Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

THEORY AND HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 17:48 | Hash: 1ad4af5a044c49fbe4e1bdd726d81d74.

Publication date: 23-06-2026

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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	2 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

The aim of this course is to introduce the students in the development of modern political thought with special dedication to the analysis of the context in which ideas were debated, proposed, launched by political and social groups.
This way students should gain insight in the meaning of ideas and concepts according to their changing political, ideological and social context. By analyzing original sources, close reading and critical reflection will be stimulated.
Basically, it is an intensive course of philosophy and history of philosophy.
The analysis of the texts of classical philosophers will guide the classes and their debates.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG03. Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data in order to make value judgements that include an analysis of the relevant political, legal, social, economic, scientific and ethical issues.
CG04. Students must be able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to others, be they specialised or not.
CG06. Students must have developed the learning skills required to deal with further study with a high degree of independence.
CE02. Students must be aware of the historical development of the political, social and cultural processes, ideas and movements that have served as a foundation for modern States and international relations.
CE03. Students must be able to identify, understand and analyse the source, basic principles and development of a democratic and plural society, as well as its confrontation with other lifestyles.
CE14. Students must be capable of independently studying and analysing the political and social ideas and movements that develop within a framework of international relations.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

1. Introduction to classic political thought
2. Political realism and Reason of State
3. Peace and war: natural law and its critics
4. The Enlightenment Ages: social contract, modern State and cosmopolitanism
• Liberalism and liberal internacional order
5. Marxism and imperialism
6. Revolution, violence and totalitarism
7. Crisis and fall of communism
8. Technocracy and Transmodernity
9. The Populist Revival
10. Non-Western political thought

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Lectures	Critical analysis of some lectures.
Prácticas / Resolución de ejercicios	Weekly reading to participate in classroom debates
Other activities	Final exam

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	28
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	28
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	4
Academic tutorials	9
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	9
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	60
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	30
Preparation for tests and/or exams	12
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 19	Analysis of sources, organized debates. Theoretical explanation of contents. Onsite activity (OA): lectures.
Practical sessions	Week 20 to Week 35	applied exercises.

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VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

The evaluation system is based on the following elements:

1. FINAL EXAM. 60% Students must demonstrate in the exam that have been following the course, have read the theoretical part of the course and dominate the key concepts (reassessable). Minimum mark to pass the exam: 5. It is mandatory to pass this part to pass the course.
2. HALFTERM EXAM. 20% Students must demonstrate in the exam that the have been following the course, have read the theoretical part of the course and dominate the key concepts.
3. PRACTICAL EXERCISE: 20% Including critical and/or applied analysis of concepts as seen in class. These activities may be completed individually or in groups, depending on the nature of the activity. Some activities will require attendance and participation in class. This component of the grade will be divided among several activities, which will be explained by the lecturer during the course. Non minimum mark is recquired in this activities (accumulative).(non reassessable, non minimum mark, acumulative activity).

The tests will be carried out in person. Resit exams will follow the same criteria as the final and halfter exams.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

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In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

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VIII.-Teaching resources and materials
Basic bibliography
VALLESPIN, F., Historia de la teoría política, Madrid, 1990-1995, 6 vols.
McClelland, J., A history of Western Political Thought, Psychology Press, 1996
Consultation bibliography
MACHIAVELLI, Niccolò. Il Principe, a cura di G. *Inglese, Torino, Einaudi*, 1995.
MARX, Karl; ENGELS, Friedrich. *The communist manifesto*. Penguin, 2002.
DE TOCQUEVILLE, Alexis. *Democracy in america*. Regnery Publishing, 2003.
HOBBES, Thomas. Leviatán (1651). *Alianza Editorial, Madrid*, 2002.
BERLIN, Isaiah. *Sobre la libertad*. Anaya-Spain, 2004.
SARTORI, G. Teoría de la democracia. 1 Los problemas clásicos. 2. El debate contemporáneo. Madrid, Alianza, 1988.
CONSTANT, Benjamín. *De la libertad de los antiguos y de los modernos*. PRI, Secretaría de Información y Propaganda, Subsecretaría de Publicaciones, 1988.
HAYEK, Friedrich. Camino de servidumbre, Ed. Alianza, Madrid, 2005

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	DAVID SARIAS RODRÍGUEZ
E-mail address	david.sarias@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Público I y Ciencia Política
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Titular de Universidad
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	No
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	3
Number of sexennia	2
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	1

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