



CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name:	Contemporary Controversies in International Relations
Course number:	(GI) INRE 4007 BRGE
Programs offering course:	Berlin Open Campus, Berlin Global Architecture and Design, Berlin Global Internship
Open Campus Track:	International Relations and Political Science
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

The course provides an overview of important international conflicts of our time, their causes, main agents, and recent developments. Investigating a number of case studies will allow us to not only identify and learn in detail about different areas of international controversy, but also to study models of international cooperation. Course participants are to analyze a variety of current conflicts by diagnosing the conflict, providing an outlook for the medium-term future, and proposing solutions. Classroom content is supplemented and enhanced by debate meetings with experts and practitioners from different organizations and institutions. The course addresses the following and other questions: In which policy domains do we find contemporary / future international controversies? What are the ways in which these controversies are diffused and settled? What are existing obstacles to the resolution and settlement of international conflicts? What major multilateral forums exist? Is global governance a realistic and desirable goal? What could possible forms look like?

Learning Objectives

This course will allow students the opportunity to:

- Acquire a basic knowledge of international politics and international conflicts
- Acquire practice in addressing pointed and critical questions to politicians and members of government bureaucracies
- Further develop critical thinking and communications skills by regularly debating political topics of current significance – in writing and in class



- Improve your team-work and public speaking skills by preparing and delivering presentations in a group
- Critically evaluate, analyze and compare contemporary controversies in International Relations

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The methodology will be characterized by lectures, presentations and class discussions based on the assigned readings. Lectures will be enhanced by PowerPoint presentations whenever these are helpful to explain international conflicts and controversies. The class debates will be prepared and conducted in such a way that they can serve as preparation for discussions and meetings with politicians, civil servants, NGO representatives as well as independent experts (e.g. the Germany Society for Foreign Policy - DGAP). Classroom activities will include individual, partner and group work and will be complemented by homework exercises.

Assessment and Final Grade

The final grade will be made up of the following components:

1. Participation:	20%
2. Homework Assignments (Discussion Questions):	10%
3. Midterm Exam:	20%
4. Presentation:	20%
5. Group Project:	10%
6. Final Paper (ca. 2,000-2,500 words):	20%
TOTAL:	100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

Written exam requiring 60 minutes (ca. 20 questions), covering mainly the first two weeks, focusing on global governance, key stakeholders in IR, and crisis analysis.



Presentation

Each participant is required to give one oral presentation to the class of 15 to 20 minutes in length. Emphasis is on the student's own analysis and research of the assigned topic, which is selected in consultation with the instructor.

Group Project

A group presentation is valued as a meaningful contribution to develop team-work and public speaking skills by preparing and delivering one comprehensive presentation in a group.

Final Paper

Each student is required to write a final paper of about 2,000 – 2,500 words. Materials prepared in connection with the oral presentations or the debate meetings (see under Class Participation) may be expanded into this final paper. The instructor will offer suggestions, advice and monitoring.

Homework Assignments (Discussion Questions)

In preparation for meetings with politicians, civil servants, NGO representatives, and independent experts, students will complete short individual assignments by selecting a current event in global affairs and posing a critical question related to the work of the organization we will visit. Students will be assigned two assignments throughout the course, each worth 5% with 400 words per submission. In these assignments, students are expected to prepare at least 5 questions to ask guest speakers during site visits. Questions should be submitted via Canvas beforehand. At least two of the questions should make reference to or clearly be informed by past reading assignments.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after



presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
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Up to 10%	1 content classes, or up to 2 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements; written warning
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 5 language classes	Automatic course failure , and possible expulsion

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1 Introduction

1.1 Global Risk Scenarios & Conflict Analysis

Reading:

Munich Security Conference: *World Security Report*, 2017.

World Economic Forum: *Global Risk Report*, 2017

ETH Zürich: *Strategic Trends*, 2017.

National Intelligence Council: *Global Trends*, 2017.

IIK: *Conflict Barometer*, 2016

Week 2



- 2.1 Global Actors & the Concept of Global Governance
United Nations, UN reform process, G20 and global megatrends

Reading:

Wilkinson, Paul: *International Relations. A short introduction* (2007).

Hanhimäki, Jussi M.: *The United Nations* (2015).

Weiss/Daws (Eds.): *The Oxford Handbook in the United Nations* (2007).

Due date for submission of discussion questions for upcoming site visit/guest speaker

- 2.2 Regional Organizations
Organizations for discussion and consideration include: African Union (AU), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), European Union (EU), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

Reading:

Glencross, Andrew: *The Politics of European Integration* (2014).

Week 3

- 3.1 Regional Conflicts: EMEA
Crimea & Ukraine (incl. the Russian reading of IP since 1990)
Arabian Peninsula (incl. Yemen)

Reading:

Aybak, Tunc: Russia, the Black Sea region and security. See Hough et alii (eds.): *International Security Studies* (2015), p. 348-357.

