

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

SYLLABUS
of a normative academic component
“Foreign policy of states and regions”

Bachelor Training
Specialty 291 “International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies”
Education and professional programme “International Relations”

The syllabus of the academic component “Foreign policy of states and regions”,
Education Level Bachelor, Field of Knowledge 29 “International Relations”,
Specialty 291 “International Relations, Public Communications and Regional
Studies”, Educational and professional programme “International Relations”

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

Approved

by the Guarantor of Education and Professional Programme:



Assoc. prof. Ilona Balak

The syllabus of the academic component “Foreign policy of states and regions”
was approved at the meeting of the Department of International Relations
Protocol № 1 of September 01, 2025

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 | 29 “International Relations” 291 “International Relations, Public Communication and Regional Studies” “International Relations” bachelor | Normative |
| Number of hours / credits 180/6 | | Year of study 4 |
| | | Semester 7, 8 |
| Individual Student’s Work: <u>no</u> | | Lectures 32 hours (16; 16) |
| | | Seminars 50 hours (30; 20) |
| | | Independent work 86 hours |
| Language of study | | Form of control: credit, exam |
| | 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

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

III. Description of the academic component

1. A Course Abstract

The academic component covers the theoretical basis and the concepts of international relations, the problem of eliminating the difference between the external and internal policies of the states, studies the development of democratization, globalization of the world, the emergence of the preconditions of the multidirectional international system. The course focuses on the study of practical foreign policy models of leading modern actors and their impact on global stability. Students examine the mechanisms of national interest formation, diplomatic tools, and the foreign policy doctrines of the USA, EU countries, China, and other influential states. The program provides a detailed analysis of bilateral relations and regional priorities that define the modern geopolitical map of the world. As a result, students learn to distinguish the strategic goals of states in the fields of security, economics, and humanitarian cooperation.

2. Prerequisites: EC Theory of international relations, History of international relations, International organisations.

Postrequisites: EC Politological aspects and international relations modern tendencies, International conflicts and global security

3. Goal and tasks of the academic component

The aim of the course is to examine the theoretical foundations and concepts of international relations, problems difference of the world policy realization in different states, explore development of democratization, globalization of the world.

The main objectives of the course are:

-to analyze the essence of the international relations system;

-to define the essence and give the own assessment of modern international relations;

- to reveal the role of modern democratic processes in international relations;
- to analyze the states' foreign policy and current problems of world policy;
- to comprehend the processes, perspectives and consequences of modern integration and disintegration processes;
- to argue their own views on the main problems of the international relations in different regions and states.

4. Competencies. Learning outcomes. Soft skills.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Integral competency | The ability to solve complex specialized tasks and practical problems in the area of international relations, public communications and regional studies, states foreign policy activities, international interactions between states, international organizations and non-state actors, characterized by the complexity and uncertainty of conditions and involves the application of social sciences theories and special scientific methods in researching international relations issues. | |
| General Competences | Effects | The corresponding criterion code |
| | The ability to learn and master modern knowledge. | GC3 |
| | Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and understanding of professional activity. | GC4 |
| | The ability to apply knowledge in practical situations. | GC7 |
| | The ability to abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis. | GC8 |
| | The ability to communicate the national language both orally and in writing form. | GC10 |
| | The ability to search, process and analyze information from various sources. | GC12 |
| Special (professional) competencies | Effects | The corresponding criterion code |
| | The ability to analyze international processes in various contexts, including political, security, legal, economic, social, cultural and informational ones. | SC2 |
| | The ability to solve complex specialized tasks and practical problems in the field of interstate relations, states foreign policy, public communications, regional studies. | SC4 |
| | The ability to analyze the influence of the world economy, international law and domestic politics on the structure and dynamics of international relations and the states foreign policy. | SC5 |
| | The ability to apply knowledge of the characteristics of the development of countries and regions features and regularities of global processes and the place of individual states in them to solve complex specialized tasks and problems. | SC9 |

