

COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

| Course unit (module) title | Code |
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| Nordic Studies | SISA3126 |

| Lecturer(s) | Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered |
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| Coordinators: prof. dr. Baldur Thorhallsson Other(s): assist. Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson | Institute of International Relations and Political Science |

| Study cycle | Type of the course unit (module) |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| First cycle | Elective |

| Mode of delivery | Period when the course unit (module) is delivered | Language(s) of instruction |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Lectures, seminars, self study | 6 semester | English |

| Requirements for students | |
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| Prerequisites: Sufficient level of English (B2) | Additional requirements (if any): None |

| Course (module) volume in credits | Total student's workload | Contact hours | Self-study hours |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 5 | 130 | 32 | 98 |

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed

The purpose of this course is to provide students with theoretical knowledge and skills for the independent analysis of politics of small states via an in-depth study of practical examples coming from the Nordic states (Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland).

The course aims to develop subject specific competences, such as the ability to understand and explain the position of small states in the international system, ability to define the vital interests of small (Nordic coastal) states in comparison to traditional military interests of naval powers, in-depth knowledge and understanding of the Nordic states' negotiations with the EU and the challenges and opportunities they face while in the EU, ability to explain and assess the Nordic socio-economic model and its impact on international policy and economic performance, ability to assess the Nordic states' capacity for withstanding stress and international financial crisis, knowledge of the new challenges (such as climate change, melting of the Arctic) faced by the Nordic states. In addition, the course develops generic competences: ability to work and study individually and in a group, ability to present findings in a coherent and well-argued manner, ability to share insights during discussions, ability to approach political and social phenomenon from a culture-sensitive perspective.

| Learning outcomes of the course unit (module) | Teaching and learning methods | Assessment methods |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Will be able to understand and explain the position of small states in the international system, define the interests of small coastal Nordic states and assess their leverage in international negotiations | Face-to-face lectures, discussions | Assessment of work during seminars |
| Will be able to explain and assess the Nordic socio-economic model and its impact on international policy and economic performance | Independent reading , exam | Assessment of exam |
| Will be able to understand and explain the Transarctic Agenda | Research methods (texts analysis, preparation of essay) | Assessment of essay |

| Content: breakdown of the topics | Contact hours | | | Self-study work: time and assignments | |
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| | Lectures | Tutorials | Seminars | Contact hours | Self-study hours |
| | | | | | Assignments |

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| 1. Introduction to the Course | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: F. Nansen, The Mission of the Small States, The American Scandinavian Review, 6 (1), 1918, p. 9-13. A. J. K. Bailes, Does a Small State Need a Strategy?, Occasional Paper 2-2009 of the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland, 2009, p. 1-40. (http://stofnanir.hi.is/ams/sites/files/ams/Bailes_Final_o.pdf) |
| 2. Theoretical Understanding of the Position of Small States in the International System (part 1) | 2 | | 2 | 4 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. P. Keohane, Lilliputians' Dilemmas: Small States in International Politics, in International Organizations, 23 (1), 1969, p. 291-310. B. Olafsson, Small States in the Global System: Analysis & Illustrations from the Case of Iceland, Ashgate Pub Ltd, 1998, 174 -195. |
| 3. Theoretical Understanding of the Position of Small States in the International System (part 2) | 2 | | 2 | 4 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. Thorhallsson, The Size of States in the EU: Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives, Journal of European Integration, 28 (1), 2006 p. 7-31. D. Vital, The Inequality of States – A Study of the Small Power in International Relations, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1967, p. 54-71. |
| 4. The Law of the Sea Convention: Vital Economic Interests of Small (Coastal) States vs. Traditional Military Interests of Naval Powers | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. P. Barston, H. Hannesson, The Anglo-Icelandic Fisheries Dispute. International Relations 4(6), 1974 p. 559-591. G. Th. Jóhannesson, Troubled Waters: Cod Wars, Fishing Disputes and Britain's Fight for the Freedom of the High Seas, 1948-64, Studia Atlantica, 11, 2007, 17-25. |
| 5. The EEA-agreement (1989-94): The Nordic and the Alpine States' Negotiations with the EU. The Largest Free-trade Area in the World | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: H. P. Graver, Mission Impossible: Supra Nationality and National Legal Autonomy in the EEA-agreement, European Foreign Affairs Review, 2002, p. 73-90. J. Jónsdóttir, Europeanization and the EEA: Iceland's Participation in the EU's Policy Process. Routledge, 2013, P. 17-31. |
| 6. The Nordic Model and the Nordic States within the International System. The Major Characteristics of the Nordic Socio-economic Model and its Reflection in their International Policy and Performance | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: C. Ingebritsen, Norm Entrepreneurs. Scandinavia's Role in World Politics, in I. A. Ingebritsen (ed.), Small States in International Relations, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2006, p. 273-285. J. Pontuson, Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal America, Cornell University Press, 2005, p. 27-41. |
| 7. Small States and International Organizations | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. Thorhallsson, Small States in the UN Security Council: Means of Influence?, Hague Journal of Diplomacy, 7, 2012, p. 135-160. W. Habeeb, Power and Tactics in International Negotiations: How Weak Nations Bargain with Strong Nations, Baltimore, 1988, p. 100-128. |
| 8. States within the EU: Policies, Strategies, Challenges and Opportunities (Part 1) | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: A. Wivel, The Security Challenge of Small EU Member States: Interests, Identity and the Development of the EU as a Security Actor, Journal of Common Market Studies, 43 (2), 2005, p. 393-412. C. Archer, N. Nugent, Introduction: Small States and the EU, Current Politics and Economics of Europe, 11 (1), 2002, p.1-10. |

