



## **ICP Major Requirements**

The International and Comparative Politics core courses, which ICP students are required to take as part of the major requirements, will provide students with the tools they will need to ground their present and future studies. Introductory fundamental courses in political science, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and political economy will help pave the way for students' successful completion of other courses.

### **1st Year of Study (Freshmen)**

#### **ICP 101.1 - Introduction to Political Science**

This introductory course in Political Science is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the key concepts, institutions, and processes that shape political systems around the world. Over the course of the semester, students will explore a wide range of topics, beginning with the basic definitions and methodologies of political science, followed by an examination of crucial topics such as political ideologies, institutions, regimes, electoral systems, and more. The course aims to equip students with the analytical tools and knowledge necessary to understand and critically evaluate political phenomena. By the end of the semester, students will have developed a comprehensive understanding of what it means to be a political scientist, as well as the relevance of the field to contemporary global issues.

Throughout the semester, students will critically analyze and compare key political theories and concepts, such as democracy, authoritarianism, and political ideologies, and apply these analyses to contemporary political systems; evaluate the structure and functions of various political institutions and regimes by assessing their roles, effectiveness, and impacts on governance and policy-making; and apply comparative political analysis to examine different political systems and case studies, identifying patterns, similarities and differences in political processes and outcomes across countries.

#### **ICP 131 - Introduction to Comparative Politics**

This course offers a general introduction to the study of comparative politics, a subfield of political science aimed to examine a variety of domestic political institutions, actors, and processes based on systematic comparison and scientific methods of inquiry. In effect, comparativists, or scholars of comparative politics, tend to compare and explore particular aspects of political systems as a way to uncover potential regularities and patterns in terms of similarities and differences in political practices across the world. For example, why do some democratic countries tend to perform better in terms of promoting 'good governance' than those based on authoritarian political

regimes? What are the consequences of electoral systems for political competition, coalition-building, or citizen participation? What explains the trending surge of right-wing populist politics across Europe and elsewhere and does it threaten democracy? Given the foundational aspect of the course, the first part will provide an overview of theories, methods, and approaches widely employed in the field of comparative politics and examine a range of fundamental ‘discipline-specific’ concepts and subjects, such as the formation of modern states and the distinction between democratic and authoritarian regimes, the familiarity with which could prove instrumental in understanding the nature of different political systems across selected countries. In the meantime, and based on a country-by-country approach, the latter part II of the course will undertake a detailed analysis of political systems across a range of countries and nations, selected primarily based on their archetypal political systems and ensuing political outcomes. The countries will be concurrently compared and investigated based on the extent to which different political systems and historical-structural factors have shaped identity politics and conditioned varying levels of economic development and political participation.

The objective of this course is to develop students’ understanding of comparative politics, exploring key concepts and approaches to analyze the interplay of political institutions, actors, and processes across different states and societies.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze major political institutions and processes across different countries.
- Understand the interlinking of societies and government from a comparative point of view and the pros, cons, and challenges of these institutions and instruments.
- Obtain a solid knowledge of the foundations of comparative politics, as well as the characteristics of major national political systems.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the core concepts, theories, and methodologies of comparative politics.
- Apply knowledge of comparative politics to real-world issues.
- Develop the knowledge and skills necessary for informed and critical engagement with political discourse related to themes and topics of comparative politics, enabling them to participate effectively in debates and discussions on this complex issue.

## **2nd Year of Study (Sophomores)**

### **ICP 110.1 – Introduction to International Relations**

International Relations (IR) is often described as the systematic study of 3Cs – Cooperation, Conflict, and Competition, among several actors at the international stage. As an academic discipline, IR focuses on studying the interaction of the actors, including states and non-state actors. It involves studying such things as diplomacy, foreign policy, conflict and negotiation, war, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, international trade and economics, and international development, among other subjects. IR, therefore, is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary field of study, whereas it addresses the core research themes of international security, international political economy, international law, foreign policy and diplomacy, human rights, and many more.

Since the 1990s, international relations have become increasingly significant as the world grows and more interconnected through trade and commerce, migration, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). In the 21st century, we live in a world full of changes and continuities, characterized by traditional conflicts and emerging issues such as climate change and

pandemics. IR as an academic discipline concerns global problems in the world, and it helps us better understand those continuities and changes in world politics.

In this context, the main aim of this course is to introduce the actors, issues, and processes of international relations. The course is designed to introduce international relations and establish a foundation of knowledge that will aid in further inquiries into international politics. Through an in-depth analysis of case study analysis, role-play simulations, and academic debates, students will gain real-world experience in world politics. The course consequently helps ICP majors understand better where and how policies, strategies, conflicts, and laws impact the world in our everyday lives.

Under these circumstances, the course consists of six main themes. The first theme gives an overview of international relations as an academic discipline. The second one illustrates the historical evolution and development of international relations. The third theme demonstrates major theoretical perspectives that offer explanations to international political phenomena. The fourth theme illustrates three facets of international relations: international security, international law and international organizations, and global political economy. The fifth one illustrates the practices of international relations and covers foreign policy. Finally, the last one considers critical vital issues, including the future of international relations.

### **ICP 280.1 - Introduction to Political Theory**

What connects French protests against Covid-19 measures with pro-gun rally in Texas? Does power truly come from the barrel of the gun, as the Chinese leader Mao argued? If yes, does that mean we should live in autocracy? Are citizens of developed countries morally obligated to pay for climate adaptation of developing countries? Who should decide on the question of euthanasia: Terminal patients or the state? If you think these are all unrelated issues, or that they have nothing to do with theory, think again! Introduction to Political Theory will tackle these and many other topics, all of which are well and alive in the real world. This course will teach the fundamental repertoire of concepts that underpin the very discipline of political science, and in doing so prepare students for their future training.

This course is designed to provide students with a thorough knowledge of fundamental concepts and readings from different schools in international politics, covering from the basic to the recent developments. It aims to introduce students to foundational political theories and their enduring relevance to contemporary society. Students will critically examine the ideas of key thinkers and develop strong written and presentation skills. By exploring the interconnectedness of different theories, students will identify both common ground and contradictions among various political philosophies. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Develop skills of careful and thoughtful reading of political thought.
- To understand theoretical models of international politics and to think over their explanatory power.
- Cultivate a historical perspective essential for a comprehensive understanding of political life.
- Foster the capacity for comprehensive, analytical, creative, and critical engagement with political thought, practices, and challenges.
- Communicate their views on political issues both orally and in writing.
- Evaluate the contemporary relevance of the examined problems, concepts, and arguments, and assess their potential to challenge our political perspectives.

## ICP 270.2 - Introduction to Political Economy

Political economy is a social science that studies the production, trade, and their relationship with the law and the government. It is the study of how economic theories affect different socioeconomic systems (i.e., socialism and communism), along with the creation and implementation of public policy. Different groups in the economy, therefore, adhere to their own theory on how the economy should be developed. Political economy, however, is a complex field that covers a broad range of political interests. In simple terms, it refers to the advice given by economists to the government on either general economic policies or certain specific proposals created by politicians. This course introduces the political economy as a particular approach to the study of politics by exploring foundational theoretical concepts, explanatory traditions, and methodological approaches common in political economy. By situating the relationship between politics, economics, and society as the main focus, the course reviews two essential questions:

1. How and to what extent do agents act rationally, and what are the consequences of such behavior?
2. How and to what extent do interests, ideas, and institutions affect behavior and thus economic performance?

