MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE
Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University
Faculty of International Relations
Department of International Relations

SYLLABUS
of an elective educational component
"Deep Semantic Analysis and Interpretation"

for the training of a **Master's degree student**

Lutsk – 2025

The syllabus of the educational component **"Deep Semantic Analysis and Interpretation"** for the training of Master's degree students

Course developer:
PhD (Geography), Associate Professor,
Associate Professor of the Department of International Relations

Sergii V. Fedoniuk

Approved by:
Guarantor of the Educational
and Professional Programme: Professor **Nataliia P. Karpchuk**

The syllabus of the educational component was approved at the meeting of the Department of International Relations,
No. 1 of **September 1, 2025**

Head of the Department: Associate Professor **Yevhenia V. Vozniuk**

I. Description of the Educational Component

Indicator Name	Field of knowledge, educational and professional programme /, education level	Characteristics of the academic component		
Full-time form of education	C Social Sciences, Journalism, Information and International Relations, C3 International Relations, International Strategic Communications, Master	**Optional**		
		Year of study: 2ˢᵗ		
Number of hours / credits 120 / 4		**Semester: 3ˢᵗ**		
		Lectures 10 h.		
		Seminars 14 h.		
		Independent work 88 h.		
		Consultations 8 h.		
		Form of control: credit.		
Language of education: English				

II. Instructor Information

Full name: Sergii Valentynovych Fedoniuk
Academic degree: PhD in Geography
Academic title: Associate Professor
Position: Associate Professor, Department of International Relations
Contact information: Sergii.Fedoniuk@vnu.edu.ua
Class schedule: classes are conducted according to the timetable published on the website
https://ps.vnu.edu.ua/cgi-bin/timetable.cgi

III. Description of the Educational Component

Course annotation

The educational component **"Deep Semantic Analysis and Interpretation"** is aimed at developing Master's degree students' ability to conduct in-depth analysis of meanings, narratives, frames, and discursive structures in international information processes. The course focuses on the interpretation of political, security-related, and strategic communication texts and messages using contemporary analytical approaches.

Special attention is paid to combining qualitative methods of analysis (discourse analysis, narrative analysis, frame analysis) with elements of computational semantics and interpretation of large text datasets in international studies.

Purpose and objectives of the educational component

Purpose:
 to form students' ability to conduct deep semantic analysis and interpretation of international texts and media messages for the preparation of well-grounded analytical conclusions.
Objectives of the educational component:
  * familiarization with the theoretical foundations of semantic analysis;
  * development of skills for interpreting meanings and narratives in international discourse;
  * application of frame and discourse analysis methods;
  * development of abilities to combine qualitative analysis with digital tools;
  * preparation of analytical materials of an interpretative nature.

III. *Soft skills*

  * ability to learn and acquire modern knowledge;
  * ability to identify, formulate, and solve problems;
  * ability to work in an international context;
  * ability to evaluate and ensure the quality of performed work.
  * ability to make well-grounded decisions in the field of international relations;
  * ability to analyze international processes in informational and communicational contexts;
  * ability to conduct applied analytical research;
  * ability to apply modern information and analytical technologies.

Structure of the Educational Component

Content module	Topic	Lectures	Practical classes	Independent work	Forms of control
Module 1. Theoretical foundations of semantic analysis	Semantics and meanings in international studies	2	2	14	D 15
	Narratives and frames in international discourse	2	2	14	PS/C 15
Total for Module 1		**4**	**4**	**28**	
Module 2. Methods of deep interpretation	Discourse analysis and critical interpretation	2	4	22	PS/C 15
	Semantic modeling and digital tools	2	4	22	PS/C 15
Total for Module 2		**4**	**8**	**44**	
Module 3. Analytical products	Interpretative reports and analytical conclusions	2	2	16	IRT/ISW 40
Total for Module 3		**2**	**2**	**16**	
TOTAL		**10**	**14**	**88**	Pass

Forms of control:
 Discussion (D), Debates (DB), Tests (T), Training (TR), Problem-solving / case-solving (PS/C), Individual research task / individual student work (IRT/ISW), Work in small groups (WSG), Module

test / control work (MT/CW), Essay (E), analytical note, analytical essay, text analysis, etc. Presentation (P).

Questions and Tasks for Independent Study

Module 1
Questions:
- Semantics as an analytical category in international studies.
- Political narratives and their functions.

Tasks:
- conduct an analysis of the semantic structure of one international political text;
- prepare a short interpretative brief (1–2 pages).

Module 2
Questions:
- Discourse and power in international communications.
- Opportunities for digital semantic analysis.

Tasks:
- conduct a semantic analysis of a corpus of 20–30 messages;
- identify dominant frames and semantic oppositions.

Module 3
Questions:
- Interpretation as an analytical result.

Tasks:
- prepare an analytical report (3–4 pages) with reasoned conclusions.

IV. Assessment Policy

Instructor's policy towards students
Attendance is a mandatory component of assessment for which points are awarded. For valid reasons (e.g., illness, international mobility, participation in academic events, etc.), learning may take place online or according to an individual schedule upon agreement with the instructor.
Under martial law or quarantine restrictions, the educational process may be conducted in a blended format: face-to-face or дистанційно via Microsoft Teams.

Academic integrity policy
Zero tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism and cheating during written assignments and examinations (including the use of mobile devices) constitute gross violations of academic integrity and are unacceptable during the course.

V. Final Assessment

The final assessment in the form of a **pass (credit)** is regulated by the Regulations on the Organization of the Educational Process at the first (Bachelor's) and second (Master's) levels at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University.
The pass is awarded based on current performance provided that the student has completed all types of work specified in the syllabus. If a student missed certain classes for valid reasons, they may compensate during consultations.

If a student scores less than 60 points during ongoing assessment, they must pass the credit during academic debt liquidation. In this case, previously accumulated points are annulled. The maximum score during re-assessment is 100 points.

Grading Scale

Score	Verbal grade
90–100	Passed
82–89	Passed
75–81	Passed
67–74	Passed
60–66	Passed
1–59	Failed (re-assessment required)

VI. Recommended Literature and Internet Resources

Textbooks and monographs
Grimmer J., Roberts M., Stewart B.
Text as Data: A New Framework for Machine Learning and the Social Sciences. Princeton University Press, 2022.
https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691207549/text-as-data
Salganik M.
Bit by Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age. Princeton University Press, 2020.
https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691206047/bit-by-bit
Bennett A., Checkel J.
Process Tracing and the Social Sciences. Cambridge University Press, 2020.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/process-tracing-and-the-social-sciences/1E5F20A9D4F7E4E3C8D1A8A6B35A9F2F

Scientific articles
Lucas C. et al.
Computer-Assisted Text Analysis for Comparative Politics. *Political Analysis*, 2020.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/political-analysis/article/computerassisted-text-analysis-for-comparative-politics/
Jacobs A.
Process Tracing the Policy Process. *Policy Studies Journal*, 2021.
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/psj.12402
Rauh C.
Frames, Narratives and Meaning in International Politics. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 2022.
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19331681.2022.2031691

Analytical materials
OECD.
Using Qualitative Data in Policy Analysis. 2021.
https://www.oecd.org/gov/using-qualitative-data-policy-analysis.htm