| | Effects | The corresponding criterion code |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Learning outcomes | To know the nature of international cooperation, the nature of interaction between international actors, the ratio of state and non-state actors in world politics. | <i>LO03</i> |
| | To know the principles, mechanisms and processes of ensuring the states' foreign policy, the interaction between foreign and domestic policies, the definition and implementation of the national interests of states on the international arena, the process of forming and implementing foreign policy decisions. | <i>LO04</i> |
| | To know the nature and character of interactions of individual countries and regions at the global, regional and local levels. | <i>LO06</i> |
| | To carry out a description and analysis of the international situation, to collect from various sources the necessary information about international and foreign political events and processes. | <i>LO07</i> |
| | To collect, process and analyze large volumes of information about the state of international relations, foreign policy of Ukraine and other states, regional systems, international communications. | <i>LO08</i> |
| | To research the problems of international relations, regional development, foreign policy, international communications using modern political, economic and legal theories and concepts, scientific methods and interdisciplinary approaches, present the results of research. | <i>LO09</i> |
| | To carry out an applied analysis of international relations, the foreign policy of Ukraine and other states, international processes and the international situation in accordance with the set goals, prepare informative and analytical. | <i>LO11</i> |
| | To conduct a professional discussion on issues of international relations, international communications, regional studies, foreign policy activities, argue one's position, respect opponents and their points of view. | <i>LO13</i> |
| | To have the skills of self-determination in educational goals and learning, finding educational resources necessary for their achievement. | <i>LO17</i> |
| | Soft skills | Effects |
| Cross-Cultural Communication | | |
| Diplomacy and Negotiation | | |
| Adaptability and Flexibility | | |
| Analytical and Critical Thinking | | |
| Collaboration and Teamwork | | |
| Relationship Building | | |
| Public Speaking and Presentation | | |

5. 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 Basis of International Relations and World Policy. Foreign Policy of European States | | | | | | |
| Topic 1. Fundamentals and Instruments of State Foreign Policy | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/6 |
| Topic 2. Foreign Policy of the United Kingdom: The "Global Britain" Strategy post-Brexit | 5 | – | 2 | 3 | – | DS/6 |
| Topic 3. France in International Relations: The Struggle for European Strategic Autonomy and Influence within "Francophonie" | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/6 |
| Topic 4. Foreign Policy of Germany: From an "Economic Giant" to a New Security Role (Zeitenwende). | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/6 |
| Topic 5. Foreign Policy of Italy: The Role in the Mediterranean and Balancing within the EU | 5 | – | 2 | 3 | – | DS/6 |
| Topic 6. Spain and Latin America: The "Hispanidad" Policy and Regional Mediation | 7 | – | 2 | 3 | 2 | DS/7 |
| Topic 7. The Scandinavian Model of Foreign Policy: Neutrality, Peacekeeping, and Accession to NATO | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 8. Foreign Policy of the Baltic States: Security Solidarity and Countering Hybrid Threats | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 9. Austria and Switzerland: A Modern Interpretation of Neutrality in the Context of Global Conflicts | 5 | – | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 10. Foreign Policy of the Benelux Countries | 7 | – | 2 | 3 | 2 | DS/7 |
| Topic 11. Foreign Policy Priorities of Poland: Leadership in Central Europe and Support for Ukraine | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 12. Foreign Policy of the Czech Republic and Slovakia: From the "Visegrad Four" to New Security Priorities | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 13. Hungary in the System of International Relations: The "Eastern Opening" Policy and a Special Position within the EU | 7 | – | 2 | 3 | 2 | DS/7 |
| Topic 14. Countries of the Balkan Peninsula in Contemporary International Relations | 5 | – | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 15. Foreign Policy of Ukraine and Security Challenges | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Total for Module 1 | 97 | 16 | 30 | 45 | 6 | 100 |
| Content Module 2. International relations and foreign policy of states in different regions | | | | | | |
| Topic 16. U.S. Global Strategy: From the "Monroe Doctrine" to the Contemporary Concept of Leadership | 7 | 2 | – | 3 | 2 | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Topic 17. The Latin American Vector: Foreign Policies of Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 18. States of the African Continent in the System of Contemporary International Relations | 5 | – | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 19. Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 20. Countries of the South Caucasus in Contemporary International Relations | 5 | – | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 21. Foreign Policy of Israel: Security amidst Hostile Actors and the “Abraham Accords” | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 22. Regional Rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia: Religious and Political Dimensions | 5 | – | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 23. India as the “Voice of the Global South”: Strategic Autonomy and Multi-vectorism | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 24. Foreign Policy of Pakistan: Nuclear Status and Relations within the “China-USA-India” Triangle | 5 | 2 | – | 3 | – | |
| Topic 25. Foreign Policy of the PRC: The “Peaceful Rise” Strategy and Economic Expansion | 7 | – | 2 | 3 | 2 | DS/7 |
| Topic 26. Foreign Policy of Japan: Shifting the Pacifism Paradigm and Defense Cooperation | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | DS/7 |
| Topic 27. International Relations in Southeast Asia | 8 | – | 2 | 4 | 2 | DS/7 |
| Topic 28. Australia and Oceania in International Relations. The Arctic and Antarctic in World Politics | 6 | 2 | – | 4 | – | |
| Total for Module 2 | 83 | 16 | 20 | 41 | 6 | 70 |
| Final works | | | | | | Grades |
| Module Test Paper | | | | | | MTP/30 |
| Total hours / Grades | 180 | 32 | 50 | 86 | 12 | 100 |