The course, subsequently, introduces the political economy, both as a discipline focusing on the links between politics and economics and applying economic paradigms for explaining political phenomena. Under these circumstances, the course explores the parallel existence and mutual interaction of state and the market in the modern world that creates a “political economy.” Without both state and market, there could be no political economy. Consequently, the course examines how the state and its associated political processes affect the production and distribution of wealth and in particular how political decisions and interests influence the location of economic activities and the distribution of the costs and benefits of these activities. The questions above, furthermore, inquire about the effect of markets and economic forces on the distribution of power and welfare among states and other political actors, significantly how these economic forces alter political power's distribution. In this vein, the course is divided into five sections. The first part is designed to familiarize students with critical concepts and theoretical perspectives in political economy. The second section covers the main actors and institutions in the political economy. The third section focuses on political economy behavior by exploring three I's of political economy: Interests, Ideas, and Institutions. The fourth section explores key debates and issues in the political economy. Finally, the last section explores the International Political Economy that includes Foreign Direct Investment, Regional Integration, and Globalization.

## ICP 240.2 - Central Asian Politics

This course is an advanced-introductory survey of political affairs of five post-Soviet countries of the region and Afghanistan. While providing some historical background, the course is primarily focused on understanding the processes and challenges of the contemporary period starting with 1991 and forward. An introduction to the region's politics, the course is nonetheless advanced in the sense that instead of being a textbook-style descriptive survey, it is based on a reading list of recent and compelling academic scholarship and documents, read and discussed critically. The course is centered on the broad and regionally salient theme of *state-building*, considering various aspects, challenges, and strategies in this process in each country and all of them as a group. Half of the course highlights region-wide themes and processes, such as the region's recent history (from early Soviet to contemporary), the legacy of the Soviet Union, post-Soviet state- and nation-

building; the other part is devoted to discussing each country individually, critically exploring problems and trends of development characteristic to a given country. Upon successfully completing the course, the students will have a good understanding of the political institutions and processes of these countries, their key choices on the way to development and consolidation as nation-states, a critical appreciation of main difficulties, and a reasonable knowledge of some of the most important contemporary scholarship of the region. The course will give students a foundation to do independent further research on Central Asian affairs, and a solid basis for engaging in debates, discussions and analyses of the region in an educated manner.

### **ICP 260.1 - Public Policy Analysis**

The course is designed to introduce students to main policy processes and issues, and familiarize them with basic policy analysis instruments. The course is divided into three parts – conceptual, contextual, and instrumental parts of policy and policy analysis. Reading assigned literature and discussing them in the class would constitute the major part of the course, writing and presenting papers – another part. One of each week’s class would be conducted in the form of lectures with discussions of presented materials, while the second day (seminar) would be devoted to discussing the assigned materials and exploring discussed concepts through the lenses of specific policy cases. Although instructors would bring these cases to the class students are expected to come prepared with their own practical examples. Students have to get acquainted with required readings, and those wishing to deepen their understanding of the subject may familiarize themselves with suggested readings in the syllabus. Participation in seminars and lectures would be largely assessed by students’ activities on occasional policy writings. Students would also write one short policy brief paper and a final paper (policy paper). Policy writings, policy brief, and policy paper would be focused on one issue which each student would pick at the beginning of the course. During the course each student needs also to make a presentation during seminars on any topic of the syllabus (connected to an issue which is explored by a student), have a policy debate and at the end of the semester, students will take also a final exam

## **3rd Year of Study (Juniors)**

### **ICP 302 - Research Methods in Political Science**

We are all social scientists, but bad ones. Every day we make implicit or explicit judgments, observations, and deductions about the nature of society, our interactions with others, or about, for example, the nature of power and hierarchies... we judge countries, politicians, or institutions. Social intuition comes almost as a natural trait to us, but we tend to base our judgments on things we heard or read around us, or the experience we had and our socialization. Those biases are difficult to avoid, but if we blindly follow our intuition, our observations remain mostly confined to our experience. Our observations are always situated in some place. For daily life, social intuition is probably good enough. But if we are serious about understanding the nature and the function of politics and society, our efforts should be more structured, and we should get cognizant of how we understand society. We need a method. What distinguishes a proper social scientist from the rest, it is the attention to methodology. The methodology is how we both understand, conceptualize and “build” our knowledge about politics and society. Methodology means to choose the appropriate research design for our question, and to use the best tools to achieve our research goals. The methods are the tools (quantitative or qualitative) that we use to understand

reality. Every method has both advantages and limitations. Not every method is fit for any type of question, and we should explain their use and use them carefully. Throughout this course, we will be investigating and working through the political science research process. As a result, the course aims to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to start conducting independent research build on the current state of knowledge in the field, organize it into an adequate academic written form, and in doing so, promote research on contemporary political science.

The fundamental assumption behind the course is that a broad knowledge of the research methods in Political Science will enhance your understanding of the discipline itself and above all, help you in further research.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and be able to communicate the strengths and weaknesses of the methods used in a typical political science scholarly journal article.
- Generate research questions and hypotheses appropriate to political science.
- Identify the appropriate methodology for addressing a research question in political science.
- Identify appropriate data and cases to test the hypothesis.
- Specify variables using various techniques common to the discipline.
- Interpret common statistical output.
- Evaluate the criteria constituting a strong theory.
- Demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of research methodologies across various disciplines, and developed preliminary research designs.

### ICP 318.2 - Foreign Policy Analysis

What is foreign policy, foreign policy behavior, foreign policy action, foreign policy strategy? Who makes it? How is it made and implemented? Who formulates and implements it? What factors influence foreign policy decision-making and decision-makers? What are the objectives behind foreign policy decisions? What types of strategies can be pursued to achieve these objectives? How can the emerging outcomes be explained / evaluated? These are some of the critical questions we will be addressing during the semester. Towards this objective, we will discuss a variety of theoretical and conceptual approaches and perspectives and apply them to the empirical analysis of foreign policy decisions. Through active engagement with the relevant literature, students are expected to develop and communicate evidence-based arguments in description and explanation of foreign policy decision-making processes.

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of major theoretical and methodological issues in the study of foreign policy
- Compare and contrast different FPA theories in terms of their assumptions about the making of foreign policy, and the conceptual frameworks used to study foreign policy making as a process, outcome, output, resultant and so on
- Relate FPA theories to recent/current regional and global developments and apply them to the case countries
- Develop and enhance transversal skills that include presenting, public-speaking, verbal communication, and writing.

