



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
“Margins” and “Marginality” in World Politics: Non-Western, (Post-)colonial, Racialized, Feminist, Queer, and Disability Perspectives	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Dr. Stephen Michael Christian Other:	Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Vokiečių str. 10, LT-01130, Vilnius

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
1st	Seminar

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
In-person	Fall semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites:	Co-requisites (if relevant):

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student’s workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	137	32	105

Purpose of the course unit

This course has students engage with perspectives, histories, theories, and experiences of „marginalized“ peoples—those who have faced exploitation, alienation, discrimination, and oppression around the world—and understand their significance for International Relations, world politics, and history. This module will explore historical and anthropological research that decenters the contemporary „Westphalian,“ statecentric international order as well as challenges „Westerncentric“ accounts of international political theory and world history. Students will also learn about the erasure of women and other minorities in International Relations and challenges to mainstream ways of thinking from queer theory, critical disability studies, and more. Furthermore, students will identify how the experiences and histories of exclusion and oppression intersect with one another in ways that challenge universalizing narratives based on a subgroup’s positionality.

This course will largely focus on seminar-style teaching. A typical class will involve breaking students into groups to answer various discussion questions, then reconvening as a whole to share different perspectives. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity lead in seminars, and they will conduct independent research on marginalized perspectives in world politics.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will cultivate an understanding of various critical perspectives of International Relations.	Assigned readings, seminar discussions.	Participation/Attendance, Lead classroom discussion, Final exam, Book report (paper and poster presentation).
Students will understand the Global IR framework and how it relates to the study of non-Western and other critical perspectives.	Assigned readings, seminar discussions.	Participation/Attendance, Lead classroom discussion, Final exam, Book report (paper and poster presentation).

Students will explicate how different histories, experiences, and identities overlap and intersect to create unique political interests, behaviors, and projects.	Assigned readings, seminar discussions.	Participation/Attendance, Lead classroom discussion, Final exam, Book report (paper and poster presentation).
Students will conduct independent research on a marginalized group and their significance for international relations and world history.	Provide guidelines for research.	Book report (paper and poster presentation).
Students will apply insights from assigned materials to current and recent events.	Assigned readings, seminar discussions.	Participation/Attendance, Lead classroom discussion, Book report (paper and poster presentation).

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Introduction			2				2	5	Acharya, „Global International Relations (IR) and Regional Worlds.“ Recommended: Ferreira, „Critical Theory“ in International Relations Theory
2. Indigeneity, Inequality, and Enlightenment			2				2	5	Graeber and Wengrow, Dawn of Everything, Ch. 2.
3. Uneven and Combined Development			2				2	5	Anievas and Nişancıoğlu, How the West Came to Rule, Ch. 2 & 5. Recommended: Pal, „Marxism,“ in International Relations Theory
4. The Importance of „Small Wars“ to Imperialism			2				2	5	Berlant, They Called It Peace
5. The Othering of the „East“			2				2	5	Said, Orientalism, Ch. 1. Recommended: Nair, „Postcolonialism,“ in International Relations Theory
6. Race and the EU			2				2	5	Kundnani, Hans, Eurowhiteness.
7. Négritude and the Critique of Colonialism			2				2	5	Cesaire, Discourse on Colonialism.