Control methods: DS – discussion, MTP/TP – module test paper/test paper.

5. Tasks for independent work.

| Elements of the independent student’s work | Number of hours |
|--|-----------------|
| reading literature for classes | 30 |
| constant review of the press and other media | 35 |
| final test | 10 |
| final exam | 11 |
| Total number of hours | 86 |

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

7th semester. A student can receive 100 points during the tasks of the current assessment. 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.

8th semester. The form of final assessment is an exam, which is not mandatory. In this case, a final modular assessment is provided for this educational component. The modular assessment consists of 30 tests for 30 minutes up to 30 points.

During the ongoing coursework, the student must accumulate no less than 35 points (as admission to the exam). To be granted admission, the student must complete all practical classes before the date of the exam during the main session. If the student receives less than 35 points, they cannot be admitted to the exam and must be dismissed due to academic failure.

The exam is conducted in oral form. The examination ticket includes 3 questions. The exam results are graded on a scale from 0 to 30 points. The total number of points for the course each semester is 100. This is formed as the sum of points for the current assessment (70 points) and the final assessment (30 points).

The questions for the exam

1. Definition of state foreign policy and its connection to domestic policy.
2. The role of the Head of State and the executive branch in shaping the foreign policy course.
3. Diplomacy as the primary instrument for implementing foreign policy: traditional and modern approaches.
4. Economic diplomacy: essence, mechanisms of influence, and "debt-trap" diplomacy.
5. The use of economic sanctions and trade wars as tools of political pressure.
6. The concept of "Soft Power" and its evolution in the 21st-century state strategy.
7. Digital diplomacy: the impact of social media, AI, and Big Data on international relations.
8. Military force as a foreign policy tool: the concepts of deterrence, coercion, and hybrid warfare.
9. The correlation between national interests, sovereignty, and international law.
10. Historical origins of U.S. foreign policy: from the Monroe Doctrine to global hegemony.
11. Key features and shifts in the Biden administration's foreign policy.
12. Impact of U.S. domestic political struggles on the stability of its global leadership.
13. The U.S.-China-Russia "Strategic Triangle" in contemporary geopolitics.
14. The "Global Britain" concept: key strategic directions and challenges post-Brexit.
15. The "Special Relationship" between the United Kingdom and the United States in the 21st century.
16. Foreign policy priorities of France: the struggle for European "strategic autonomy."