## **ICP 331 - Quantitative Research Methods**

This course introduces students to the major tools and techniques used to analyze political phenomena through quantitative and textual data. It focuses on the enhancement of statistical literacy, research design-related competencies, and proficiency for data analysis. By doing so, the course aims to provide students with not only critical assessment but only running empirically grounded political science and IR research. Students will explore topics such as quantitative text analysis including interview and survey data, data visualization, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis using primary and/or secondary data. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply quantitative methods to answer research questions that they plan to formulate in their senior thesis projects or other relevant studies. Therefore, this course is useful for junior and senior students who would like to enhance the research design, data collection, and data analysis of their senior thesis.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop the ability to interpret and critically assess quantitative data and the scholarly works employing quantitative methods in Political Science and IR literature.
2. Evaluate the research design processes of quantitative studies emphasizing on the research questions, formulating hypotheses, and identifying the relevant methods of data collection and analysis.
3. Acquire the use of descriptive and inferential statistics methods like such as regression analysis and hypothesis testing thanks to softwares like Stata and MS Excel
4. Describe the perils and pitfalls of quantitative methods in running rigorous research in Political Science and International Relations
5. Apply various quantitative methods to investigate political phenomena like voting behavior, policy impacts, and international relations-related outcomes of interest.
6. Enhance transversal skills that include presenting, public-speaking, verbal communication, and writing.

## **4th Year of Study (Seniors)**

### **ICP 404 - Senior Thesis I**

The Senior Thesis Seminar is a capstone course designed to guide senior students through the process of researching and writing an original thesis in political science. This course addresses each step necessary for preparing a significant undergraduate research paper, from formulating arguments, to conducting a literature review, to choosing appropriate research methodologies. By the end of the course, students will have completed the introduction and first chapter of their thesis papers, and will thus be prepared to continue building upon their work during the following semester.

Throughout the semester, students will formulate a clear and researchable thesis question; analyze and synthesize scholarly literature; develop a comprehensive research design; construct and support a logical hypothesis and argument; and present research findings effectively.

### **ICP 406 - Senior Thesis II**

This is the second half of the Senior Thesis seminar courses, designed to guide students through the final stages of their thesis projects. Building upon the foundational work completed in the

previous semester, this course focuses on completing the data collection, data analysis, and synthesis stages of the thesis process, culminating in the submission of a professional thesis paper. Throughout this semester, students will demonstrate their ability to apply data collection techniques and analytical methods effectively and in alignment with their research questions and theoretical framework; evaluate the strengths and limitations of their data and analytical approaches, identify areas for improvement and addressing potential biases or methodological challenges; synthesize collected data and analysis into clear, logically-organized chapters that contribute to the objectives of their research; communicate their research during mock defense simulations, articulating their methodology, findings, and implications with clarity and professionalism; and produce a final thesis that demonstrates strong proficiency in the research process, as well as the ability to contribute meaningfully to the field of political science.

## **Internship Courses**

### **ICP 390.1/ICP 391.1 Internship I & II**

ICP students in order to fulfill curriculum requirements should undertake two internships. Both courses aim at helping students to understand and learn practically what they have been learning in their classes. Two internships aim at developing different skills.

*Internship I* aim at familiarizing students with work of public institutions. Internships should be taken in any public institutions such as governmental agencies, local governments, NGOs, international organizations and projects, media, etc. In any case, it is advised that prior to taking an internship a student consults with a faculty who is coordinating internships.

*Internship II* aims at developing creative skills related to civic engagement, research and analysis, project development and implementation, etc. Usually, requirements for Internship II are fulfilled by students by engaging into one of the department's centers and initiatives such as Development Clinic, Panorama Politics Club, Varieties of Democracy Institute's Regional Center For Central Asia or some of its research projects. In certain cases, with permission of the course's instructor, a student can suggest his/her own place of internship if it marches aims of the Internship II.



## ICP Electives:

The ICP elective courses aim to help students develop a range of skills, capacities, and modes of inquiry that will be crucial for students future since employers and graduate schools are looking for the critical thinking and innovative problem-solving skills that are associated with a liberal arts education, including sophisticated writing abilities, willingness to pose critical questions, and an understanding of the political, social, and economic contexts surrounding issues at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

### 200 Level Electives

#### ICP/ES 203 – European Integration and External Relations

Covering around ten million square kilometers, Europe is the second smallest of the world's seven continents. On the other hand, it is number three in terms of population over seven hundred fifty million people. But Europe, like most continents, is not just a place, a geographical container for those European states. It is also an idea and identity. Throughout European history, Europe has witnessed many divisions, tensions, and conflicts rather than it has any common purpose or harmony of spirit. After the Second World War, the relations between the states of Western Europe started to transform peacefully. As a result of these, Europe is no creation. It is a rediscovery.

This course deals with the history and politics of European integration, its enlargement process, and external relations. We will discuss the history of European integration focusing on the challenges of the transformation of an originally economic community (ECSC) towards a political union (EU), and examine the causes, dynamics, and outcomes of this development. We will also discuss policies, institutions, and competing theoretical approaches to European integration and enlargement and critically evaluate them. Finally, will analyze the external relations of the European Union, and the current issues and challenges it faces today

The objectives of this course are to provide students with a general understanding of European integration and external relations, the historical and political background of the development of the concepts of Europe and Europeans, and the perspectives of the further development of the integration of the EU and its external relations.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the historical and political motivations driving European integration.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the key institutions underpinning European integration.
- Chart the evolution of European integration and the development of EU policymaking processes.
- Assess the impact of European integration on the global political landscape.
- Apply a critical political science lens to analyze European politics and the EU's external relations.
- Recognize the challenges Europe is facing today.
- Communicate their perspectives on European integration.

### **ICP/LAS 208.1 - Politics of Human Rights**

Human rights are an essential part of the modern states and adherence to the human rights norms and the way they are interpreted and practiced are inexorably politicized. This course engages students to discuss political aspects of human rights and looks at these aspects from various perspectives. The course is divided in two general sections – one, dealing with conceptual issues and another, dealing with various thematic issues that highlight political aspects of human rights worldwide.

### **ICP 208 - Normative Order and Change in Fiction**

Societies are shaped and changed by, among other things, norms which emerge, evolve and dissipate. Norms, understood as socially proper behavior, constitute the order of a society, but they are changing, often in a contested manner. The politics of establishing a normative order implies that appropriateness of behavior is promoted through sanctions. Globalization adds more contention to the norm's dynamics among various actors within and across countries. Much of that is studied well in scholarly literature as well as in literary texts and media (films). Norms can be studied and depicted in academic literature well as through fictional literature/films. Course objective is to introduce students to concepts of norms dynamics and enable them to apply these concepts in understanding societal changes through fictional literature/films. This course uses literature and films as a way to understand norms, how they emerge, evolve and spread. Students besides literary works would have as assigned readings scholarly texts on norms. Students would use their own readings/films to illustrate any topic discussed in the course. During the course each student will write a review of a film/book which illustrates norm dynamics (and publish it in a public domain) and will write a genealogy of a norm based on an empirical study (interviews). Besides that, students in groups would be moderating sessions (where they would be in roles of moderators and presenters) in the last few weeks of the course for which they would suggest readings.

