

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

**SYLLABUS**  
of an elective academic component  
**“NATO in International Relations”**

**Bachelor Training**

Lutsk–2026

**The syllabus of the academic component “NATO in International Relations”,**  
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 “NATO in International Relations”** 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 4
Individual Student’s Work: <u>no</u>		Lectures 10 hours
		Seminars 20 hours
		Independent work 110 hours
		Consultations 10 hours
Language of study	Form of control: credit	
	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](mailto: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 “NATO in international relations” highlights the theoretical foundations of the study of international organization. There are explored leading trends and key challenges for modern processes at the international, national and regional levels and the role of NATO’s states in them. There are revealed the peculiarities of world democratic processes and highlighted the possibilities of participation of Ukraine in NATO.

### 2. Goal and tasks of the academic component

The aim of the course is to study NATO as a subject of international relations. The main tasks of the course are:

- to consider the history of the origin and formation of NATO;
- to get acquainted with the structural organization of the North Atlantic Alliance;
- to describe the main directions of NATO's activities;
- to analyze the main stages of NATO enlargement;
- to assess NATO's cooperation with international organizations and Partner countries;
- to investigate NATO peacekeeping and NATO activities in the fight against terrorism, cybercrime, etc. threats;
- to describe NATO programs; to reveal NATO's role in ensuring international and European security;

- to assess the state of Ukraine's relations with NATO.

### 3. Soft skills

- diplomatic communication and intercultural fluency;
- strategic negotiation and conflict resolution;
- political sensitivity and discretion;
- crisis management and cognitive flexibility;
- cross-functional collaboration.

### 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
<b>Content Module 1. NATO in modern international relations</b>						
Topic 1. History of the origin and formation of the North Atlantic Alliance.	14	2	2	10	–	DS/10
Topic 2. NATO Structural Organization.	14	2	2	10	–	DS/10
Topic 3. The main stages of the Alliance's expansion.	16	–	2	12	2	DS/10
Topic 4. NATO strategic concepts.	16	–	2	12	2	DS/10
Topic 5. The main activities of NATO.	16	–	2	12	2	DS/10
Topic 6. NATO peacekeeping operations	14	2	2	10	–	DS/10
Topic 7. NATO in the fight against terrorism and cybercrime.	16	–	2	12	2	DS/10
Topic 8. Alliance Partnership Programs	14	2	2	10	–	DS/10
Topic 9. NATO's strategic partnership with the EU and other international organizations	16	–	2	12	2	DS/10
Topic 10. Ukraine's relations with NATO.	14	2	2	10	–	DS/10
Total for Module 1	150	10	20	110	10	100
<b>Total hours / Grades</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

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
<b>Total number of hours</b>	<b>110</b>

## 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](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. Балак І., Пікулик О. Роль військово-промислового комплексу в міжнародних відносинах. *Глокалізаційні аспекти інноваційного розвитку економіки: збірник матеріалів Всеукраїнської науково-практичної конференції молодих вчених* (Одеса, 21 жовтня 2021 р.) Одеса: ОНЕУ, 2021. С.84–85.
2. НАТО — сила, що захищає мирних громадян / Т. Бакка, О. Волошенюк, О. Желіба, Р. Євтушенко, Т. Мелешенко, О. Мальований, О. Мокрогуз; за ред. О. Волошенюк, С. Дьоми. К. : ВСВСДГО, 2019. 164 с.
3. Пікулик О., Балак І. Східне партнерство: нові пріоритети співробітництва. *Актуальні проблеми регіональних досліджень* : матеріали V Міжнар. наук.-практ. інтернет-конференції (м. Луцьк, 11 грудня 2020 р.) / за ред. В. Й. Лажніка. Луцьк : Вежа-Друк, 2020. С. 208–211.
4. Сейл Т. Е. Міцний альянс. Історія НАТО й глобального післявоєнного порядку. Харків: Фабула, 2023. 368 с.

5. Федонюк С.В., Лажнік В.Й., Моренчук А.А., Романюк Н.І. НАТО: історія, структура, діяльність, перспективи: Навч. посіб. Луцьк: РВВ «Вежа» Волин. Націон. Ун-ту імені Лесі Українки, 2008. 258 с.
6. Balak I., Pikulyk O. Modern tendencies of the international relations. *Актуальні проблеми регіональних досліджень* : матеріали V Міжнар. наук.-практ. інтернет-конференції (м. Луцьк, 11 грудня 2020 р.) / за ред. В. Й. Лажніка. Луцьк : Вежа-Друк, 2020. С. 202–204.
7. NATO Terminology. URL: <https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/publications.htm>.
8. What is NATO? URL:<https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html> .