8. Necropolitics and the Colonial Violence of Democracy			2				2	5	Mbembe, Necropolitics, Ch. 1 & 3.
9. Global IR: Breaking Down Metanarratives			2				2	5	Doyle, Gikandi, and wa Gĩthĩnji (eds), Dissolving Master Narratives, Chapters by McAnany, Gikandi, and Yücesoy.
10. IR without Men			2				2	5	Owens, Erased, Introduction and randomly assigned chapter.
11. Indigenous Women and the Politics of Sovereignty			2				2	5	Picq, Vernacular Sovereignties, Introduction & randomly assigned chapter.
12. Queer Theory in International Relations			2				2	5	Weber, Queer International Relations, Ch. 5 & 6.
13. Translating Sexuality Across the World			2				2	5	Cottet and Picq (eds.), Sexuality and Translation in World Politics.
14. Crippling Representation of Disability in Global Capitalism			2				2	5	McRuer, Crip Times, Ch. 1 & 2. Recommended: Blyth, Austerity, Ch. 3.
15. Disability and Debility in the Modern World System			2				2	5	Puar, Right to Maim, Preface & Ch. 4.
16. Poster Presentation			2				2	30	Complete Book Report and corresponding poster.
Total			32					105	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Participation	30	NA	Attendance record, contributes to discussions, listens to professor and classmates, demonstrates familiarity with assigned material.
Lead class discussion	20	Depends on topic	Demonstrates detailed understanding of assigned material, crafts useful questions/discussion topics for class.
Book Report, pt. 1 (Final Paper)	15	End of Semester	Follows assigned guidelines.
Book Report, pt 2 (Poster)	15	End of semester	Follows assigned guidelines and engages with other students' posters.
Final Exam	20	Finals period	Correctly answers a series of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				

Amitav Acharya	2014	„Global International Relations (IR) and Regional Worlds: A New Agenda for International Studies	International Studies Quarterly 54, no. 4	https://academic.oup.com/isq/article/58/4/647/1807850?guestAccessKey=
Stephen McGlinchey	2018	International Relations Theory		E-International Relations https://www.e-ir.info/publication/international-relations-theory/
David Graeber and David Wengrow	2021	The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity		Signal https://blackbooksdotpub.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/david-graeber-david-wengrow-the-dawn-of-everything_a-new-history-of-humanity-farrar-strauss-and-giroux-2021.pdf
Alexander Anievas and Kerem Nişancıoğlu	2015	How the West Came to Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism		Pluto Press https://www.plutobooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/9781783713233.pdf
Lauren Benton	2024	They Called It Peace: Worlds of Imperial Violence		Princeton University Press
Edward Said	1977	Orientalism		Penguin Books https://dn721904.ca.archive.org/0/items/amir-mominine_202108/Edward%20W.%20Said%20-%20Orientalism_%20Western%20Conceptions%20of%20the%20Orient%2028Penguin%20Modern%20Classics%29-Penguin%20Classics%20%282003%29.pdf
Hans Kundnani	2023	Eurowhiteness: Culture, Empire and Race in the European Project		Hurst Publishers
Aimé Césaire	2000 [1950]			Monthly Review Press https://files.libcom.org/files/zz_aime_cesaire_robin_d.g_kelley_discourse_on_colbook4me.org_.pdf
Achille Mbembe	2019	Necropolitics		Duke University Press
Laura Doyle, Simon Gikandi, Mwangi wa Githinji (eds.)	2025	Dissolving Master Narratives: Decolonial Reconstellations, Volume Two	Decolonial Reconstellations, Volume 2 of 3	Routledge
Patricia Owens	2025	Erased: A History of International Thought without Men		Princeton University Press
Manuela Lavinias Picq	2018	Vernacular Sovereignties: Indigenous Women		University of Arizona Press

		Challenging World Politics		
Cynthia Weber	2016	Queer International Relations		Oxford University Press
Caroline Cottet and Manuela Lavinás Picq (eds.)	2019	Sexuality and Translation in World Politics		E-International Relations https://www.e-ir.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Sexuality-and-Translation-in-World-Politics-%E2%80%93-E-IR.pdf
Robert McRuer	2018	Crip Times: Disability, Globalization, and Resistance		NYU Press
Jasbir K. Puar	2017	The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability		Duke University Press https://transreads.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-03-13_5c895f68d366e_jasbir-k-puar-the-right-to-maim-debility-capacity-disability.pdf
Recommended reading				
Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Walters, and Christian Scheinpflug (eds.)	2018	International Relations Theory		E-International Relations https://www.e-ir.info/publication/international-relations-theory/
Mark Blyth	2013	Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea		Oxford University Press http://digamo.free.fr/blyth13.pdf

NOTE: Including Open Educational Resources in the reading list is recommended