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| 9. States within the EU: Policies, Strategies, Challenges and Opportunities (Part 2) | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: C. H. Grön, A. Wivel, Maximizing Influence in the EU after the Lisbon Treaty: From Small State Policy to Smart State Strategy, Journal of European Integration, 53, 2011, p. 523-539. A. J. K. Bailes, B. Thorhallsson, Instrumentalizing the European Union in Small State Strategies, Journal of European Integartion, 2012, p. 1-17. |
| 10. The International Financial Crisis: Small States' capacity for Withstanding Stress. Are Small States better off on their own or within an Alliance? | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. Thorhallsson, R. Kattel, Neo-Liberal States and Economic Crisis: Lessons for Democratic Corporatism, Journal of Baltic Studies, 2012, p. 54-77. B. Thorhallsson, Domestic Buffer vs. External Shelter: Viability of Small States in the New Globalized Economy, European Political Science Symposium, 10, 2011, p. 324-336. |
| 11. The International Financial Crisis: The Case of Iceland, Ireland and the Baltic Countries | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: P. Hreinsson, T. Gunnarsson, S. Benediktsdóttir, Causes of the Collapse of the Icelandic Banks: Responsibility, Mistakes and Negligence, Report prepared by the Icelandic Special Investigation Commission, (SIC), 2009, p. 1-27. (http://www.rna.is/media/skjol/RNAvefurKafli21Ensk a.pdf) J. B. Hannibalsson, The International Financial Crisis: the Case of Iceland: Are there Lessons to be Learnt?, Working Papers on Global Financial Markets, 3, 2009, p. 87-98. |
| 12. Iceland and the Baltic Nations' Struggle for Restoration of Independence (1988-91): The Solidarity of Small Nations vs. the Hidden Agenda of Major Powers | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. G. Ólafsson, Political Power and Independence: Real Independence vs. Nominal, Ashgate, 1998, p. 48-65. K. S. Readman, Between Political Rhetoric and Realpolitik Calculations: Western Diplomacy and the Baltic Independence Struggle in the Cold War Endgame, Cold War History, 6 (1), 2006, p.1-42. |
| 13. Climate Change and the Melting of the Arctic: The Coming Grab for Resources. Can Small Nations hold their own in Co-operation or Competition with the Major powers? | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | Compulsory reading and analysis of: L. Heininen, Post-Cold War Arctic Geopolitics: Where are the Peoples and the Environment?, Arctic Geopolitics and Autonomy, Arctic Perspective Cahier, 2, 2010, p. 89-103. K. Bergh, The Arctic Policies of Canada and the United States: Domestic Motives and International Context, SIPRI Insights on Peace & Security, 1, 2012, p. 1-19. |
| Essay | | 2 | | 2 | 20 | Preparation of essay |
| Total | 4 | 2 | 26 | 32 | 98 | |

| Assessment strategy | Weight, % | Deadline | Assessment criteria |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| Evaluation of work during the seminars | 30% | Throughout the semester | Active participation in seminars (10%), Relevant comments and reasonable insights (10%), Critical thinking and ponderable argumentation (10%) |
| Exam | 40% | During session time | Comprehensiveness of the answers (20 %) Ability to base the answers on the academic literature that was provided throughout the course (10%) Critical analytical thinking (10%) |
| Essay | 30% | End of semester | Ability to employ theories and methods discussed throughout the course (5%), Depth of analysis of the topic (10%); |