### **ICP 209.1 - International Organizations**

Why do international organizations exist? What role do they play in solving global problems? Traditional international relations theories characterize the international system as anarchic and focus on interactions between nation-states. Since WWII, international organizations have become more prominent players in the international system. Debate continues in academic and policy communities over why international organizations exist, whether they matter in global politics, and when they can help alleviate global problems. Both in their practical and theoretical aspects, international organizations (IOs) are a dynamic and increasingly important element in the functioning of modern world politics. The goal of this course is that students develop a theoretical as well as practical understanding of international organizations (IOs) and the global problems they attempt to address. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to articulate the leading explanations within political science for why IOs exist, controversies surrounding IOs in the context of international relations theory, why they are thought to help solve global problems, and the major challenges IOs face in meeting their objectives. Students should also be able to apply theoretical arguments from the IR literature to several specific cases.

## **ICP 210 - Diplomatic History**

This course provides students with a survey of international relations history with a focus on European diplomacy. The main aim of this course is to deliver the historical background of current affairs in international relations. With a broad introduction to European history, students are provided an in-depth explanation of the historical development of ideas, institutions, regulations, systems, and actors of international relations. In this course, the modern history of the European civilizations and nations are examined and discussed by referring to the interactions between nations and their impact on the shaping of the current international relations, systems, beliefs, institutions, economic ties, and diplomacy. The course, therefore, focuses on the diplomatic interactions and the social, economic, political, and cultural contexts in which they take place.

Topic covered includes The Thirty Years' War and The Peace of Westphalia, The Great Powers, The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, The Congress of Vienna, The Concert of Europe System, The Unifications of Italy and Germany, World War I and II, The Russian Revolution, The Rise of Communism and Fascism, The Cold War, Decolonization, Fall of Berlin Wall, Dissolution of the Soviet Union, and Post-Cold War period to the present. Diplomatic history focuses on nations, states, politics, decision-makers and their interactions and conflicts through the ages. It is the study of international relations between states or across state boundaries and is one of the most important forms of history. Modern diplomacy is a variable field of actors, objectives, resources and strategies of international politics.

The course, thus, offers an overview as well as deepened perspectives on the roles and forms of diplomacy in the contemporary international system. At the end of the course, the significant periods, events, and historical diplomatic perspectives will be covered, and the most important details of each will be discussed. On completion of the course, students will be able to analyze the system of international relations from the past to present with a historical perspective.

The course aims to provide historical knowledge on diplomatic relations. Over the course of the semester;

1. Students will be able to describe large themes over a long span of diplomatic history.
2. Students will be able to identify the historical continuity and changes observed in the relations between the actors and institutions of national and international politics.
3. Students will be able to compare diplomatic issues of different periods while deploying historical arguments and critical thinking.

## **ICP/IBL 210 - Cybersecurity and Society: Digital Threats to Law and Politics**

What does the increased access to the Internet provide us nowadays? On a yearly basis, the number of people using the Internet increases and allows more than half of the world's population to be exposed to it, which also creates its own problems and threats. The countries reacting to these threats adopt various policies and rules to address the challenges as well as to react to the various offenses. Cybercriminals are causing substantial harm to individuals or businesses; the current interdisciplinary course (cross-listed) is to look at various issues around cybercrime and cybersecurity.

### **ICP 211.1 - Political Geography and Geopolitics**

In the narrowest sense, the study of geopolitics is the relationship between geography and politics, exclusively played out by states. This rather historical understanding of geopolitics has in recent times widened to include new actors and new interpretations. Geopolitics has become so ubiquitous that, according to Google, the term appeared over 350.000 times in the news in 2022; out of which almost 100.000 in August alone. Geopolitics has thus become part of our everyday jargon, which makes understanding of this multifaceted framework indispensable, both for the students of International Relations as well as non-experts. This course will serve as an introduction to geopolitics and does not require any previous knowledge of political science or current affairs.

### **MC/ICP 212 - Political Communication**

In this course we will discover how, why, and when humans claim, lose, or share power through symbolic exchanges. We will pay special attention to the mass media and its role in democratic processes. We will learn about the influences of the mass media, theories of media framing, the nature of news, recent trends and changes (rise of the Internet, social media, and partisan media), public opinion, perception, and culture. Three main topics will be discussed in significant details during the semester: Political Campaign Communication, Mass Media and Content, and Communication in Political Processes. The course aims to enrich students' understanding and critical perspective on the political nature of events happening around them and their representation in the media.

### **ICP 213 - Foundations of Policy Analysis**

What are the economic, social, and political problems that the UN, international organizations, and individual governments need to stress? What would younger generations offer to solve such problems? What would be the best courses of action? What should be the priorities of the UN, international organizations, and individual governments? Policy analysts ask and skillfully answer these kinds of questions to positively contribute to the policymaking in varying platforms. The course will allow students to learn and implement critical and research skills that are important for policy-related issues in international affairs and political science. Throughout the semester, students formulate policy questions, conduct extensive survey of the relevant literature, design methodologies of policy research, run quantitative and qualitative data analysis, write intermediary assignments and final reports, and present final outputs.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Derive relevant and feasible research questions to understand the policy issue of interest.
- Assess relevant scholarly and policy-related literature.
- Design and implement methodology pertinent to the research questions.
- Analyze empirical data and interpret that in relation to the research question and the relevant literature.
- Prepare a professionally oriented written and/or multimedia final output explaining the main results along with the students' recommendations.
- Enhance transversal skills that include presenting, public-speaking, verbal communication, and writing through orally presenting the final research findings at the end of the semester.

## **ICP 276 - China in Eurasia**

In less than twenty years, China has moved from being a marginal actor in Eurasia to the one that is now at the heart of Eurasian affairs. China's engagement with the region has initially been centered on securing enough oil and gas for its rapidly growing economy. In the last decade, however, China has significantly expanded the areas of cooperation to include a variety of diverse sectors, spanning from digital economy, public safety, and cultural centers to vaccine development, and agriculture standards. In doing so, China has managed to re-shape the landmass between Ukraine and Kazakhstan in ways almost unseen before. This introductory course will map the evolution of China's role in Eurasia, while at the same time explain Beijing's motivations and how they are perceived in the region.

## **ICP/ECO 276 - Political Economy of Natural Resource-Led Development**

This course is targeted towards students interested in how natural resources underground influence political and economic activities above the ground and how natural resources can be transformed into development and prosperity. The first part of the course familiarizes students with key concepts and issues around political economy, development, and natural resources. It aims at answering the following questions:

- What is the political economy and what is the political economy of natural resources?
- What is development and how do we measure it?
- What is corruption, its causes and consequences?
- What are institutions and how do they influence economic development?

This is important basic information to know well before getting into the discussion of resource curse and natural resource-led development. The second part will focus on natural resource countries and their characteristics, such as resource abundance/dependency and associated challenges, such as resource curse. It will cover how natural resources affect development and what policy options exist to manage revenues from natural resources. The final part will be devoted to working in teams on case studies of selected resource-rich countries. Using acquired knowledge, students will prepare presentations on selected resource-rich countries.

