Part I

1.1 General Information

- Full course title: Advanced International Relations: methods and concepts
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course: second cycle degree programme
- Year of study: 1°
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 6
- Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:
  - Professor Enrico Calossi (with Professor Eugenio Pizzimenti and Professor Massimiliano Andretta) (office hours TBD)

1.2 Course aims

The aim of the course is threefold. In the first part of the course (taught by prof. Pizzimenti and Andretta), qualitative and quantitative methods for political science analysis will be presented. The second part of the course (taught by Enrico Calossi), will present important concepts used in International Relation, while the third part (also under responsibility of Enrico Calossi) will deal with some important actors of the global politics.

In details, in the first part, the course aims at providing students with the basic knowledge in the field of the comparative method; second, the course is intended to introduce the logic of qualitative research design and methods. Particular attention will be paid to the “quest for common standards”, by focusing the discussion of methodology on convergence and divergence between qualitative and quantitative approaches. The course will provide a snapshot of the most employed tools for qualitative research as well as practical guidelines to conduct comparative analysis of a small number of cases (“small N”) and many (potential) variables.

The second part of the course, thanks to the theoretical knowledge and theories learned in basic international relations courses, will present and address some important concepts that define and shape an international milieu, such as hegemony, power, non-state actors, religion, alliances, cooperation, etc. In the third part of the course (taught by Enrico Calossi) also the role of important international organizations will be addressed.
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1.3 Learning outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:
- apply terminology, theories, concepts and methods of Comparative Politics to current events and specific cases at the International level.
- Individuate and discuss the role of important actors of the global politics.

1.4 Course requirements

Having attended a class on International Relations theories is recommended. Students will be required to attend not less than 80% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Reading of the assigned materials and active engagement in class discussions is compulsory.

1.5 Grading plan

34% of final mark is given by an exam (oral or written) based on the first part of course. 67% of grades is given by the second part. In detail, 40% due to an oral exam and 27% given by the evaluation of a student’s presentation in class.

Part II

2.1 Course content

Part I: Methods in IR

Topic 1. The comparative method.
Topic 2. Qualitative vs Quantitative approaches.

2.2 Course content and readings by topics

Topic 1 – The comparative method (3 Lectures)

Lecture 1
The comparative method: historical evolution.
Basic concepts and definitions.
Why and how to compare?
Sources of bias in comparative research design.
Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources:
http://polisci.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/people/u3827/APSAThComparativeMethod.pdf

Lecture 2
Comparative research design
Levels of analysis
Strategies with different number of cases

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources:
http://polisci.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/people/u3827/APSAThComparativeMethod.pdf

Lecture 3
Classification and typologies
Triangulation
Nominal categories

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:
AAVV (2010), Debate: Has Comparative Politics Lost its Way?. Collection of articles in “European Political Science”, Vol. 9, N. 1, pp. 34-82;

Internet sources:
http://polisci.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/people/u3827/APSAThComparativeMethod.pdf

Topic 2 Qualitative vs Quantitative approaches (3 Lectures)

Lecture 4
The problem of inference in analyzing political phenomena;
The main assumptions underlying quantitative research designs;

Compulsory readings:
Further Readings:

Internet sources:
https://course.ccs.neu.edu/is4800sp12/resources/qualmethods.pdf

Lecture 5
The guidelines of an “ideal” research design;
The “problem” of Selection Bias: Case Selection procedures;
The definition of the Universe of Cases.

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources:
https://www.thoughtco.com/qualitative-research-methods-3026555

Lecture 6
Measurement and Data Collection;
Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative divide;

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources:
https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/qualitative

Topic 3 – The Process Tracing Method (1 Lecture)

Lecture 7
What is process tracing?
When is it useful to employ process tracing?
Necessary and sufficient conditions: 4 tests

Compulsory readings:
Further Readings:

Internet sources:

Topic 4. Concepts in IR (7 lectures)

Lecture 8: Presentation of the course
International relations (IR) as a scientific discipline.
Why do we study IR?
The four great debates in the IR literature

Compulsory readings:
Jackson, Robert, Georg Sørensen (2015), “Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches”, OUP Oxford; *Ch. 1, Ch. 2.*

Further Readings:
Jackson, Robert, Georg Sørensen (2015), “Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches”, OUP Oxford; *the other chapters.*

Lecture 9: Power
What is Power in IR?
Power as a goal; Power as a measure of influence and control; Power as victory; Power as security; Power as status.

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources:

Lecture 10: Hegemony
What is Hegemony in IR?
Hegemony and Global Politics
Hegemony and Its Origins in World Politics

Compulsory readings:
Further Readings:

Ch. 3. US Hegemony; Ch. 4. Hegemony Gramsci and World Politics

Lecture 11: Sanctions
Economic sanctions; Diplomatic sanctions; Military sanctions; Sport sanctions; Sanctions on Environment.
Effectiveness of sanctions.

Compulsory readings

Further Readings:

Lecture 12: Alliances and cooperation
Military alliances, political alliances, co-belligerence.
Difference between allies and Allies.
Cooperation and how it is perceived.