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| | | | Reasonable argumentation, comprehensive conclusions (10%) Correspondence to methodological requirements (5%) |
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| Author | Year of publication | Title | Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication | Publishing place and house or web link |
|--|---------------------|---|--|---|
| Compulsory reading | | | | |
| Archer, C., N. Nugent | 2002 | Introduction: Small States and the EU | Vol. 11 No. 1 | Current Politics and Economics of Europe |
| Bailes, A. J. K. | 2009 | Does a Small State Need a Strategy? | Occasional Paper 2-2009 of the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland | http://stofnanir.hi.is/ams/sites/files/ams/Bailes_Final_o.pdf |
| Bailes, A. J. K., B. Thorhallsson | 2012 | Instrumentalizing the European Union in Small State Strategies | | Journal of European Integration |
| Barston, R. P., H. Hannesson | 1974 | The Anglo-Icelandic Fisheries Dispute | Vol. 4 No.6 | International Relations |
| Bergh, K. | 2012 | The Arctic Policies of Canada and the United States: Domestic Motives and International Context | Vol. 1 | SIPRI Insights on Peace & Security |
| Graver, H. P. | 2002 | Mission Impossible: Supra Nationality and National Legal Autonomy in the EEA-agreement | | European Foreign Affairs Review |
| Grön, C. H., A. Wivel | 2011 | Maximizing Influence in the EU after the Lisbon Treaty: From Small State Policy to Smart State Strategy | Vol. 53 | Journal of European Integration, |
| Habeeb, W. | 1988 | Power and Tactics in International Negotiations: How Weak Nations Bargain with Strong Nations | | Baltimore |
| Hannibalsson, J. B. | 2009 | The International Financial Crisis: the Case of Iceland: Are there Lessons to be Learnt? | Vol. 3 | Working Papers on Global Financial Markets |
| Heininen, L. | 2010 | Post-Cold War Arctic Geopolitics: Where are the Peoples and the Environment? | Vol. 2 | Arctics Geopolitics and Autonomy, Arctic Perspective Cahier |
| Hreinsson, P., T. Gunnarsson, S. Benediktsdóttir | 2009 | Causes of the Collapse of the Icelandic Banks: Responsibility, Mistakes and Negligence | Report prepared by the Icelandic Special Investigation Commission (SIC) | http://www.rna.is/media/skjol/RNAvefurKafla21Enska.pdf |
| Ingebritsen, C. | 2006 | Norm Entrepreneurs. Scandinavia's Role in World Politics | Ingebritsen, I. A. (ed.), Small States in International Relations | Seattle: University of Washington Press |
| Jóhannesson, G. Th. | 2007 | Troubled Waters: Cod Wars, Fishing Disputes and Britain's Fight for the Freedom of the High Seas, 1948-64 | Vol. 11 | Studia Atlantica |
| Jónsdóttir, J. | 2013 | Europeanization and the EEA: Iceland's Participation in the EU's Policy Process | | Routledge |
| Keohane, R. P. | 1969 | Lilliputians' Dilemmas: Small States in International Politics | Vol. 23 No. 1 | International Organizations |
| Nansen, F. | 1918 | The Mission of the Small States | Vol. 6 No.1 | The American |

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| | | | | Scandinavian Review Ashgate Pub Ltd |
| Olafsson, B. | 1998 | Small States in the Global System: Analysis & Illustrations from the Case of Iceland | | Ashgate |
| Ólafsson, B. G. | 1998 | Political Power and Independence: Real Independence vs. Nominal | | Cornell University Press |
| Pontuson, J. | 2005 | Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal America | | Cold War History |
| Readman, K. S. | 2006 | Between Political Rhetoric and Realpolitik Calculations: Western Diplomacy and the Baltic Independence Struggle in the Cold War Endgame | Vol. 6 No. 1 | |
| Thorhallsson, B. | 2006 | The Size of States in the EU: Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives | Vol. 28 No.1 | Journal of European Integration |
| Thorhallsson, B. | 2012 | Small States in the UN Security Council: Means of Influence? | Vol. 7 | Hague Journal of Diplomacy |
| Thorhallsson, B. | 2011 | Domestic Buffer vs. External Shelter: Viability of Small States in the New Globalized Economy | Vol. 10 | European Political Science Symposium |
| Thorhallsson, B., R. Kattel | 2012 | Neo-Liberal States and Economic Crisis: Lessons for Democratic Corporatism | | Journal of Baltic Studies |
| Vital, D. | 1967 | The Inequality of States – A Study of the Small Power in International Relations | | Oxford: Clarendon Press |
| Wivel, A. | 2005 | The Security Challenge of Small EU Member States: Interests, Identity and the Development of the EU as a Security Actor | Vol. 43 No. 2 | Journal of Common Market Studies |
| Optional reading | | | | |
| Cooper, A. F., T. M. Shaw | 2009 | The Diplomacies of Small States. Between Vulnerability and Resilience | | International Political Economy Series |
| Rothwell, D.R., T. Stevens | 2010 | The International Law of the Sea | | Hart Publishing |
| Steinmetz, R., A. Wivel (ed) | 2010 | Small States in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities | | Ashgate |
| Thorhallsson, B. | 2012 | The Icelandic Economic Collapse: How to Overcome Constraints Associated with Smallness? | | European Political Science |