

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

SYLLABUS
of an elective academic component
“Leading Countries of Modernity: Features and Development Problems”
Bachelor Training

Lutsk–2026

The syllabus of the academic component “Leading countries of modernity: features and development problems”, education level bachelor

Developer: PhD in Economics, Assoc. prof. Ilona Balak.

Approved

by the Guarantor of Education and Professional Programme:



signature

Assoc. prof. Ilona Balak

The syllabus of the academic component “Leading countries of modernity: features and development problems” was approved at the meeting of International Relations Department
Protocol № 7 of January 30, 2026

The Head of the Department:



Assoc. prof. Yevheniia Vozniuk

I. The description of academic component

Indicator Name	Field of knowledge, specialty, educational and professional programme, education level	Characteristics of academic component
Full-time form of education	C “Social Sciences, Journalism, Information, and International Relations” C3 “International Relations” “International Relations” bachelor	Elective
Number of hours / credits 150/5		Year of study 2
		Semester 3
Individual Student’s Work: no		Lectures 10 hours
		Seminars 20 hours
		Independent work 110 hours
		Consultations 10 hours
Form of control: credit		
Language of study		English

II. Information about the instructor

Name Mrs Ilona Balak

Scientific Degree PhD in Economics

Academic Title Associate Professor

Title Associate Professor of International Relations Department

Contacts Balak.Ilona@vnu.edu.ua

Days Classes <https://ps.vnu.edu.ua/cgi-bin/timetable.cgi>

III. Description of the academic component

1. A Course Abstract

The educational component “Leading countries of modernity: features and development problems” analyzes the success strategies and key challenges of the world's leading nations amidst global transformation and technological rivalry. Students will examine the mechanisms of economic leadership and geopolitical issues, gaining skills in forecasting the development of the modern global system.

2. Goal and tasks of the academic component

The purpose of the course is to develop systematic knowledge of the development strategies of the world's leading nations and their roles within the modern global system amidst geopolitical and technological transformations.

The main tasks of the course are:

- to investigate the economic leadership models of leading countries;
- to analyze their key internal and external challenges;
- to study the mechanisms these states use to adapt to new global threats.

3. Soft skills

- critical thinking;
- analytical forecasting;

- intercultural communication;
- adaptability;
- argumentation and debating.

4. Structure of the academic component

Name of the content module and topic	Total	Lectures	Seminars	Independent student's work	Consultations	Form of control / Grades
Content Module 1. Theoretical foundations of global leadership. Modern leading states						
Topic 1. The phenomenon of leadership in the modern world system	14	2	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 2. Transformation of the world order	12	2	–	9	1	
Topic 3. USA: Global Hegemony and Domestic Challenges	14	2	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 4. The European Union as a "normative force"	12	2	–	9	1	
Topic 5. Great Britain after Brexit	12	–	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 6. The People's Republic of China: a model of "socialism with Chinese characteristics"	14	2	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 7. Japan and the Republic of Korea: high-tech economy, demographic crisis and security challenges in the region	12	–	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 8. India – a new pole of growth	12	–	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 9. Countries of the "Global South"	14	2	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 10. Turkey and the Gulf States	12	–	2	9	1	DS/10
Topic 11. Technological and environmental challenges	12	–	2	10	–	DS/10
Topic 12. Hybrid threats and information security	12	–	2	10	–	DS/10
Total for Module 1	150	10	20	110	10	100
Total hours / Grades	150	10	20	110	10	100

Control methods: DS – discussion.

5. Tasks for independent work.

Elements of the independent student's work	Number of hours
reading literature for classes	60
constant review of the press and other media	50
Total number of hours	110

IV. Evaluation Policy

The instructor's evaluation policy related to the student. The answers to the questions should be based on the student's own vision of the problem, if the results of other people's researches are used, its' authors and sources should be indicated. Communication during classes should be based solely on respect for respondents, regardless of age, gender, religion, race, political views. If on-line learning is held, students must use with the video mode.

Academic integrity policy. Zero write-off tolerance threshold.

Deadlines and retaking policy. Delays can occur if they are not regular and do not interfere with the lesson. Omissions of seminars with the possibility of working off are allowed in case of a student's illness. Maximum number of spaces allowed without justification causes – 3 testing are possible in a team discipline platform Microsoft Teams in the form of photos, videos, presentations.

The recognition of learning outcomes acquired through formal, non-formal, and informal education is ensured in accordance with the procedure for recognizing learning outcomes obtained in formal, non-formal, and/or informal education at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. (https://ed.vnu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024_%D0%92%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8F_%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B7%D1%83%D0%BB_%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%82i%D0%B2_%D0%92%D0%9D%D0%A3_i%D0%BC._%D0%9B.%D0%A3._%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4.pdf)

The possibility of obtaining additional (bonus) points is not provided.

V. Final Control

A maximum of 100 points is available for continuous assessment. The demonstration of comprehensive lecture notes addressing all seminar discussion questions accounts for 40% of the total seminar score. If the final semester grade is not lower than 60 points, then with the consent of the student, it can be counted as the final grade for the discipline. Otherwise, the student takes the credit again. The credit assessment questions cover the topics of both lectures and seminars.

VI. Grading Scale

Scores	Linguistic Grade
90-100	Passed
82-89	
75-81	
67-74	
60-66	
1-59	Fail (needed to retake)

VI. Recommended references

1. Милосердна І. М. Геополітика : навчально-методичний посібник для здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти [Електронне видання] / уклад.: І. Милосердна; Нац. ун-т «Одеська юридична академія». Одеса, 2023. 89 с. Режим доступу : <https://doi.org/10.32837/11300.25662>
2. Вереш М., Палінчак М. Geopolitics: Ukraine, Europe, World. Fairmont, 2020. 249 p. URL: <https://dspace.uzhnu.edu.ua/jspui/handle/lib/45968>
3. Burlacu, A. C. The Power of Geography: Ten Maps that Reveal the Future of Our World – the sequel to Prisoners of Geography. Tim Marshall – Elliott & Thompson. 2021.
4. Кіссінджер Г. Лідерство. Шість стратегів світової політики. К.: Наш формат, 2025. 528 с.
5. Балак І. О., Пікулик О. Б. Антарктика в міжнародних відносинах: історія та сучасність. *Вісник Львівського національного університету імені Лесі Українки. Серія філософсько-політологічні студії.* 2022. Вип. 42. С. 156–162. URL: [20.pdf \(lnu.lviv.ua\)](https://www.lnu.lviv.ua/20.pdf)
6. Балак І. О. Geopolitical Interests of World States in the Arctic. *Актуальні проблеми міжнародних відносин і регіональних досліджень: Матер. II Міжнар. наук.-практ. Інтернет-конф. (м. Луцьк, 09 листопада 2022 р.) / укладачі: С. Кулик, А. Моренчук. Луцьк, Волинський національний університет імені Лесі Українки, 2022. С. 23–25.*

7. Балак І., Шикула М. Цілі та інструменти публічної дипломатії КНР. *Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*. 2025. Вип. 2(22). С. 186–204.
URL: <https://doi.org/10.29038/2524-2679-2025-02-186-204>