## **ICP 292 - Nationalism and Ethnic Politics**

How does identity shape politics? This course offers a focused investigation into how certain collective identities - specifically nationalism and ethnicity - influence real-world political outcomes. From fostering unity to driving violent conflict, these aspects of identity are among the most visible and impactful forces in the modern political landscape. Throughout this course, students will explore how the abstract and theoretical concepts behind nationalism and ethnic politics can help explain and conceptualize complex political phenomena such as state stability, conflict and governance.

This course is designed to provide a guided exploration of key scholarly debates while fostering the development of practical skills for second year students. By the end of this semester, students will be able to:

- Identify and define key theoretical frameworks in the study of nationalism and ethnic politics, including modernism, primordialism, and constructivism.

- Explain how group identities such as nationalism and ethnicity are constructed and mobilized to shape political outcomes, using examples from scholarly literature and real-world case studies.
- Analyze contemporary political phenomena (eg., nationalist movements, ethnic conflicts) by applying theoretical concepts from course readings.
- Compare and contrast differing scholarly perspectives on key themes, such as the role of nationalism in state stability or the impact of ethnic politics on governance, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of perspective.
- Synthesize insights from course readings and independent research to produce a literature review that traces the evolution of scholarly debate on a chosen theme in nationalism or ethnic politics.

### **ICP 293 - Social and Political History of Afghanistan**

The social and political events of modern and contemporary Afghanistan can be said to have been critical in influencing regional and global history. Examples of the seminal role of Afghanistan in history-making can be found in: The invasion and defeat of the Soviet army in the 1980s (which hastened the fall of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War), fall of the Mujahidin-led government, rise of the Taliban, state repression, and harboring of the Al-Qaida terrorists, the 9/11 incidence and quagmire scenario for the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force. Commencing with a few sessions on ancient history of Afghanistan and Afghanistan's exposure to the armies and civilizations of the Greek Alexander the Great, the Arabs and Islam, Mongols, and the British, this course will largely concentrate on the history of Afghanistan's past 90 years, with the era of the reign of the last monarch, Zahir Shah, and the series of coups, counter-coups, political repression, and finally foreign invasions (of the Soviets and the American and its Western allies). The course will explore the modern history of Afghanistan from the prisms of national, regional and international levels of analysis. It will convey and synthesize country specific knowledge and writings with broader global and theoretical social scientific literature. It will also link the importance of historical events to present realities. The course will combine lectures with classroom discussions, simulations (by way of a two-day Crisis Game), the viewing of documentaries, and a guest lecture by Afghanistan's diplomatic mission to Kyrgyzstan. Grading will be based on completion of a book review, two mid-term assignments, attendance, and evaluation of active student participation.

### **300 Level Electives**

#### **ICP 300 - Politics of Truth**

The aim of this course is to understand the functions and effects of truth on politics. We will try to answer questions: can truth be used as a weapon to gain political power and influence? What political forces shape the ways we speak the truth? What role does truth play in democracies given a need for truth and a lack of certainty? This course is especially interesting during this post-truth era, and we will definitely talk about that! Although, we'll start with thinkers like Foucault, Kant, Plato and Aristotle.

### **ICP 302 - Global Political Economy: Welfare and Development**

As we live in a globalizing and increasingly interdependent world, understanding of the roles and behavior of markets, states, institutions, and civil society is vitally important. The course focuses on the political foundations and consequences of the contemporary world economy, focusing on development and welfare. While globalization can be a force for social and economic development, it also presents several risks to human security and well-being, ranging from national-level job losses and financial contagion to global emissions. The course introduces comparative research and debates on varieties of market economies. It focusses on approaches that seek to conceptualize different models of capitalism in advanced and peripheral capitalist countries and investigates the relative role of institutions and international organizations. In this course we will analyze developments in political economy from a range of theoretical approaches.

### **ICP/SOC 303 - Global Citizenship**

Given the interdependent and interconnected nature of our world, the global is already everywhere. Highly networked 21st Century has been contesting the classical notion of citizenship, while questioning whether membership in a specific community and to particular geographical area is still relevant. Now it is a time to discuss inclusive and comprehensive citizenship that goes beyond specific location and community belonging, towards an active participation in global social, political, cultural and ecological processes. Central Asia is not an exception; regional tendencies have been widely intersecting with proliferation of global developments. The interdisciplinary course will introduce classical and contemporary literature and case studies on citizenship and globalization with an emphasis on Central Asia. It will extend students' analytical and research skills as they strive to apply global citizenship ideas on local settings of everyday reality, and understand how people interact and cooperate in increasingly stratified and diverse political, social, economic and cultural contexts without notions of geographical boundaries. The course content will cover global and local issues and perspectives, and should include but not limited to such topics as globalization, glocalization, citizenship and fundamental human rights, political mechanisms to globalization, migration, global social stratification, social justice, sustainable economic and environmental development, and civic responsibility enactment.

### **ICP 305 - Democracy and Authoritarianism in Comparative Perspective**

The course intends to provide an advanced overview of the theoretical and empirical works focusing on the comparative analysis of modern political regimes. This notably involves tracing why and how democracy emerges and survives in some countries and not others and understanding authoritarian breakdowns, as exemplified recently by the 'Arab Spring'. A particular emphasis will be placed on the critical evaluation of socio-economic and cultural theories of democracy, internal operation and performance of both democratic and authoritarian regimes and potential consequences of regime types for governance, economic growth and policy-making. In addition to evidence-based and substantive arguments, the subject matters of the course will be concurrently investigated based on so-called game-theoretical models, an analytic tool employed extensively throughout the main assigned textbook in order to explain the strategic behavior of political actors. This presumes the existence of coordination problems facing contending political actors and explaining particular political outcomes, such as successful democratic transitions or regime

stability. Given the difficulties of designing acceptable approaches to exploring political regimes, the course will further delve into the methodological issues and approaches associated with conceptualizing and classifying different regime types, including so-called 'hybrid regimes' combining both democratic and authoritarian elements. This will be preceded by an introductory discussion of research designs commonly used in the sub-field of comparative politics.

### **ICP/GDS 305 - Politics of Nationalism**

Nationalism is a pervasive element of politics across continents and is not waning with the advent of democratization. National liberation movements and separatism, the rise of far-right parties in established democracies, ethnic conflicts are just a few examples of how nationalism manifests itself. Politics of nationalism emerges when one's longing for group identification is used for another's desire for power. This course is a part of the wider Bard-network initiative to study nationalism both theoretically and empirically. The course would be based on studying major works on nationalism through assigned readings (to be posted on e-course), writing online notebooks as shared (with peers from other countries) texts to develop joint understanding, and on a visual image analysis at the beginning and at the end of a semester. Students would also take short quizzes at the end of each section and would write a final paper. A particular and important element of the course would be students' engagement with their peers from other universities. The goal of the course is to introduce students to concepts and theories of nationalism and enable them to apply these concepts.

