Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
RI223	History of International Relations Since 1990s	3	3	3	0	3	5

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Compulsory
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	This course aims to understand the main transformations of the international system since the end of the Cold War. It analyses the evolution of the distribution of power, forms of conflict, conceptions of security and sovereignty, and the institutions and norms of the international order. The major events since 1990 serve as historical landmarks and case studies that shed light on these transformations. The course thus provides the historical and conceptual foundations needed for the study of the main theories of International Relations in the second semester.
Content	The course opens with the end of bipolarity and the "unipolar moment", then examines the rise of the liberal international order, the transformation of sovereignty and the expansion of international intervention, the transformation of security and the "War on Terror", and the limits of US hegemony. The second part addresses the redistribution of power in the international system, the return of geopolitics and strategic competition, the diversification of actors and strategies with the rise of middle powers, the contestation of the liberal international order, the return of interstate war, and the fragmentation of the international order amid a crisis of legitimacy. The course closes with an assessment of the 1990–2026 period and a discussion of the emerging configuration of the international system.
References	FERNANDEZ, Julian, Relations internationales, Paris, Dalloz, 2023. BAYLIS, John, SMITH, Steve and OWENS, Patricia, The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations, Oxford University Press, 2023.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Understanding the transformations of the international system since 1990
2	The end of bipolarity and the “unipolar moment” (1989–2001)
3	The consolidation of the liberal international order (1991–2001)
4	The transformation of sovereignty and the rise of international intervention (1991–2011)
5	The transformation of security and the “War on Terror” (2001–2014)
6	The limits of American hegemony and the erosion of Western predominance (2003–2016)
7	Midterm examination
8	The redistribution of power in the international system (2008–2016)
9	The return of geopolitics and strategic competition (2008–2022)
10	The diversification of international actors and strategies (2010s–2022)
11	Challenges to the liberal international order (2014–2021)
12	The return of interstate war and military power (since 2022)
13	The fragmentation of the international order and its crisis of legitimacy (2023–2026)
14	1990–2026: Towards what kind of international system?