Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

EMERGENT REGIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE: AFRICA AND ASIA

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	4 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	3
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

Africa and Asia play an increasingly important role in contemporary international affairs. Together, they account for most of the world's population, some of its fastest-growing economies, several emerging powers and many of the key challenges shaping the international order in the twenty-first century.

This course examines Africa and Asia from the perspective of International Relations, paying particular attention to regional integration, political models, strategic cultures, security dynamics and relations with external actors. It explores how these regions are responding to the transformation of the international system, the rise of new centres of power, and the challenges posed by geopolitical competition, regional conflicts and global governance.

Special attention is devoted to regional integration processes in Africa and Asia, the evolution of regional security architectures, strategic stability in Asia, and the role of the European Union in its relations with both regions. The course also analyses the political and ideological foundations of key regional actors, as well as the growing importance of Africa and Asia in an increasingly multipolar world.

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.

CG07. Students must be able to understand international relations from a perspective based on respect for human rights and the principles of democratic life and multicultural society.

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.

CE04. Students must be capable of identifying and analysing the new protagonists, relations and institutions of emerging regions.

CE10. Students must be capable of identifying the essential features of human geography, the economy and politics and their effects on 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

Lesson 1: Africa and Asia in the Contemporary International System
Lesson 2: Political Models, Strategic Cultures and Ideologies in Africa and Asia
Lesson 3: Regional Integration and Security in Asia
Lesson 4: Strategic Stability and Nuclear Dynamics in Asia
Lesson 5: Regional Integration and Security in Africa
Lesson 6: EU–Asia Relations
Lesson 7: EU–Africa Relations

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Practical sessions	Practical activities based on the analysis of texts, policy documents, case studies and contemporary international issues related to Africa and Asia.
Realización de Pruebas	Final written examination covering the contents of the course.
Oral presentations	Oral presentation on a topic related to the course contents, delivered individually or in small groups depending on class size and organisational requirements.

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	14
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	14
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	2
Academic tutorials	6
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	3
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	17
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	17
Preparation for tests and/or exams	17
Total student workload	90

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 12	Theoretical sessions devoted to the analysis of Africa and Asia in contemporary international relations.
Theoretical sessions	Week 3 to Week 13	Practical activities based on the analysis of texts, policy documents, case studies and contemporary international issues related to Africa and Asia.
Other activities	Week 13 to Week 15	Oral presentations on topics related to the course contents.

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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

Students' performance will be evaluated on the basis of:
•Final written examination (40%)
•Practical activities and assignments (40%)
•Final work and oral presentation (20%)
All assessment activities are reassessable.
The final grade will be calculated as the weighted average of all assessment activities. No minimum mark is required in any individual assessment activity.
Students who do not pass the course in the ordinary examination period will be entitled to reassessment in the extraordinary examination period through equivalent assessment activities covering the corresponding learning outcomes.

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

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
Aldecoa, F. (2023). *La Unión Europea: De la idea utópica de Europa a la Unión Europea como potencia mundial*. Shackleton Books.
Allison, G. (2017). *Destined for war: Can America and China escape Thucydides's trap?* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
Iñiguez de Heredia, M., & Wai, Z. (2020). *Recentering Africa in international relations: Beyond lack, peripherality and failure*. Palgrave Macmillan.
Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). *The foreign policy of the European Union* (3rd ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
Shambaugh, D., & Yahuda, M. (Eds.). (2020). *International relations of Asia* (3rd ed.). Rowman & Littlefield.
Stein, E. (2021). *International relations in the Middle East: Hegemonic strategies and regional order*. Cambridge University Press.
Consultation bibliography
Amineh, M. P., & Houweling, H. (2005). *Central Eurasia in global politics: Conflict, security, and development*. Brill.
Oloruntoba, S. O., & Falola, T. (Eds.). (2020). *The Palgrave handbook of Africa and the changing global order*. Palgrave Macmillan.
Paul, T. V., & Shankar, M. (2016). Nuclear doctrines and stable strategic relationships: The case of South Asia. *International Affairs, 92*(1), 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2346.12503
Tsygankov, A. P. (2022). *Russian realism: Defending derzhava in international relations*. Routledge.

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	NICOLÁS BARDIO VAQUERO
E-mail address	nicolas.bardio@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Público II
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Profesor/a Asociado/a
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	0
Number of sexennia	0
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	0

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