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:---

Internet sources:

Lecture 13: Religion
Differences amongst religions.
Modernity.
Religious transnationalism

Compulsory readings:
*Intro: “The Struggle for the Soul of the Twenty-First Century”; Ch. 1. “The Revenge of God?”: The Twentieth Century as the “Last Modern Century”*
Further Readings:

Internet sources

Lecture 14: Non-state actors in conflicts
Relationships between states and nonstate armed groups.
Ethnic and religious insurgents.
Revolutionary groups.
Terrorists.

Compulsory readings:
San-Akca, Belgin. States in disguise: causes of state support for rebel groups. Oxford University Press, 2016. Ch. 1. 1 Introduction; Ch. 2. A Selection Theory of State Support for Rebel Groups

Further Readings:

Internet sources
http://www.armedgroups.net/

**Topic 5: the International Organizations (IOs) (7 lectures)**

Lecture 15: Introduction to International Organizations (IOs)
Form the firsts to the most recent IOs
Forms and kinds of IOs

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources:--

History of the United Nations.
Peace and security.
Human rights and humanitarian affairs.
Sustainable human development.

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources:

Lecture 17: the Economic IOs: International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, World Bank
The IMF and Global Financial Governance
Economic Ideas and Legitimacy Feedback

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:

Internet sources

Lecture 18: the European Union (EU) [1/3]
Inter-state relations within the European continent
Western European countries towards the European Community
The Deepening of the Integration Process
The Widening of the Integration Process

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:


Internet sources:
https://europa.eu/

Lecture 19: the European Union [2/3]
European Parliament Political Groups and European Political Parties

Compulsory readings:
Calossi, Enrico (2016), Anti-Austerity Left Parties in the European Union
Ch. 1. Political parties in the European Union and Beyond

Further Readings:
Calossi, Enrico (2016), Anti-Austerity Left Parties in the European Union
Ch. 4. Transnational coordination and integration of the Left

Internet sources
https://europa.eu/

Lecture 20: the European Union [3/3]
Democratic deficit and crisis of legitimization in the EU.

Compulsory readings:
Ch. 24. Democracy and Legitimacy in the EU; Ch. 26. The Euro Crisis and European Integration, Ch. 27. The Future of the EU.

Further Readings:

Internet sources
https://europa.eu/

Lecture 21: Military Organizations: the NATO
What is NATO?
The history of NATO.
How does NATO work?

Compulsory readings:

Further Readings:
Ch. 4. Atomic War, Ch. 5. Coping with a Changing World, Ch. 6. Questions of the Past and of the Future, Ch. 7. NATO’s Next Strategic Concept, Ch. 8. Where and Who Is NATO?

Internet sources
https://www.nato.int/
Questions to answer

Topic 1. The comparative method

- The content of comparison
- When, what and how to compare
- Forms and types of comparative analysis
- Sources of bias in comparative research;
- Which are the main levels of analysis
- Which are the main strategies in selecting cases
- Most similar and most dissimilar systems logics;
- The “golden laws” of comparative research designs
- Differences between classification and typologies

Topic 2. Qualitative vs Quantitative approaches

- Descriptive Inference (pro and cons)
- Causal Inference (pro and cons)
- What does Causal Homogeneity mean
- What does Independence of Observations mean
- What does Conditional Independence mean
- How to select cases
- Strategies to avoid selection bias
- How to operationalize concepts
- Contamination between qualitative and quantitative research designs

Topic 3. The Method of Process Tracing

- The role of the theory
- How to create sequences of events
- The different reliability of the 4 main tests used in process tracing

Topic 4. Concepts in IR

- International relations (IR) as a scientific discipline
- Why do we study IR?
- The four great debates in the IR literature
- What is Power in IR?
- Power as a goal
- Power as a measure of influence and control
- Power as victory; Power as security
- Power as status
- What is Hegemony in IR?
- Hegemony and Global Politics
Hegemony and Its Origins in World Politics
- Economic sanctions; Diplomatic sanctions; Military sanctions; Sport sanctions; Sanctions on Environment
- Effectiveness of sanctions
- Military alliances, political alliances, co-belligerence
- Difference between allies and Allies
- Cooperation and how it is perceived
- Differences amongst religions
- Modernity
- Religious transnationalism
- Relationships between states and nonstate armed groups
- Ethnic and religious insurgents
- Revolutionary groups
- Terrorists

Topic 5: The International Organizations (IOs)
- From the firsts to the most recent IOs
- Forms and kinds of IOs
- History of the United Nations
- Peace and security
- Human rights and humanitarian affairs
- Sustainable human development
- The IMF and Global Financial Governance
- Economic Ideas and Legitimacy Feedback
- Western European countries towards the European Community
- The Deepening of the Integration Process
- The Widening of the Integration Process
- European Parliament Political Groups
- European Political Parties
- Democratic deficit
- Crisis of legitimization in the EU.
- What is NATO?
- The history of NATO.
- How does NATO work?