Midterm Exam



3.2 Brexit and European Insecurity (incl. Euroscepticism)
 South-Sudan

Reading:

Hough, Peter: Security in Africa. See Hough et alii (eds.): *International Security Studies* (2015), p. 374-382.

Meister, Stefan: "The Great Russia Myth." German Council on Foreign Relations. Working Paper (2017).

Week 4 Regional Conflicts II: Asia, Pacific and Arctic

4.1 Regional Conflicts in Asia and Pacific
 North-Korea (incl. non-proliferation)
 South-Pacific (incl. US-Chinese relationship)

Reading:

Moran, Andrew: Nuclear proliferation. See Hough et alii (eds.): *International Security Studies* (2015), p. 119-132.

Due date for submission of discussion questions for upcoming site visit/guest speaker

4.2 Regional Conflicts in the Middle East and Arctic
 Iran (incl. politicization of Islam), Arctic Territorial Claims

Reading:

Hough/Malik: China: security and threat perceptions. See Hough et alii (eds.): *International Security Studies* (2015), p. 358-365.

Hough, Peter: The Arctic. See Hough et alii (eds.): *International Security Studies* (2015), p. 383-392.

Week 5



5.1 Global Conflicts
Cyberwar & Cybersecurity, Human Rights, Pandemics / Global Diseases

Reading:

Amnesty International. *Annual Report*.

Clapham, Andrew: *Human Rights. A short introduction* (2015).

European Parliament (2014): Cyber defence in the EU. Preparing for cyber warfare?

EP Briefing. See: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/EPRS-Briefing-542143-Cyber-defence-in-the-EU-FINAL.pdf>

Hough, Peter: Health and security. See Hough et alii (eds.): *International Security Studies* (2015), p. 254-266.

5.2 Space Militarization
Rise of Unilateralism
Geopolitical consequences of global warming
Press freedom

Readings (selection):

Reporters without Borders. World Press Freedom Index.

Shields, Ian: Space and security. See Hough et alii (eds.): *International Security Studies* (2015), p. 427-436.

Due date for submission of group project

Week 6 Future World Scenarios

6.1 First Round of Group Projects (Presentation and Class Discussion)

6.2 Second Round of Group Projects (Presentation and Class Discussion)

Due date for submission of final paper

Readings



Amnesty International. *Annual Report*.

Bova, Russel (2016). *How the World Works: A Brief Survey of International Relations*. (3rd ed.). Pearson.

Freedom House. *Freedom World Report*.

Goldin, Ian & Mike Mariathan (2014). *The Butterfly Defect: How Globalization Creates Systemic Risks, and What To Do About It*. Princeton University Press.

IIK Heidelberg Institut für Internationale Konfliktforschung (2016). *Conflict Barometer*. Human Rights Watch. *World Report*.

Morgan, Patrick M. (2006). *International Security: Problems and Solutions*, 1st ed. CQ Press.

NATO, *The Secretary General's Annual Report*.

Nye, Joseph S. Jr. & David A. Welch (2012). *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*. (9th ed.). Pearson.

OECD. *Global Economic Outlook and Interim Economic Outlook*.

Reporters without Borders. *World Press Freedom Index*.

Singer, Peter Warren & Allan Friedman, (2014) *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar*. Oxford University Press.

World Economic Forum Davos. *Annual Report*

Online Resources

ETH Zürich, Center for Security Studies. *Strategic Trends 2017*.
<http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/Strategic-Trends-2017.pdf>

European Parliament (2014): Cyber defence in the EU. Preparing for cyber warfare? *EP Briefing*.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/EPRS-Briefing-542143-Cyber-defence-in-the-EU-FINAL.pdf>



- Harston, Julian (2015): *Introduction to the UN System: Orientation for Serving on a UN Field Mission*. Peace Operations Training Institute.
http://cdn.peaceopstraining.org/course_promos/intro_to_un_system/intro_to_un_system_english.pdf
- Shimeall, Timothy et al. (2001). "Countering Cyber War". In: *NATO Review*.
<http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2001/Combating-New-Security-Threats/>
- The Economist (2010a). "Cyber war2". <http://www.economist.com/node/16481504>
- The Economist (2010b). "War in the fifth domain". <http://www.economist.com/node/16478792>
- The Economist (2015). "Crisis in Ukraine".
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/06/ukraine-graphics>
- WHO. *Accelerating progress on HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis and neglected tropical diseases - A new agenda for 2016-2030*.
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204419/1/9789241510134_eng.pdf?ua=1
- World Bank. *Annual Report*. See: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/annual-report>
- World Trade Organization. *World Trade Report*.
https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/world_trade_report15_e.pdf