Course manual
Joint Master's Programme in
International Humanitarian Action

University of Warsaw

International Relations in Humanitarian Action
Semester 1
1. Introduction

The module is an element of the second component (Core Course, 25 ECTS of the NOHA Joint Master’s Degree in International Humanitarian Action) to be completed during the first semester. It forms a recognised part of the curriculum and is a requirement for obtaining the NOHA Master’s degree.

Aim of the course is to offer to the participants a panorama of both geopolitical and institutional elements and factors which defines the structure and dynamics of today’s International Relations. The course will cover political, normative and economic problems, including power relations which form the context for Humanitarian Action. Special emphasis will be put upon security problems. Conflicts are changing their nature but at the origins are still very often power ambitions. Conflict management and solution of humanitarian dramas are part of the imperfect international order we live in.

2. Learning outcomes

Knowledge:
- Has shown familiarity with the main approaches and concepts of international relations.
- Has demonstrated a clear understanding of the international humanitarian system in its geopolitical context, with an emphasis on the power relations between actors.
- Has a thorough interdisciplinary knowledge of the current themes in international humanitarian action and the operational processes and changes in political, military, economic and social structures and institutions in the international dimension; has a thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of political and economic decision-making in these entities at the nation state level and on the international scale.

Skills
- Has shown the ability to anticipate new crisis situations in geopolitical settings. Has demonstrated the capacity to identify the roots and causes of conflicts/complex emergencies in a particular case.
- Has shown the ability to apply certain key concepts of International Politics to concrete disaster situations.
• Has developed basic skills for acting in and reacting to intercultural contexts.

Competences
• Has shown to be able to transfer acquired knowledge to other humanitarian situations.

3. Course material

Recommended readings:
• SIPRI Yearbook,
• S.P. Huntington, Clash of civilizations and the Remaking of World Order
• M. Kaldor, New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era.
• M. Walzer, Just And Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument With Historical Illustrations.
• For Polish readers: Kuźniar et al., Bezpieczeństwo międzynarodowe, Scholar 2012.

4. Teaching and learning methodology

Lecture in classroom. Q&A sessions.

At the end of the course written exam.

5. Programme and training activities

Week 1

Transition from Cold War bipolar order into brief neo-Western World

Week 2

Pax Atlantica – new role of NATO and the US
• R. Asmus, Opening NATO’s Door, New York 2002
• I. Daalder, J. Goldgeiger, Global NATO, “Foreign Affairs” Sept/Oct 2006

Week 3

Rebirth of Europe – united for the first time and ready to engage
• European Union on the Global Scene: United or Irrelevant, Ed. By B. Góralczyk, Warsaw 2015

Week 4

United Nations after Cold War – new promises and unsatisfactory achievements
• B. Boutros-Ghali, Agenda for Peace, New York 1992

Week 5

‘90s – Golden Age of Human Rights
- Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, UN 1993.

Week 6

From the Third World to regional disorders
- S.P. Huntington, Clash of civilizations?, New York 1996

Week 7

Omnipresent globalization as driving force of change at all levels of IR
- D. Rodrik, Sense and nonsense in the globalization debate, “Foreign Policy” summer 1997;

Week 8

New century’s sudden turn: from US bid for hegemony to Chimerica (new bipolarism?)
- H. Kissinger, Does America Need a Foreign Policy?, New York 2001;

Week 9

Post-Cold War international security environment – main features

Week 10

Weakening institutions – rising powers

Week 11

Disarmaments in regress, armament in progress
- SIPRI Yearbooks..., as above
## Week 12

**“Out of area” policies illusions and consequences**


## Week 13

**Quo vadis new (not so brave) world**


### 6. Workload

Max. 30H of the lecture (15x1,5H)  
Max. 100H of reading and study in order to prepare for lectures and for the exam

### 7. Assessment methods

Written exam (open questions) 80%.  
Participation during classes 20%.

### 8. Assessment criteria

90% of points - grade 5  
80% of points - grade 4,5  
70% of points – grade 4  
60% of points – grade 3,5  
Over 50% of points – grade 3

### 9. Appendices