

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University

International Relations Faculty

International Relations Department

SYLLABUS

of a normative academic component

“METHODOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS RESEARCH”

Bachelor training

**Specialty 291 «International Relations, Public Communications and Regional
Studies»**

Educational and professional programme «International Relations»

Lutsk 2025

The syllabus of academic component «Methodology of International Relations Research», Education Level Bachelor, Field of Knowledge 029 International Relations, specialty 291 «International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies», Educational and professional programme «International Relations».

Developer : PhD in Economics, associate professor Oksana Pikulyk

Approved

by the Guarantor of Education and Professional Programme:



associate professor Ilona Balak

The syllabus of the academic component «Fundamentals of Diplomacy and Diplomatic Work» was approved at the meeting of the Department of International Relations

Protocol № 1 of September 1, 2025

The Head of the Department:



associate professor 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	029 «International Relations»	Normative
Number of hours / credits 150/5	291 «International Relations, Public Communication and Regional Studies»	Year of study – 3.
Individual Student's Work: no	«International Relations» bachelor	Semester – 6.
		Lectures – 36 hours
		Seminars – 40 hours
		Independent work – 64 hours
		Consultations – 10 hours
		Form of control: Exam
Language of study		English

II. INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Name Oksana Pikulyk

Scientific Degree PhD in Economics

Academic Title associate professor

Title Associate Professor of the Department of International Relations

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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 course «Methodology of International Relations Research» covers theoretical knowledge of the basic approaches, concepts and methods of international relations research, features and specifics of the application of individual methods in the study of international relations.

Prerequisites

Educational components: Information technologies in international relations; Legal foundations of civil society; Fundamentals of diplomacy and diplomatic work; First foreign language.

Post-requisites

Educational components: Geopolitics and geostrategy; Foreign policy of countries and regions; Professional practice.

2. Goal and tasks of the academic component

The purpose of the course is to study the the basic approaches, and methods of international relations research.

The main **tasks** of the course are to study the conceptual and terminological apparatus, basic approaches, concepts of international relations research, the quantitative and qualitative methodology and methods, general and specific scientific methods, features and specifics of the application of individual methods in the study of international relations.

3. Learning outcomes (Competencies).

	Effects	Criterion code
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		
	The ability to learn and master modern knowledge	<i>GC3</i>
	Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and understanding of professional activity.	<i>GC4</i>
	The ability to generate new ideas (creativity).	<i>GC6</i>
	The ability to apply knowledge in practical situations.	<i>GC7</i>
	The ability to abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis.	<i>GC8</i>
	The ability to communicate the national language both orally and in writing form	<i>GC10</i>
The ability to search, process and analyze information from various sources.	<i>GC12</i>	

	Effects	Criterion code
Special (professional) competencies	The ability to distinguish signs and trends of development, to understand the organization nature, dynamics, principles of international relations, public communications and/or regional studies.	SC1
	The ability to assess the state and directions of research in international relations and world politics in political, economic, legal sciences, in interdisciplinary studies.	SC3
	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 carry out communication and information-analytical activities in the field of international relations (in Ukrainian and foreign languages).	SC12
	Effects	Criterion code
Learning outcomes	To know and understand the nature of international relations and regional development, the evolution, the state of theoretical studies of international relations and world politics, as well as the nature and sources of the states' policies in the international arena and the activities of other participants in international relations	LO01
	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.	LO07
	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.	LO08
	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.	LO11

Soft skills:

Critical thinking – the ability to analyze academic sources, identify bias, evaluate arguments, and formulate well-grounded conclusions.

Analytical thinking – the ability to structure complex international processes and work with concepts and theoretical models.

Academic integrity – adherence to ethical research standards, proper citation practices, and avoidance of plagiarism.

Academic writing skills – the ability to clearly formulate research problems, objectives, tasks, hypotheses, and conclusions in scholarly texts.

Communication skills – the ability to present research findings persuasively in both oral and written forms.

Presentation skills – effective visualization and public defense of research results.

