

EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Type: 8 (2-credit course, 28 hours)

Day: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Time: 8:30-12:00

Date: July 23 to August 3, 2018

Level of the course: Freshmen and sophomore

Location: TBA

Lecturer: **Professor Jiří Lach, Ph.D., M.A.**

Home institution: **Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic**

E-mail: jiri.lach@upol.cz

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This course will deal with formation of an international system (IS) through combining historical development of IS with a theoretical overview. The course is based on chronological order discussing issues from premodern era to present times. Lectures will focus on period since the middle of 17th century (Westphalian order) with particular emphasis on the last century (development since 1914). The course will discuss phenomena such as importance of state formations, international alliance making and existence of power blocks, colonialism and imperialism. Besides cold war, a detailed attention will be paid to bipolar, post-bipolar and today's nature of IS. Lectures will pay equal attention to European and American as well as non-Western problems of IS. Lecture series will be concluded with analysis of the recent IS trying to assess contemporary leading forces of IS such as PRC, USA and the EU.

II. TEACHING METHODS

This course is based on lectures. Every teaching unit will be opened to students questions. Students are encouraged to combine lectures with optional reading, but participation in lectures should establish sufficient ground for preparation for final test. Tutorial will be offered if required by students.

III. REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

All students must participate at lecture sessions and pass the exam.

Exam description:

- a) Sit-in written exam that will consist of:
 - a. 2 definition questions;
 - b. 1 essay question;
- b) Students are allowed to use their notes from lectures

IV. COURSE PROGRAM

Week 1

Tuesday, July 24, 8:30-12:00

Topic: *International order in pre-Modern era: parallel systems.*

Wednesday, July 25, 8:30-12:00

Topics: *Westphalian international order; Impact of the French Revolution and Napoleonic wars and their influence on a concept of balance of power in the 19th century.*

Thursday, July 26, 8:30-12:00

Topic: *From European dominance to downfall of the colonial world.*

Friday, July 27, 8:30-12:00

Topic: *International system in the shadows of the two world wars.*

Week 2

Tuesday, July 31, 8:30-12:00

Topic: *Cold war and bipolar world I.*

Wednesday, August 1, 8:30-12:00

Topic: *Cold war and bipolar world II.*

Thursday, August 2, 8:30-12:00

Topic: *Visions of unilateralism in the 20th century, their failures and functioning of multilateralism in globalizing world.*

Friday, August 3, 8:30-10:00

Topic: *International system today.*

Friday, August 3, 10:30-12:00

Topic: *Exam.*

Recommended Reading

Buzan, Barry – Richard Little, 2000. *International System in the World History: Remaking the Study of International Relations*. Oxford – New York: Oxford University Press.

Ferro, Marc, 1997. *Colonization. A Global History*. London: Routledge.

Holsti J. Kalevi, 1991. *Peace and war: armed conflicts and international order 1648–1989*. Cambridge – New York: Cambridge University Press.

Jarausch, Konrad H., 2016. *Out of Ashes. A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Simms, Brendan, 2013. *Europe: The Struggle for supremacy, from 1453 to Present*. London: Basic Books.

Internet resources

Cold War International History Project [Internet]. Available at http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=topics.publications&topic_id=1409&imageField.x=12&imageField.y=5

Modern History Sourcebook [Internet]. Available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>