### **ICP 307 - Conflict and Development**

This course concentrates on the connections between politics and development. It will discuss how institutions affect poverty and growth, and how developmental determinants influence institutions and political instability, with a particular emphasis on the outbreaks, continuity, and termination of conflicts. The main target of the course is to provide students with key theories, concepts, and practices in development and thereby develop the policy analysis skills that allow students to understand and evaluate prominent ideas in conflict processes. This course will provide students with the nature and theories of conflict as well as the variety of roles that development actors can take in addressing the conflicts at varying intensities. The weekly themes have been arranged in such a way that the students will gain insights from the scholarly literature, donors & aid-receivers, and the views of multiple autonomous groups such as the development practitioners.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of major theoretical and methodological issues in the study of conflict and development studies
- Understand how the complexity of various perspectives guides approaches by the development community to handle the conflicts at the international, national, and local levels.
- Enhance their skills in critical and analytical thinking, putting forward sound arguments, and oral communication relying on the issues pertaining to the nexus between development and conflict.
- Be familiar with the latest scholarly, policy and practitioner perspectives to conflict as it influences the development field.



- Develop and enhance transversal skills that include presenting, public-speaking, verbal communication, and writing.

### **ICP 309 - Development Aid and Politics**

This course investigates the political aspects of development aid, exploring how aid delivery shapes and is shaped by international and domestic politics. Students will engage with key theoretical frameworks and debates about the determinants, effectiveness, and (un)intended outcomes of aid. Themes include theories of development, donor and recipient politics, and the intersection of development aid with issues such as media, foreign policy, and humanitarian diplomacy. Thanks to certain case studies and critical reflections, the course provides students with a nuanced understanding of how development aid operates as an instrument for global, regional and local dynamics of politics.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of major theoretical and methodological issues in the study of conflict and development studies
- Understand how the complexity of various perspectives guides approaches by the development community to handle the conflicts at the international, national, and local levels.
- Enhance their skills in critical and analytical thinking, putting forward sound arguments, and oral communication relying on the issues pertaining to the nexus between development and conflict.
- Be familiar with the latest scholarly, policy and practitioner perspectives to conflict as it influences the development field.
- Develop and enhance transversal skills that include presenting, public-speaking, verbal communication, and writing.

### **ICP 324.1 - Politics of Middle East**

How did the contemporary Middle East find its internal borders? What is the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and why has it continued for so long? What was the basis of the 1953 coup in Iran and how is it related to the 1979 revolution in that country? Why did Iran and Iraq wage an eight-year gruesome war in the 1980s? What was the basis of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990? Why did the "Arab Spring" of 2011 mostly fizzle? How have regime changes in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya affected the populations of those countries and the region at large? What about the ongoing atrocious war in Syria? Who are its actors, why are they fighting and what are the war's consequences? What is the role of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Western powers in the Yemen war? What happened in Turkey with its July 2016 attempted coup? Is oil an impediment to or a catalyst for democratization in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)? What have been the roles of external powers in the MENA region? This course attempts to answer these and similar questions by exposing students to concepts, theories, and debates on the region through critical perspectives of viewing nationalism, conflict, religion, ethnicity, political turmoil, and war. Students will be exposed to a series of case studies and literature, and by choosing their paper themes and book review selection, they have the opportunity to focus on a particular concept or country of their preference.

### **ICP 326.1 - Federal Systems: EU, USA, and India**

The course analyzes federalism based on the case studies of three very different federal systems, namely the EU, the US and India. The United States with its bottom-up development is counted to be a traditional federal system. India is a relatively recent state with a mixture of British democracy and symmetrical federal system, which was initiated top-down. The EU is not a state as the former two, but it is an example of the federation creation process, where the member states (nations) are the motivating forces of the integration. These cases demonstrate that federalism is a tool for managing various diversities, such as ethnic, religious, geographic, social, national etc. Federalism seems to be the only model that promoted the establishment of democracy in each of these cases.

### **ICP 335 - Electoral Politics**

A conventional view amongst scholars of comparative politics holds that elections perform a range of functions typically associated with promoting the core principles of democratic governance, such as political participation, accountability and legitimacy. Central to this view is an assumption that holding credible elections is further contingent upon the observance of other fundamental principles of democracy, including freedom of expression, association, assembly and rule of law, that could extend beyond political participation. Meanwhile, as compellingly evidenced across both established and emerging democracies, the manner in which elections are conducted could have far-reaching political consequences, providing a conducive groundwork for examining the dynamics of political competition and broader quality of democratic governance. With this premise in mind, the course intends to cover a broad spectrum of select issues in electoral studies holding both theoretical and practical implications. The first half of the course will therefore provide a broad overview of the different types of electoral systems and their potential consequences for party system configurations, campaign and voting strategies (to be examined alongside concurrent theoretical explanations of voting behavior), policy performance and the dynamics of political competition. The other half will explore a range of contemporary issues and trending developments in electoral politics from empirical and comparative perspectives with a particular emphasis on examining observable patterns across post-Soviet countries.

### **ICP 338 – Understanding International Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism**

This course comprehensively explores terrorism as a historical phenomenon and a contemporary challenge. Students will gain a critical understanding of the different definitions and approaches to studying terrorism, including the identification of terrorist groups, analysis of terrorist strategies, and examination of governmental responses to counter-terrorism. The course begins by examining terrorism as a concept and a strategy, exploring how individuals and groups have utilized it to achieve their goals. It then delves into the field of counter-terrorism, analyzing various case studies and strategies employed to combat terrorist threats. Upon completion of this course, students will be equipped with a deeper understanding of terrorist groups' causes, organization, and operations, as well as the potential consequences of different counterterrorism approaches.

The objectives of this course are to: provide students with a comprehensive understanding of terrorism as a historical phenomenon and a contemporary challenge; enable students to identify and differentiate between various terrorist groups and their strategies; develop students' ability to critically analyze different definitions, approaches, and perspectives on terrorism; explore and

evaluate different counter-terrorism strategies and their effectiveness; examine the potential consequences of various responses to terrorism, both intended and unintended; and equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for informed and critical engagement with political discourse related to terrorism.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Address the dilemmas that states face in coping with terrorism, suggesting potential solutions to these challenges.
- Gain a deep understanding of the causes and consequences of terrorism by studying and applying major theories regarding terrorism and political violence.
- Access, use, synthesize, and derive meaningful conclusions from data on terrorism and political violence.
- Provide independent, objective, and evidence-based analysis on current trends in terrorism, including far-right terrorism, jihadi movements, 'homegrown' and foreign threats, radicalization and extremism, and the potential dangers of an overly aggressive domestic security apparatus.
- Critically evaluate a range of counter-terrorism strategies and assess their effectiveness in addressing terrorist threats.
- Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary for informed and critical engagement with political discourse related to terrorism, enabling them to participate effectively in debates and discussions on this complex issue.

