

Subject overview

The central idea of this subject is not an historical vision of the world since the XVII century, but a systemic analysis of the world system. The emphasis of the subject is based on the acquisition of methodological tools that can allow us to analyze these international phenomena.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify the importance of the systemic view of the world.
- Use general systems theory as an analytic tool to explain an actual conflict
- Use the concepts and models of the general systems theory to analyze international processes.
- Demonstrate how the international systems that have been developed since the peace of Westphalia can be explained with a systemic analysis

Assessment overview

- Class/debate participation 20% of total assessment
- Research Paper 1 20% of total assessment
- Research Paper 2 40% of total assessment
- Research Presentations 20% of total assessment

Subject modules

- The systemic analysis of World Politics
- The distinct levels of interpretation of the world system.
- The factors that comprise the international system.
- Westphalia peace and the balance of power in Europe.
- World War I and the Paris order.
- World War II and the Cold War.
- The end of the Cold War and the nationalism crisis.
- The war against terror.

Required readings

- Von Bertalanffy, L. (1973). *General system theory: Foundations, development, applications* (4th Ed.). New York City: George Braziller.
- Laszlo, E. (1974). *A strategy for the future: The systems approach to world order*. New York City: George Braziller.
- Rourke, J.T. (2001). *International politics on the world stage* (8th Ed.). USA: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.
- Kissinger, H. (1994). *Diplomacy*. New York City: Simon and Schuster.

Questions?

If you have questions about any of the subject summaries, please contact us.