Introduction & Topics in International Politics
- Week 2: Topics in International Security
- Week 3: Topics in International Law
- Week 4: Irish General Election 2016
- Week 5: Thinking about the Euro Crisis
- Week 6: Ireland’s Economy and Society
- Week 7: The Ukraine Crisis and European Security
- Week 8: The ISIS Threat and Middle Eastern Security
- Week 9: The Migration Crisis

7 Course Schedule

**Week 1. Introduction & Topics in International Politics (Boussalis)**

**Day 1: Introduction to International Relations Theory**


**Day 2: Politics of International Trade**

**Day 3: International Finance**


**Day 4: International Development**

Easterly, William. (2006). *The white man’s burden: why the West’s efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good*. Penguin. Ch. 5

**Day 5: Global Environmental Politics**

Week 2. Topics in International Security (Chadefaux)

Day 1: The End of War?

Walter R Mead. The Return of Geopolitics. Foreign Affairs. 17 Apr. 2014. 7 pages
John G Ikenberry. The Illusion of Geopolitics. Foreign Affairs. 17 Apr. 2014. 7 pages

Day 2. The Evolution of War


Day 3. Bargaining and Conflict


Day 4. Terrorism


Day 5. Civil Wars


**Week 3. Topics in International Law (Phelan)**

**Day 1. World Trade Organization**


**Day 2. Law in War and Armed Conflict**


**Day 3. International Human Rights Law**


Day 4. The International Criminal Court

David Bosco ‘Rough Justice’, selections.

Day 5. The European Court of Justice

W Phelan, In Place of Inter-State Retaliation: The European Union’s Rejection of WTO-style Trade Sanctions and Trade Remedies (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2015), selection

Week 4. Irish General Election 2016
Irish Times/RTE Special Reports

Week 5. The Euro Crisis and its impact on Ireland
Alison Johnston & Aidan Regan (2014): European Integration and the Incompatibility of Different Varieties of Capitalism. MPIfG discussion paper

Week 6. Media Politics: Climate Change and Foreign Policy


**Week 7. Conflict and Post-Conflict in Northern Ireland**

**Week 8 The ISIS Threat and Middle Eastern Security**

**Week 9 The Migration Crisis**
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b2b10574-56c3-11e3-ab12-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2ro32w6ev