### **ICP 340 - Contemporary Social and Political History of Iran**

This course provides an overview of primarily contemporary social and political history of Iran; but it also touches on the Qajar dynasty (1796-1925) and discusses the foundations of the 1906 Constitutional Revolution. Students become familiar with the Pahlavi era (1925-1979), while looking into the dynamics of Iranian society starting with the rule of Reza Shah (1925-1941), his forced abdication during WWII, followed by the reign of his son, Muhammad Reza Shah (1941-1979), the nationalization of oil under the premiership of Muhammad Mosaddeq, the 1953 coup, the 1970s rapid economic development, and the monarchy's political monopolization and suppression of dissent. A key focus of the course will be the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the pre- and post-Revolutionary era and the rise of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in addition to Iran's international relations, war with Iraq, competition with rival Saudi Arabia, and enmity with Israel. The course will further discuss Iran's long-standing feud with the United States including the problematic 2015 nuclear agreement, its attempted rescinding by U.S. President Donald Trump and ensuing sanctions and war rhetoric. Finally, the course will analyze political descent, including the Green Movement (2009) and the causes behind the widespread early-2018 demonstrations. In addition, it will discuss issues of political economy, elections, patriarchy and women's rights, religion, the environment, and potential scenarios for the future of Iran.

### **ICP 342 - Civic Engagement: Global Trends and Development of Civil society in Central Asia**

Engaged citizens are an ideal of today's world and one of the major underpinnings of democracy. Learning what is civic engagement and how it comes is the purpose of this course. This is a Bard network course which discusses theoretic, practical aspects of civic engagement. The course explores the concept historically, but mostly concentrates on its meaning for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Civic engagement would be studied from various perspectives and at different levels of interaction with the government. It would consist of discussing assigned literature and would entail a number of guest lectures and site visits. Besides that, one of the assignments is a practical exercise and that course is very orienting for students to learn civic engagement by practice. The goal of the course is to introduce students to concepts and practices of civic engagement.

### **ICP 344 - Foreign Policy of Central Asian States**

Foreign Policy of Central Asian States (FPCA) is a unique course developed to understand the tendencies of foreign policies on five Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The course will regard Central Asia's role in the contemporary system of international relations, and provide in-depth information both on regional problems and individual foreign policy priorities and techniques of each state of Central Asia. An important focus will be given to the external factors in terms of influence of so-called "great powers" in the matters of Central Asia. The course would require an understanding of the contexts, pressures and constraints with which foreign policy-makers have to deal and the ability to engage in comparative analysis without losing a sense of historical context.

### **ICP 391 - Political Leadership**

In this course we will focus on ways of thinking about political leadership, its "origins", and analytical and methodological approaches to study it. We will discuss leaders below and beyond the national level, various leadership styles, discover the agent-structure debate, democratic and non-democratic leaderships, and what it means and takes to be a "great" political leader. In the new media age it is highly important to stay up to date with recent scholarship on leaders and the public, because of personification of political decisions and actions. We will talk about famous leaders in history, current national leaders, and implications of studying political leadership for the public and scientific purposes.

### **ICP 393 - Russia and Central Asia**

Russia is one of the dominant extra-regional actors in Central Asia. Different factors could be listed to explain this, from Soviet history to geographic proximity, to the nature of economic relations or political and geopolitical dynamics in the region. Yet, the above does not mean Russia-Central Asia relations are predetermined in any particular way. Domestic societal and political processes, as well as broader regional and international dynamics, shape the nature of Russia-Central Asia engagement. Thus, moving across different "levels" of analysis and disciplinary boundaries will be necessary to develop a comprehensive understanding of the history and

dynamics of relations between Russia and Central Asia. This course seeks to enrich students' understanding of the dynamic and multi-dimensional nature of Russian-Central Asian relations. What is Russia for Central Asia, and what is Central Asia for Russia? What actors and factors are the most important drivers of the relationship? How can we account for changes and continuities of the relationships? Through raising these and related questions, students will learn and debate different interpretations of "what, why and how" of Central Asia's relations with Russia.

### **ICP/LAW/HR 396 – Democracy in Dark Times**

When the Soviet Union and its communist bloc collapsed in 1989-1991, one of the political principles seemed unquestioned: democratic principle. This is a principle of running government where the governed are the source and beneficiary of government. That dominance and appeal of democracy had taken a start well before the communist decline, in what Samuel Huntington had called "the third wave" of democratization, begun in the 1970s in Southern Europe and marching on in subsequent years in different regions.

In the recent decades, in some very recent years especially, that seemingly inexorable spread of democracy has come to a standstill, and many societies thought to be in transition to democracy got stuck in various forms of "hybrid regimes." In many places, moreover, processes of "de-democratization" or democratic reversal have occurred. While in some places, democracy as such has come to be questioned or rejected, in many other places, undemocratic, troubling tendencies have been occurring alongside verbal allegiance to democracy.

In this context, the co-teachers will put forward this course as an occasion to thoughtfully and critically reflect on the recent developments. "Democracy in dark times" may come with a question mark for some and a fact for others. Regardless of how we view it, the course aims to collectively engage in some readings and discussions of some "what, how, and why" of democracy's challenges in the past and today.

Under these circumstances, the course emphasizes active, participatory learning principle – unlike conventional courses, here we should deal with a new and evolving theme, and the course intentionally deals with events and processes that are just unfolding and still feature in daily news reports. The idea here is to take such troubling and significant current affairs and put them to critical analysis based on our conceptual and theoretical understanding of democracy. The schedule of the course is designed so as to facilitate such a progression of discussion and analysis. Student successfully completing the course will be able to:

- Possess in-depth understanding of democracy (interdisciplinary: as a political regime, the legal principle as well as economic and socio-historical development);
- Clearly define main political and legal trends revolving around the process of de-democratization;
- Freely orient on issues of constitutionalism, democratization, both in Kyrgyzstan and abroad;
- Be able to participate in discussions, express your ideas clearly and logically, participating in discussions in a constructive, cooperative, and considerate way.

## **400 Level Electives**

### **ICP/HR 403 – International Law and International Relations in a Turbulent World**

International Law (IL) and International Relations (IR) have long been considered separate academic enterprises, with their own theoretical orientations and methodologies. However, international lawyers and international relations scholars share overlapping research interests and scholarly agendas. In fact, practitioners in both fields pursued common interests in the making, interpretation, and enforcement of international law in international relations. This course, therefore, focuses on the relationship between IL and IR as well as their interconnectedness. Although they constitute distinct academic disciplines, the objects of their interest can hardly be analyzed in isolation from each other. We should acknowledge that with no international law there could be no international relations; also, the practice of international politics is a ground that breeds international legal norms. In this context, the course is designed to explore several international issues, from humanitarian intervention to international dispute resolution to NGOs' participation in global governance. Specific emphasis is given to the use of force and the 21st-century developments, the rights of the individual (human rights, refugee law), the rules of international transactions (law of diplomacy), conflict and disputes (the International Court of Justice), and the law of (sharing) natural resources (sea). Under these circumstances, the course's main aim is not merely to study international legal issues in a political context; however, to integrate the academic disciplines of international law and international relations to understand the “legalization” of international politics. For these reasons, no legal background (general or in public international law) is required. This course is designed explicitly for ICP and HR students to understand international law and international relations with a toolbox of legal and political sources and arguments in world politics.

By the end of the semester, students will be acquainted with Over the course of the semester, students will be able (1) To describe the use of concepts in international law and international relations. (2) To apply theoretical understanding in international law to the analysis of specific empirical cases in international relations. (3) To analyze a wide range of empirical cases and assumptions in both theoretical arguments and political statements. (4) To be able to confidently work with an interdisciplinary approach in studying contemporary phenomena in international relations.