Teamwork skills – collaboration in research groups and participation in joint projects and discussions.

4. Structure of the academic component

Names of content modules and themes	Total	Lectures	Seminars	Independent student's work	Cons.	Form of control/grades
Content Module 1. Theoretical and conceptual basis of the study of international relations.						
Topic 1. The essence of the concept of research	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Topic 2. Research process	11	2	4	4	1	DS/4
Topic 3. Approaches to the study of international relations	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Topic 4. Basic theories of international relations	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Topic 5. Foreign policy analysis	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Total for module 1	47	10	12	20	5	20
Content Module 2. Methodological foundations and methods of international relations research						
Topic 6. . Methodology of scientific research.	8	2	2	3	1	DS/4
Topic 7. Problems of method in international relations research	7	2	2	3		DS/4
Topic 8. General scientific methods in the study of international relations	11	4	4	3		DS/6
Topic 9. Searching for and processing scientific information	7	2	2	3		DS/4
Topic 10. Methods of data collection	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Topic 11. The analysis of the documents. Explicative research methods in international relations	8	2	2	4		DS/4
Topic 12. SWOT Analysis in the study of international relations	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Topic 13. Mathematical and statistical methods in international relations research	8	2	2	4		DS/4
Topic 14. Modeling and forecasting in the study of international relations	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Topic 15. Academic integrity.	8	2	2	4		DS/4

Topic 16. Publication of research results	9	2	2	4	1	DS/4
Topic 17. Presentation of scientific research	10	2	4	4		DS/4
Total for module 2	103	26	28	44	5	50
Module control test						MKR/ 30
Total hours :	150	36	40	64	10	100

Control methods: DS – discussion, DB – debate, T – tests, TR – training, PM/CM – problems/cases management, IST/ISW – individual task/individual work of the student, SGW – work in small groups, MTP/TP – module test paper/test paper, Ab – abstract, analytical note, analytical essay, analysis of the work.

5. Tasks for independent work

Independent student's work involves in-depth study of issues related to the topics of lecture classes, study of recommended literature for preparation for seminar classes

Elements of the independent student's work

Elements of the independent student's work	Number of hours
Reading literature for classes	20
Studying lecture material	10
Preparation for seminar classes	20
Completing written assignments	14
Total	64

IV. EVALUATION POLICY

Assessment takes place in accordance with the Regulations on the current and final assessment of knowledge of higher education applicants of the Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University dated 06/26/2025. (<https://hel1.your-objectstorage.com/vnustorage/s3fs-public/inline-files/2025-pro-potochne-i-pidsumk.otsinyuvannya.pdf>) Under the condition of important reasons (participation in scientific events, sick leave), training can take place according to an individual plan agreed with the teacher.

Training on an individual schedule takes place in accordance with the regulations (<https://hel1.your-objectstorage.com/vnustorage/s3fs-public/inline-files/2025-pro-indyvid-hrafik-navchannya.pdf>)

Academic Integrity Policy.

The study of the educational component is carried out under the conditions of compliance by the students and the teacher with the "Code of Academic Integrity of the Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University" dated May 25, 2023. Cheating during tests and exams is prohibited (including using mobile devices).

It is possible to recognize the non-formal education received by a higher education applicant as an assessment on individual topics in accordance with the "Regulations on the recognition of learning outcomes obtained in formal, non-formal and/or informal education at the Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University" dated August 29, 2024. (https://hel1.your-objectstorage.com/vnustorage/s3fs-public/inline-files/%2B2024_%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)

Seminar classes are retaken if there are substantial reasons. Topics that are submitted in violation of deadlines without valid reasons are evaluated at a lower grade.

V. FINAL CONTROL

The maximum score that a student can receive is 100 points: 70 – for the current assessment and 30 – for the control assessment of the student's work. Re-compilation of any types of work provided for by the syllabus of the educational component in order to increase the final module assessment is not allowed.