17. French influence in Africa and the evolution of the "Francophonie" project.
18. The concept of *Zeitenwende* (epochal turn) and the remilitarization of German foreign policy.
19. Germany's energy diplomacy and its radical transformation after 2022.
20. Comparative analysis of UK and French foreign policy regarding European security architecture.
21. Italy's Mediterranean strategy and its balancing act within the European Union.
22. Spain's role as a mediator between Europe and the Maghreb/Latin American regions.
23. Causes and consequences of Sweden and Finland joining NATO.
24. Foreign policy of the Baltic states: security solidarity and countering hybrid threats.
25. Switzerland and Austria: a modern interpretation of neutrality in the context of global conflicts.
26. Poland's geopolitical role as the "leader of the Eastern Flank" of NATO.
27. The "Three Seas Initiative" as a geopolitical and economic project in Central Europe.
28. Hungary's "Eastern Opening" policy and its impact on EU and NATO unity.
29. Strategy of Foreign Policy Activity of Ukraine: goals, priorities, and implementation.
30. Ukraine's diplomacy in the context of full-scale Russian aggression and the search for security guarantees.
31. The "Belt and Road Initiative" as a tool of PRC (China) global influence.
32. China's policy toward Taiwan and the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.
33. Transformation of Japan's security policy and defense cooperation in the 21st century.
34. South Korea's "Global Pivotal State" strategy and its complex relations with the DPRK.
35. Australia in the AUKUS security framework: reasons, geopolitical consequences, and regional reactions.
36. ASEAN's role as a platform for multilateral diplomacy and its "centrality" in Southeast Asia.
37. India as the "Voice of the Global South": strategic autonomy and multi-vectorism.
38. Pakistan's foreign policy: nuclear status and the "China-USA-India" triangle.
39. Brazil's role in the BRICS grouping and its aspirations for a permanent UN Security Council seat.
40. Great power competition for resources, critical minerals, and influence in Africa.
41. The African Union's role in coordinating the foreign policy and security of the continent.
42. Foreign policy of South Africa (RSA) as a leading regional and "middle" power.
43. Turkey's "Strategic Depth" doctrine and its role as a mediator in global conflicts.
44. Turkey's role in the Organization of Turkic States and its Neo-Ottomanism elements.
45. Israel's security priorities and the regional impact of the "Abraham Accords."
46. Geopolitical rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia: religious, energy, and political dimensions.
47. Evolution of RF (Russia) foreign policy: from the "Greater Europe" concept to open confrontation with the West.
48. Energy blackmail and the "Russian World" concept as instruments of RF foreign policy.
49. Analysis of the effectiveness of Western sanctions against Russia and Iran.
50. Kazakhstan's "multi-vector" strategy and its role in Central Asian regionalism.
51. Geopolitics of the Arctic: competition between Arctic states and the interests of "near-Arctic" players.
52. Antarctica in world politics: the regime of scientific cooperation vs. future resource competition.
53. The influence of international organizations (UN, NATO, EU) on the foreign policy of small vs. great states.
54. Climate diplomacy: how environmental issues and the "Green Transition" are reshaping international relations.

55. The struggle for technological leadership (AI, semiconductors, 5G) as a primary foreign policy factor.
56. The role of the religious factor in the foreign policy of Middle Eastern and Western states.
57. Specifics of state diplomacy in a multipolar world vs. the bipolar system of the Cold War.
58. The role of transnational corporations and NGOs in adjusting state foreign policy.
59. "Sports Diplomacy" and "Cultural Diplomacy" as tools for improving international prestige.
60. The future of the institution of diplomacy in the context of globalization, digitalization, and "post-truth" politics.

VI. Grading Scale Credit

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

Exam

| Scores | Linguistic Grade | ECTS Grading Scale | |
|--------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | Grade | Definition |
| 90-100 | Excellent | A | outstanding performance |
| 82-89 | Very good | B | above the average standard |
| 75-81 | Good | C | generally sound work |
| 67-74 | Satisfactory | D | not bad |
| 60-66 | Sufficiently | E | performance meets the minimum criteria |
| 1-59 | Fail | Fx | needed to retake |

VI. Recommended references

1. Гільченко О. Л. Зовнішня політика країн Європи : навч. посібник. Маріуполь : МДУ, 2021. 156 с.
2. Міжнародні відносини та світова політика: навчальний посібник / О. М. Кузь, Д. С. Коротков, Д. Ю. Михайличенко, О. В. Бровко ; за заг. ред. д-ра філос. наук, професора О. М. Кузя. Харків : ХНЕУ ім. С. Кузнеця, 2020. 201 с.
3. Теорія міжнародних відносин. Міжнародні відносини та світова політика : навч. посіб. / М. П. Требін, Л. М. Герасіна, В. Л. Погрібна та ін. ; за ред. М. П. Требіна. Харків: Право, 2016. 540 с.
4. Пікулик О. Б., Балак І. О. Особливості публічної дипломатії Туреччини. *Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*. 2022. №1 (12).
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 \(lnu.lviv.ua\)](http://www.e-ir.info)
6. McGlinchey S. International Relations. URL: <http://www.e-ir.info>
7. Balak I., Pikulyk O. The impact of EU migration policy on the regions' development in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war. *Studia de Securitate*. 2024. 14(2). P. 23–32. URL: <https://doi.org/10.24917/26578549.14.2.2>

8. Economic Integration and Cooperation in the Conditions of Globalization. *Economic Affairs*. 2024. Vol. 69 (Special Issue). P. 363–369. (Akhromkin I., Riznyk D., Varaksina E., Herman L.) DOI: 10.46852/0424-2513.1.2024.38
9. European Union. URL: <https://europa.eu/>