

30141 - The world today

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2019/20

Subject: 30141 - The world today

Faculty / School: 179 - Centro Universitario de la Defensa - Zaragoza

Degree: 457 - Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Organisational Engineering
563 - Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Organisational Engineering

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 4

Semester: Second semester

Subject Type: Compulsory

Module: ---

1.General information

1.1.Aims of the course

- To comprehend the main political, social, cultural, economic and scientific phenomena that have shaped the current world.
- To comprehend the origins of the international order of the 21st century, as well as its possible consequences and lessons that can be deduced.
- To differentiate the structures, power units and typology of conflicts in the current world.
- To identify the main geopolitical theories.
- To analyse the role of the Spanish Armed Forces (SAF) in international missions.

1.2.Context and importance of this course in the degree

The course, mandatory in the Defence profile of the Degree, allows the future officer of the Army to familiarize with the historical foundations of the current world, and especially with regard to Geopolitics and globalization.

The syllabus is structured in three major chronological blocks: the era of world wars; the world of the Cold War; and the current world. Throughout the course, mentions will be made to the place of Spain - and the role of the SAF in particular- in relation to the main events, conflicts and international, transnational and global processes.

Part of the teaching material will be in English. Likewise, on a voluntary basis, students will be able to carry out the compulsory paper and the practical exercises in English or French; in its revision, idiomatic mistakes will not be taken into account. The final exam will be in Spanish.

Throughout the semester the contents of the course will be related to ongoing international events as well as to the content of Law and International Relations.

1.3.Recommendations to take this course

- Prior to each session, students have to read the compulsory readings provided through Moodle.
- Each class session will begin discussing doubts, although, the instructor may indicate that it is a

matter of personalized tutoring.

- Throughout the semester, the students should follow the general and specialized media on international news.

2.Learning goals

2.1.Competences

- C02 - Ability to plan, budget, organise, manage and monitor tasks, people and resources.
- C04 - Ability to solve problems and take decisions with initiative, creativity and critical reasoning.
- C05 - Ability to apply Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) within the field of engineering.
- C06 - Ability to communicate knowledge and skills in Spanish.
- C08 - Ability to analyse and evaluate the social and ecological impact of technical solutions, behaving ethically, with professional responsibility and social commitment, always striving for quality and continuous improvement.
- C09 - Ability to work in a multidisciplinary group and in a multilingual setting.
- C11 - Ability to continue learning and develop self-learning strategies.
- C48 - Capability of working at a professional level in English.
- C50 - Knowledge of international security and defence organisations and treaties signed by Spain in this respect. Ability to function in multinational organisations.
- C51 - Knowledge of international scenarios, analysing the historical development of the 20th century along with geopolitical groupings and current conflicts.

2.2.Learning goals

- To understand the main socio political, economic, cultural and scientific processes and events that marked the evolution of the World from the First World War to the end of the Cold War.
- To know the changes and nature of globalization, international relations and war since the end of the Cold War, identifying the main actors and phenomena to be taken into account, as well as the most important sources of conflict.
- To know the bases of Geopolitics, its evolution throughout the 20th century and current trends.
- To identify and analyse the geopolitical environments in which the SAF currently operate.

2.3.Importance of learning goals

The students of the Degree, future officers of the Army, will frequently perform their duties in multinational environments or situations of conflict derived from an amalgam of present and historical causes.

In this course students are expected to appreciate the complex interaction between past and present, local and global circumstances. With this, we aim to equip and train them in the precise intellectual tools to understand the evolution of the main events of the 21st century, and in particular in the causes and characteristics of the present and future international conflict.

3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1. Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

1. Class activity (35% of the final mark). The evaluation will be done through several exercises, both oral and written, as well as the attitude, participation and performance in class.
2. Individual Paper (15% of the final mark). The student must correctly reference all the sources and quotes used; the opposite will be considered plagiarism. Both the inability to present on schedule and plagiarism will mean the impossibility of presenting the final exam and the consequent failure in the subject with a mark of zero (0) in the call.
3. Final Exam (50% of the final mark). It will take place at the end of the semester, according to the established calendar. Any cases of cheating will mean a mark of ZERO (0) in the call. A mark of at least 4.5 is required for averaging with the rest of the marks. In case the mark of the exam is below 4.5, that will become automatically the mark for the call.

Second yearly call:

The formula for obtaining the final mark will be the same as in the first call, with the following specifications:

1. Class work mark will be retained
2. Students can submit for revision a new individual paper if allowed by their instructors.
3. Students who failed the final exam must take another one on a date to be determined. A mark of at least 4.5 is required for averaging with the rest of the marks.

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

The general methodology consists of a combination of lectures by the instructor, classwork and homework.

4.2. Learning tasks

1. Comprehensive **reading** of the compulsory texts before each individual session.
2. Class **lectures** by the instructor. Students will be required to share their questions and views on the compulsory readings and subjects discussed at class.
3. Unless otherwise noted, all compulsory readings and class presentations will provide the study material for the **final exam**.
4. Additional materials will be used in most lectures (motion pictures, audios, current and historical news, etc.).
5. Students are required to write an **individual paper**.
6. **International Observatory**: Throughout the semester, students are required to report on the international news concerning either a certain geopolitical region or a global actor. Reports will take the form of class colloquiums and an individual written essay at the end of the semester.

Classwork Resources:

Students are authorized to use Internet in their laptops and tablets.

Students are NOT AUTHORIZED to use smartphones, to text message or to chat. In case of

violation of these rules, the appropriate disciplinary measures will be adopted.

4.3.Syllabus

PART I: The Era of the World Wars.

- The World in 1914. Imperialism and Classical Geopolitics.
- The Great War. Total warfare.
- International Relations in the Interwar Years.
- From the First Globalization to the Great Depression.
- The Era of Totalitarianism.
- World War II. Violence against civilians.

PART II: The Era of the Cold War

- Origins and Nature of the Cold War.
- International Relations and the Cold War, 1945-1971.
- Decolonization, Third World, and Development.
- International Relations and the Cold War, 1971-1991.
- Cold War Geopolitics.
- Economy, Society, Science, and Culture.

PART III: The World of Today

- The Unipolar World.
- The Multipolar World.
- International Terrorism in the 21st Century.
- The Current Globalization.
- Spain and the European Union in the World.
- International Observatory.

4.4.Course planning and calendar

- Class schedule to be determined at the beginning of the semester. Further information will be available at Moodle.
- A number of oral and written exercises will be done at class. The specific date of each one will be announced at least one week in advance, although some could take place without prior notice. Further information will be available at Moodle.
- Compulsory Paper: The student has to make his proposal at the beginning of the semester. The deadline for submissions will be announced at the beginning of the semester. Further information will be available at Moodle.
- Guest lecturers might be invited to the Course.
- The Final Exam will take place at the end of the semester.

4.5.Bibliography and recommended resources

http://biblos.unizar.es/br/br_citas.php?codigo=30141&year=2019