### **ICP 404.1 – Political Rhetoric: The Art of Persuasion**

This course demonstrates current debates in rhetoric and persuasion in political competition. Firstly, we will discuss the basic concepts, methods, influences, and framing in political discourse. Next, we will move to the sentiment, emotions, and answer how politicians persuade (or dissuade) their audience thanks to these two factors. Finally, we will see theoretical underpinnings of political rhetoric and discourse in light of various empirical cases like the US presidents and the EU leaders.

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of major theoretical and methodological issues in the study of political rhetoric and discourse.
- Understand how the complexity of various perspectives guides approaches by the scholars of elite in varying levels.

- Enhance their skills in critical and analytical thinking, putting forward sound arguments, and oral communication relying on the issues pertaining to the nexus between political rhetoric and public opinion.
- Be familiar with the latest scholarly, policy and practitioner perspectives concerning political rhetoric and discourse.
- Enhance transversal skills that include presenting, public-speaking, verbal communication, and writing.

### **ICP 405.1 - Politics of Kyrgyzstan**

This course is planned to be a review of the state of politics in Kyrgyzstan. It is designed to give students a better understanding of Kyrgyz politics, economy, security and foreign policy. Throughout the course, in exploring diverse topics, a balanced mix of theory, factual information and practical analysis will be exercised. The goal of this course is not only to give students theoretical information on different subjects in the politics of Kyrgyzstan, but to give students basic knowledge of practical analysis. It will provide students with methods and instruments of analysis. Students will learn in practice to analyze different political, economic and social issues on the example of the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **ICP 412.2 - Constitutionalism: Theories and Practices**

Constitutionalism: Theories and Practices is an advanced seminar aiming to delve in-depth into the foundations of the idea of a constitutional state and the varieties of practice of the same, turning both to thinkers and theorists of constitutionalism and to empirical researchers and scholars of it. Constitutionalism is an appealing, promising idea to which many scholars and still more activists and political leaders have been turning. It has been seen as especially relevant and promising as so many societies struggled with internal social conflicts, with authoritarianism and difficulties of democratization, with problems in provision of justice and problems of stable statehood. To so many fundamental challenges of the contemporary world, constitutionalism has been viewed by many as a possible remedy. However, constitutionalism would at best be a very complicated remedy. This seminar is an attempt to understand that complexity, to see the many debated themes in constitutionalism, and to consider the variety of practical realizations of constitutionalism in modern societies. The course is divided into two halves: the first concerned mostly with historical and theoretical themes of constitutionalism, and the second featuring a variety of interesting instantiations of constitutionalism. The idea is, thus, first to consider what the idea consists of when considered in the abstract, the different core elements and institutions implicated in it, the debates about the preferable ways of viewing constitutionalism. With that in hand, to proceed then to consideration of seven contexts in which constitutionalism has been planted, with widely mixed success.

### **ICP 413 - Political Regimes/Democracy in East Asia**

The course is aimed at giving an overview of some classic theories on democratization studies from the perspective of comparative politics. One of the main research interests of comparative politics is a study of types of political regimes: democracy and autocracy. It conducts comparisons between domestic political systems to make clear reasons for fundamental research questions: why

one nation are (consolidated) democracies and others are autocracies. It provides discussions on explanations of political phenomena among similar and different political regimes. The course consists of two parts: the first focuses on some classic theories on democratization studies and second gives the cases of political regimes from East Asian countries.

### **ICP 427 - U.S. Foreign Policy**

This course offers an in-depth exploration of the history, theories, institutions, and practices shaping U.S. foreign policy. By analyzing key historical decisions, institutional dynamics, and contemporary challenges, students will develop a nuanced understanding of America's global role. This course emphasizes critical thinking, research, and practical application through interactive discussions, workshops, research projects, and writing assignments. Students will examine U.S. foreign policy from various theoretical and historical perspectives, culminating in capstone projects that assess and propose strategies for real-world scenarios.

By the end of the semester, students will analyze and evaluate historical and contemporary U.S. foreign policy decisions using theories of international relations and empirical evidence; critically examine the roles of key U.S. foreign policy institutions and actors in shaping global engagement; develop and propose strategic recommendations for U.S. foreign policy in specific historical and contemporary contexts; and synthesize and communicate complex policy analyses through structured writing and oral presentations.

### **ICP 428 - International Security Studies**

This course is designed to provide ICP students with a basis in contemporary international security studies. The course is divided into four parts. The first part is introduction – explains aims of course, syllabus, reading materials, grading system. The second part reviews the main paradigms in international relations theory and introduces students to relevant conceptual issues. The second part deals in-depth with some of the main concepts, theories, and issues in international security studies. Our main focus in this part is theoretical approaches in studying international security, definition and concept of security, traditional and modern security approaches. The third part of the course deals with case studies of modern security issues, including humanitarian intervention, state failure, ethnic conflict, nuclear proliferation, migration and refugee issues, drug, arms and human trafficking, separatism, human rights issues, extremism and transnational terrorism. Throughout the course, we will apply different theories to select historical and contemporary cases in order to illustrate how theory can help us make sense of complex, real-world events. The fourth part of the course will be dedicated to “Path to security” – how to solve security issues by discussing roles of nation states – balance of power, cooperation, game theory, and international institutions and other non-state actors.

### **ICP 433 - Identity, Order, and Violence in the Post-Cold War**

This is a course on the varieties of political violence led by individuals' identities and order in the Post-Cold War era. The students discuss important concepts related to identity, such as religion, nationalism, and ethnicity, and political order including formal and informal norms, coercion, and sanctions. Furthermore, they examine whether and how these concepts can shape intra and inter-group violence drawing on some episodes in different settings from the early 1990s to the present.



Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Derive a comprehensive understanding of prominent theoretical and methodological issues in the study of identity and violence.
- Evaluate how the complexity of various perspectives guides approaches by the scholars of identity and political order to handle the violent conflicts at the international, national, and local levels.
- Analyze major issues pertaining to the nexus between individuals' identities and violence.
- Apply the latest scholarly, policy and practitioner perspectives to political violence to their assigned cases.
- Describe under what circumstances identity and political order lead to violent acts among the individuals.
- Remember what shapes individuals' propensities to inflict violence in democratic and repressive settings.
- Enhance transversal skills that include presenting, public-speaking, verbal communication, and writing.

### **ICP 451 – Modern American Politics**

This course familiarizes students with the history, trends, and animating social forces which have influenced, and presently influence, modern American politics with an emphasis on the Gilded Age through the present. Students will explore in-depth the unique history, personalities, and ideas which have informed political disputes, electoral competition, and ultimately public policy. The course will cover a range of topics, including contemporary debates about race and immigration, to structural and institutional factors shaping the course and conduct of American political life. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate and analyze significant turning points in the course of American politics;
- Recognize and describe key institutions, political structures, and ideological frameworks which inform American discourse;
- Offer broad interpretations of the main debates of American political life, including federalism and separation of powers;
- Understand issues of partisanship and polarization and their effects on electoral politics.