# – International Relations 2

## Prof. Alessandro Quarenghi

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to explore the international political system and, in particular, one of the central issues of international relations: the creation and maintenance of political order within a system of sovereign states. The course is divided into three parts: Part 1 outlines the main models of international order (balance of power, hegemonic, constitutional) before addressing the characteristics of the contemporary order, the threats that undermine its stability and effectiveness, and its development. Part 2 focuses on using the models and categories outlined above to analyse the international order of the Middle East and its current changes. Part 3, for attending students, consists of a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) module entitled “The International System and the Transformation of Democracy in the 21st century”, which will take place through ‘virtual exchange’ with students on the “History of American Foreign Relations” course at California State University, San Marcos. The module explores changes in the contemporary international order, seeking to understand how this is influencing liberal-democratic institutions (particularly Italy and the US) and, therefore, the future of contemporary liberal democracy.

The course aims to encourage students in their research and multidisciplinary academic discussions, requiring them to refer to information, concepts, perspectives and disciplines presented on previous courses to analyse contemporary international phenomena.

By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the different international political orders, as well as with their historical manifestations, and will be able to interpret the fundamental features of the process of transformation currently under way. In addition, they will be able to understand the distinctive features of an international subsystem, that of the Middle East, its relations with the international system and its contemporary transformations. Finally, they will have enhanced their use of bibliographic research techniques, applied their knowledge to interpreting contemporary phenomena of international policy, and improved their ability to work in groups and present their research findings to a peer group.

Specifically, by the end of the module, students will have:

* Compared their experience and understanding of contemporary international and domestic processes with that of American students, of a different culture and nationality;
* Linked the major processes of contemporary international change with internal socio-political transformations;
* Demonstrated individual and collective research skills, and the ability to organise their work in a flexible way within technologically innovative environments and tools;
* Collaborated in small and large groups to produce a cumulative digital project that illustrates their own research and common understanding of complex issues.

***COURSE CONTENT***

**First part: International system and political order**

1. The concept of order: Social order, political order, international order, world order.

2. Order and justice.

3. Order types (A): Balance of power.

4. Order types (B): Hegemony.

5. Order types (C): Constitutional

6. The creation of order.

7. The contemporary order: The liberal order and other interpretations.

8. Threats to the contemporary order: the global environment, the content of statehood, phenomena of globalisation and anti-globalisation, asymmetry, migration, populism, US revisionism and technological innovation.

9. The main models of the future international order: hegemonic change, new balance of power, persistence of the liberal order.

**Second part: The political order of an international sub-system: the Middle East.**

10. The modern political system of the Middle East: birth and stabilisation.

11. ‘Structural’ features: authoritarianism, political economy, conflict and ideology.

12. The role of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

13. The Middle Eastern ‘civil uprisings’: causes, processes and results.

14. Major international players: The United States, European Union, Russia and China.

15. Major international players: Israel, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Jihadist and Islamist movements.

16. The Middle Eastern order and its characteristics: resilience and change.

**Third part: Module: “The international system and the transformation of 21st century democracy”.**

International issues explored by working groups of Italian and American students, presented and discussed during the lessons:

I. The weakening of Unipolarism and international values.

II. The international system and the media.

III. ‘Old’ and ‘new’ issues of international security and domestic politics.

V. International and internal institutions and actors.

More details will be provided at the beginning of the course.

***READING LIST***

F. Andreatta - M. Clementi - A. Colombo - M. Koenig-Archibugi - V.E. Parsi, *Relazioni Internazionali,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2007.

A. Quarenghi(ed.)*Trump contro l'ordine internazionale. La politica estera degli Stati Uniti nella transizione contemporanea***,** Egea, Milan, 2021.

Recommended reading:

H. Bull, *La società anarchica. Uno studio dell’ordine nella politica mondiale,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2004.

G.J. Ikenberry, *Dopo la vittoria. Istituzioni, strategie della moderazione e ricostruzione dell’ordine internazionale dopo le grandi guerre,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2003.

G.J. Ikenberry, *Un mondo sicuro per la democrazia. Internazionalismo liberale e crisi dell’ordine globale,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2021.

Attending students will be examined on a partially modified reading list (different to the one that non-attending students must prepare). This modified reading list will be shared with them during the first lecture of the course. The reading list for the module, with recommended reading, will be provided at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered in the form of frontal lectures, group work and supervised discussions. Specifically, the teaching method for the module includes asynchronous virtual teaching modes, while the group meetings will take place in both synchronous and asynchronous modes. In fact the groups will be mixed, composed of both Italian and American students, and assigned questions to examine together. Both the group work and the virtual ‘exchange’ lectures in the module will be held in English.

The course may also include themed seminars and talks by experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will be written in format in all sessions.

The examination for non-attending students is based on content: they will be assessed on the appropriateness of their answers, the knowledge demonstrated and their linguistic and conceptual accuracy. The exam is divided into two parts: the first part consists of six closed questions (one mark each); in the second part, students must answer their choice of three out of four questions (eight marks per question). The mark of the course is based 100% on the final exam.

In their exam, attending students must write two short academic essays in response to their choice of two out of six possible questions. The assessment criteria for the exam are: breadth of the knowledge demonstrated; cogency, originality and elegance of arguments made; and linguistic and conceptual accuracy. This mark for the exam counts for 50% of the final mark. The remaining 50% is determined by the teamwork carried out during the module, assessed according to the following criteria:

* Engagement: Student's ability to collaborate proactively and purposefully with members of their group (12,5% of the overall mark of the course);
* Research project (group mark):
  + Originality: the ability of the participants in the group to link wide-ranging information, analyses, and perspectives, including based on experience, to offer an independent and personal interpretation of the assigned phenomenon (12,5% of the overall mark for the course);
  + Communicative effectiveness: students’ ability to organise, build and present information clearly and efficiently (12,5% of the overall mark for the course);
* Final report: At the end of the module, individual students will have to produce a brief personal review of the module - maximum 500 words (12,5% of the overall mark of the course).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students require basic knowledge of the fundamental issues with which the discipline of International Relations is concerned, as well as the relative theoretical approaches. Students are therefore strongly encouraged to have taken and passed “International Relations 1” before attending the course. Students also require a certain degree of flexibility when organising group meetings for this module: the time difference with California is normally 10 hours; it is therefore likely that group meetings will take place in Italian evening time. In addition, students require good working English, both spoken and written.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.