Classes missed for good reasons can be completed by the applicant in extracurricular time before the start of the final control. Seminar classes are retaken if there are substantial reasons. Topics that are submitted in violation of deadlines without valid reasons are evaluated at a lower grade.

The final form of control is an exam. If the final semester mark is at least 75 points, then with the student's consent, it can be counted as the final mark in the discipline. Otherwise, or if student want to increase the mark, the student passes the exam. In this case, the points obtained by the results of the module control work are canceled. The exam is conducted orally. To be admitted to the exam, a student must receive at least 35 current points. The exam mark is determined in points (0 to 30) based on the results of the exam. In this case, the final semester mark is defined as the sum of the current semester control and exam mark.

Retaking the exam (oral exam) is allowed no more than twice: once to the teacher, the second time to the commission created by the dean of the faculty.

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Meaning of research
2. Types of research
3. Descriptive and analytical research
4. Applied and fundamental research
5. Quantitative and qualitative research
6. Conceptual and empirical research
7. Research process
8. The Study of International Relations.

9. The Historical and Descriptive Approaches in the study of international relations.
10. The Analytical and Normative Approaches in the study of international relations.
11. The Scientific Approach in the study of international relations
12. Systems Approach to the Study of International Relations
13. Basic theories of International Relations.
14. The concept of Method and Methodology.
15. Classification of research methods.
16. Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods.
17. General scientific methods: analysis, synthesis .
18. Induction, deduction methods.
19. Comparing method.
20. Method of analogy.
21. Collection of Primary Data.
22. Observation Method.
23. Interview Method.
24. Collection of Data through Questionnaires.
25. Collection of Data through Schedules.
26. Collection of Secondary Data.
27. Analysis of the documents.
28. Content analysis.
29. Event analysis.
30. Cognitive mapping.
31. SWOT analysis as a method of research in international relations.
32. Experiment in the study of international relations.
33. Forecasting in the study of international relations.
34. Modeling of international relations.
35. Delphi method.
36. Mathematical and statistical methods in international relations research.
37. Methods of statistical data processing. Factor analysis and cluster analysis.
38. The role of computer in research.
39. Publication of research results.
40. Types of scientific publications.
41. Scientific monograph.
42. Scientific article.
43. Thesis of the scientific conference.
44. Scientific report.
45. Requirements for publications.

VI. Grading Scale

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

VII. RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

1. John W. Creswell, J. David Creswell. *Research Design. Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. SAGE Publications, 2022. 320 p.
2. Nichols AL, Edlund J, eds. *The Cambridge Handbook of Research Methods and Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences: Volume 1: Building a Program of Research*. Cambridge University Press; 2023.
3. Thomas, C. G. *Research Methodology and Scientific Writing*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature. 2021.
4. Pikulyk O. B. Quantitative methods in international relations research. *Сучасні аспекти науки, освіти, технологій та суспільства: збірник тез доповідей міжнародної науково-практичної конференції (Полтава, 14 квітня 2022 р.)*. Полтава: ЦФЕНД, 2022. С. 53-55
5. Бориченко К. В., Гудзь А. О., Панфілов О. Є. *Методологія та організація наукових досліджень : навч.-метод. посіб.* Одеса : Фенікс, 2022. 48 с.
6. Єльнікова Л. О., Мазуренко О. О., Назаров О. А., Вернигора Р. В., Малашкін В. В., Кудряшов А. В. *Методологія та організація наукових досліджень : навч. посіб.* Дніпро : Укр. держ. ун-т науки і технологій, 2024. 228 с.
7. Пікулик О.Б. *Методи прогнозування в дослідженні міжнародних відносин. Актуальні проблеми науки, освіти і технологій: теорія і практика: збірник тез доповідей міжнародної науково-практичної конференції (Полтава, 8 лютого 2022 р.): у 2 ч.* Полтава: ЦФЕНД, 2022. Ч. 2. С 47–49.
8. Сидоренко В. *Методологія і методи наукових досліджень: навчально-методичний посібник*. Вікторія Сидоренко. Біла Церква: БІНПО, 2024. 150 с.