

## Syllabus of Record

**Program:** CET Prague

**Course Code / Title:** (PR/INTR 344) International Conflict and Cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** International Affairs / History, Political Science, Central & Eastern European Studies

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Prior coursework in International Relations recommended

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### Description

The course starts with a brief overview of the main theories of international relations to summarize and build on students' previous knowledge and understanding of potential and limitations of the theories in the study of international politics. The first couple of lessons cover the most influential IR theories – realism, liberalism, behaviorism, English school, and constructivism. All of them focus on explaining two phenomena in international relations: conflict and cooperation.

The main focus of the course is on concrete examples of cooperation and conflict in international politics mostly in Central and Eastern Europe to acquire better understanding of the region in the light of IR theories. The topics include the Cold War with a number of selected events during its course (such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and invasion to Czechoslovakia in 1968), European integration and enlargement, dissolution of former Yugoslavia, contemporary Russia, EU election observation missions, Visegrád Group and Czech diplomacy, among others.

### Objectives

After taking this course students should:

- be able to explain International Relations theories through a Central European context;
- be familiar with contending IR theories that attempt to explain international cooperation and conflict and have a capacity to understand, criticize, and apply them through the Central European context;
- be able to identify and describe some of the major processes in the international system, particularly issues of Cold War, European integration and Central and Eastern European states after the collapse of Communism;
- become critical readers of books and articles about international politics and assess the behavior of actors in international politics in light of IR theories.

### Course Requirements

Course readings average 40 to 80 pages per session and should be completed before class.

Students write short, weekly response papers as a base for class discussion. The response papers should be about half of a page (1500 characters) and stem from readings for each lesson and

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should be sent to a lecturer by email one day before the class. Every required reading should have a separate response paper.

In addition, students are graded on their class participation and a working paper of 10 pages that explores a theme from the course in greater depth.

Students are expected to abide by CET's Attendance Policy.

### Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

Class participation	10%	
Weekly response papers		20%
Working paper	20%	
Midterm exam	20%	
Final exam	30%	

### Readings

- G. T. Allison. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 63, Issue 3, (Sep., 1969): 689-718
- S. Burchill et al. *Theories of International Relations*. Third edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005
- M. Černá et al. "From "Occupation" to "Friendly Assistance": The Presence of Soviet Troops in Czechoslovakia after 1968." *The Hungarian Historical Review*, Vol. 4, No. 1. (2015): 114-143.
- J. T. Checkel. "Constructivist Approaches to European Integration." Center for European Studies, University of Oslo, Working Paper no. 6, February 2006
- D. Coleman. "A Demographic Rationale for Brexit." *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 42, No. 4, (December 2016): 681-692
- M. Dangerfield. "The Contribution of the Visegrad Group to the European Union's 'Eastern' Policy: Rhetoric or Reality?" *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 61, No. 10 (Dec., 2009)
- T. Diez and R. Whitman. "Analysing European Integration, Reflecting on the English School: Scenarios for an Encounter". *ESCA Seventh Biennial International Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, 31 May – 2 June 2001*. 1-26
- B. Frederking. "Constructing Post-Cold War Collective Security." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 3, (August 2003): 363-378
- M. Habanikova. "August 21st, 1968: Political, strategic and ideological reasoning behind the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia." GOSECA Conference 2012, Rightly stated? Contemporary and Historical Considerations of the State in Eastern Europe and Euroasia
- C. Kennedy-Pipe. "International History and International Relations theory: a dialogue beyond the Cold War." *International Affairs* 76, 4 (2000)

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- R. Koslowski, F. V. Kratochwil. "Understanding Change in International Politics: The Soviet Empire's Demise and the International System." *International Organization*, Vol. 48, No 2 (Spring, 1994)
- C. Leconte. "From pathology to mainstream phenomenon: Reviewing the Euroscepticism debate in research and theory." *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (June 2015): 250-263
- R. Little. "The English School vs. American Realism: A Meeting of Minds or Divided by a Common Language?" *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Jul., 2003): 443-460
- S. Luccareli. *Europe and the Breakup of former Yugoslavia*. The Hague: Kluwer Law International, 2000
- P. Luif. "Forum on 'Central Europe': Austria and Central Europe." *Perspectives*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (2010): 95-109
- B. Martill, U. Staiger (eds.). *Brexit and Beyond: Rethinking the Future of Europe*. ULC Press 2018
- J. Mearsheimer. "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War." *International Security*, Vol.15, No.1 (Summer 1990): 5-56
- K. Mikulova. "Central Europe's Velvet Power: Can It Reinvigorate EU Foreign Policy?" *World Affairs*, Vol. 176, No. 3 (September/October 2013): 64-72
- A.J. Motyl. "The Surrealism of Realism: Misreading the War in Ukraine." *World Affairs*, Vol. 177, No. 5 (January/February 2015)
- J. S. Nye. *Understanding International Conflicts: an Introduction to Theory and History*. New York: Pearson 2007
- K. Waltz. "The Emerging Structure of International Politics." *International Security*, Vol.18, No.5 (Fall 1993)
- M. Weller. "The Vienna Negotiations on the Final Status for Kosovo." *International Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 4, pp.659-681 (July 2008)
- M. Weller. "Kosovo's Final Status." *International Affairs*, Vol. 8, No. 6, pp.1223-1243 (Nov., 2008)
- A. Wendt. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46 (spring), 1992
- European Commission. *A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans*. Strasbourg, 6.2.2018, COM (2018) 65 final.

### Supplementary Texts

Additional texts relevant to current events are provided weekly

## Outline of Course Content

**Topic 1** - Course introduction; administration of the course; classification of IR theories, the birth of IR as an academic discipline and its application to the study of history and current events.

**Topic 2** - Realism: Europe after the Cold War

**Topic 3** - Liberalism: International institutions and state strategies in Europe, 1989-1991;  
Behaviorism: The Cuban Missile Crisis

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**Topic 4** - English School: International society and collective security; raison de systeme and framing ISS; Societal approaches of the ES and International security and applications in Central/Eastern Europe.

**Topic 5** - Constructivism: European integration; Critical Theory; Postmodernism

**Topic 6** - Conflict in IR theories I: Cold War and invasion to Czechoslovakia in 1968

**Topic 7** - Conflict in IR theories II: dissolution of former Yugoslavia

**Topic 8** - Conflict in IR theories III: current Russo-Ukrainian War

**Topic 9** - Cooperation in IR theories I: European integration

**Topic 10** - Cooperation in IR theories II: EU enlargement, Brexit

**Topic 11** - Cooperation in IR theories III: Visegrád Group, current migration crisis in Europe

**Topic 12** - Excursion to Ministry of Foreign Affairs: EU election monitoring missions, Czech diplomacy