Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
RI425	Polar & Ocean Politics	7	3	0	0	3	5

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	English
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	-This course aims to introduce students to the political, economic, legal, and environmental developments in both the polar regions and the world's oceans over the last 50 years, and to examine these developments through the lens of international relations. In this regard, the course analyzes the dynamics of international cooperation and competition in maritime and polar spaces by exploring key issues, ongoing challenges, and emerging opportunities. The course seeks to raise awareness about these critical geographies, which have gained growing prominence in the global political agenda—particularly due to the impacts of climate change, resource competition, and shifting power balances—and to provide students with a perspective capable of evaluating their increasing significance in contemporary global politics.

Content	-Week 1 – Introduction and Background; Overview of the Polar Regions and the world's oceans: geography, governance, economy, society, and culture. Why oceans and polar regions matter in international relations. Week 2 – Climate Change in the Polar & Oceanic Regions Effects of global warming on the Arctic, Antarctic, and marine ecosystems. Ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and climate linkages. Week 3 – Historical Background in the Polar Regions Discovery of the Polar Regions, Scientific Research, International Polar Year Tradition, Economic - Political Outlook Week 4 –Law of the Sea, Ocean Governance and Polar Regions Development of international maritime law: UNCLOS, EEZs, continental shelf, high seas. Maritime sovereignty, Polar Code, and Article 234 in the context of polar regions. Week 5 – Historical Development of Arctic Politics Political Outlook in the Arctic, Arctic in the 19th Century, Sovereignty Issues, Svalbard Agreement, Arctic in the 2nd WW, Week 6 – The Arctic Region and the Cold War Arctic Region during the Cold War, Arms Race, International Disputes, Economic and Environmental Importance, Law of the Sea Week 7 – Development of Arctic Cooperation Murmansk Initiative, Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, Arctic Council Establishment and Structure, Cooperation initiatives, Week 8 – Mid-Term Exam Week 9 – Arctic Politics in the Era of Climate Change Key Issues and Challenges in Arctic Cooperation, Ilulissat Declaration, Arctic and Global Politics, Arctic Regime Expansion Week 10 – Arctic Politics in the Era of Climate Change (2) Annexation of Crimea and Arctic Politics, Rearmament of the Arctic Region, Great Powers Competition in the Arctic Region, The Ukraine War and the Latest Situation in Arctic Cooperation Week 11 – Historical Development of Antarctic Politics Sovereignty Claims, Sharing of Antarctica, Antarctic Treaty, Purpose, Parties and Functioning, Antarctic Governance Week 12 – Antarctic Politics in the Era of Climate Change Development of the Antarctic Agreements System, Agreements and Functioning, Environmental Protection and Scientific Cooperation Current Discussions and Expectations on Antarctic Politics Week 13 – Oceans as Strategic Spaces Freedom of navigation, chokepoints, maritime security. Blue economy, fisheries, seabed mining, environmental tensions. Week 14 – Current Challenges in Ocean Politics Contemporary disputes in ocean governance. South China Sea disputes, Eastern Medittarenan, Spartly Islands and others.
References	

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction and Background
2	Climate Change in the Polar & Oceanic Regions
3	Historical Background in the Polar Regions
4	Law of the Sea, Ocean Governance and Polar Regions
5	Historical Development of Arctic Politics
6	The Arctic Region and the Cold War
7	Development of Arctic Cooperation
8	Arctic Politics in the Era of Climate Change
9	Arctic Politics in the Era of Climate Change (2)
10	Historical Development of Antarctic Politics
11	Antarctic Politics in the Era of Climate Change

Week	Weekly Contents
12	Oceans as Strategic Spaces
13	Current Challenges in Ocean Politics
14	Overview & Current Issues