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<b>Course name: Formation of the International System</b>
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<b>Code:</b>	
<b>Term:</b>	Spring
<b>ECTS credits:</b>	6
<b>Lessons per week:</b>	90 + 90 min
<b>Language:</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Dr. Aliaksei Kazharski</b>
<b>Form of study:</b>	lecture+seminar

## Prerequisites

Introduction to International Relations

## Course Objectives

The course objective is to give the students a basic understanding of the events and processes that have led to the formation of the contemporary international system. The course features two major components. Sessions I-VII provide an overview of the genealogy of the modern European system of states and the global expansion of Western political institutions through colonization and subsequent decolonization. Sessions VIII-XII are meant as an insight into individual regional systems of states and the historical background of state formation that can help explain their indigenous dynamics. Throughout the course the students are also expected to broaden their knowledge of the existing theoretical approaches to IR.

## Course structure

INTRODUCTORY SESSION Course objectives and requirements

SESSION I Modern state as a global institution

SESSION II Theoretical approaches to international system evolution

SESSION III Sources of the modern world: Medieval Europe and premodern systems of political organization

SESSION IV Sources of the modern world: “victory of the sovereign state”

SESSION V Rise of international society in Europe

SESSION VI Global expansion of European international society

SESSION VII Decolonization and post-colonial regional systems

SESSION VIII Regional systems: Africa

SESSION IX Regional systems: Middle East

SESSION X Regional systems: Postsovieticum

SESSION XI Regional systems: Western Europe

SESSION XII Regional systems: Central and South-Eastern Europe

## **Reading**

### **SESSION I. The modern state as a global institution**

#### Required reading

Meyer, J. W., Boli, J., Thomas, G. M., & Ramirez, F. O. (1997). World Society and the Nation-State. *American Journal of Sociology*, 103(1), 144-181.

#### Additional reading

Meyer, J. W., Krücken, G., & Drori, G. S. (2009). *World society: The writings of John W. Meyer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **SESSION II. Theorectical approaches to international system evolution**

#### Required reading

Spruyt, H. (1994). *The sovereign state and its competitors: An analysis of systems change*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press: pp. 3-7, 11-33

Additional reading

Tang, S. (2011). *A general theory of institutional change*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

**SESSION III. Sources of the modern world: Medieval Europe and premodern systems of political organization**

Required reading

Spruyt, H. (1994). *The sovereign state and its competitors: An analysis of systems change*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press: pp. 34-57

Additional reading

Tilly, C., & Ardant, G. (1975). *The Formation of national States in Western Europe*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

**SESSION IV. Sources of the modern world: “victory of the sovereign state”**

Required reading

Spruyt, H. (1994). *The sovereign state and its competitors: An analysis of systems change*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press: pp. 153-193

**SESSION V. Rise of international society in Europe**

Required reading

Watson, A. (1992). *The evolution of international society a comparative historical analysis*. London: Routledge. pp. 182-196, 251-262

**MIDTERM TEST**

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## **SESSION VI. Global expansion of European international society**

### Required reading

Watson, A. (1992). *The evolution of international society a comparative historical analysis*. London: Routledge: pp. 265-287

### Additional reading

Neumann, I. B., & Welsh, J. M. (1991). The Other in European self-definition: An addendum to the literature on international society. *Review of International Studies Rev. Int. Stud.*, 17(04), 327.

## **SESSION VII. Decolonization and post-colonial regional systems**

### Required reading

Strang, D. (1996). Contested sovereignty: The social construction of colonial imperialism. In *State sovereignty as social construct*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Additional reading

Wendt, A., & Barnett, M. (1993). Dependent state formation and Third World militarization. *Review of International Studies Rev. Int. Stud.*, 19(04), 321.

## **SESSION VIII. Regional systems: Africa**

### Required reading

Jackson, R. H., & Rosberg, C. G. (1982). Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood. *World Pol. World Politics*, 35(01), 1-24.

## **SESSION IX. Regional systems: Middle East**

### Required reading

Kamrava, M. (2005). *The modern Middle East: A political history since the First World War*. Berkeley: University of California Press: pp. 35-66

Additional reading

Barnett, M. N. (1998). *Dialogues in Arab politics: Negotiations in regional order*. New York: Columbia University Press.

**SESSION X. Regional systems: Postsovieticum**

Required reading

McFaul, M. The Sovereignty Script: Red Book for Russian Revolutionaries. In: Krasner, S. D. (2001). *Problematic sovereignty: Contested rules and political possibilities*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Additional reading

Kazharski, A. From “colony” to “failing state”? Ukrainian sovereignty in the gaze of Russian foreign policy discourses. In: Makarychev, A. & Yatsyk, A. (eds.). *Concepts in Flux: New and Old Vocabularies of International Relations After the Ukraine Crisis*, Ashgate, forthcoming 2016

**SESSION XI Regional systems: Western Europe**

Required reading

Waever, O. Insecurity, security and asecurty in the West European non-war community. In Adler, E., & Barnett, M. N. (1998). *Security communities*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Additional reading

Zielonka, J. (2006). *Europe as empire: The nature of the enlarged European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**SESSION XII Regional systems: Central and South-Eastern Europe**

Required reading

Forum. The expansion of international society after 30 years: Views from the European periphery. *International Relations* 2014, Vol. 28(4) 445-478: pp. 445-468

## Evaluation Criteria

During the semester the students are supposed to deliver 8 short essays ('memos') 500 words max, dealing with the question(s) specified for the session. The question should always be answered based on the required readings, as well as the students own informed opinion, and should demonstrate the student's ability to critically reflect on the particular topic.

Essays and assignments should always be delivered by the deadline specified in Moodle. Essays delivered after the deadline will not be considered.

**When writing their essays the students must cite their sources properly. Copy-pasting without quotation marks or paraphrasing without references is unacceptable and will be automatically treated as plagiarism.**

**Written essays are 40% of the final grade.**

The students are expected to attend lecture and seminar sessions, and to participate actively in class discussion, debates and simulations. An absolute precondition for meaningful participation is reading the mandatory texts. The student's ability to comment on the required readings in class will be a major criterion of evaluation.

**Attendance and participation are 30% of the final grade.**

During the semester the students will receive two written assignments in class which will be based on the required readings.

**In class tests are 30% of the final grade.**

A midterm evaluation will be provided.

### **Course Evaluation (%)**

A – excellent:	100-93%,
B – very good:	92-84%,
C – good:	83-74%,
D – satisfactory:	73-63%,
E – sufficient:	62-51%,
Fx –	fail: 50-0%.

The student may not have more than four absences.