



International Relations BA

Study Abroad Course List

Tuition fee: 2900 / 2600 USD

For course syllabi, please contact the Study Abroad Office!

Code	Course title	Semester	Credits (ECTS)
PONTS1001	Central European Political Structures	Fall	8
PONTS1009	Geography of Elections	Fall	8
PONTS1010	Geopolitics	Fall	8
PONTS1012	History of EU Integration I.	Fall	8
PONTS1020	International Political Economy I.	Fall	8
PONTS1028	Latin America from the Cold War up to the present	Fall	8
PONTS1031	Political Africa Studies	Fall	8
PONTS1032	Political Geography, Geography of Security	Fall	8
PONTS1033	Regional Policy	Fall	8
PONTS1035	The EU in International Affairs	Fall	8
PONTS1039	Theories of International Relations	Fall	8
PONTS1045	Political Culture - International Cultural Relations	Fall	8
PONTS1002	Comparative Politics	Spring	8
PONTS1004	Decentralisation and Autonomies	Spring	8
PONTS1005	Democracy Theories	Spring	8
PONTS1013	History of EU Integration II.	Spring	8
PONTS1014	Hungarian Foreign Policy in the 20th Century	Spring	8
PONTS1015	Hungarian Foreign Policy	Spring	8
PONTS1016	Hungary and its Neighbours	Spring	8
PONTS1018	India, Japan and China in the Global World	Spring	8
PONTS1021	International Political Economy II	Spring	8
PONTS1022	Introduction to Diplomacy	Spring	8
PONTS1024	Introduction to Migration Policy	Spring	8
PONTS1025	Introduction to Political Culture	Spring	8
PONTS1026	Introduction to Security Policy	Spring	8



PONTS1030	<u>Modern Social Philosophy</u>	Spring	8
PONTS1036	<u>The History of IR I.</u>	Spring	8
PONTS1040	<u>Theory and Practice of Diplomacy in a Global Context</u>	Spring	8
PONTS1041	<u>USA Foreign Policy</u>	Spring	8
PONTS1043	<u>World History in the 20th Century II.</u>	Spring	8



Detailed information about the courses:

Central European Political Structures

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course offers a survey of the history of Central European political systems after WW2. It gives an introduction to the “Soviet system”, together with the reasons of territorial division, efforts and reforms in countries of the Soviet Bloc, the collapse of the Soviet Union (reasons, consequences). The new position of the former Communist countries in the new world order will be discussed in details. Within the frames of the course the following topics will be discussed; East-Central Europe after Jalta; The building up of the Communist Bloc, The Stalinist Model, the bloc after the death of Stalin, the different ways of Socialism, the ways to transition, the collapse of Socialism, the new institution building, the consequences of the change of the regime, the ways to the EU, the consequences of economic crisis, the new challenges.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

Geography of Elections

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course will focus on the political geography of elections, dealing with the politics of the electoral process. We will examine how elections contribute to the development and use of power and legitimacy in political systems. Most attention will be given to the analysis of the electoral systems, how they influence voters' choices. With the help of this course students will be able to analyse the



	special categories of the geography of elections and will be able to compare the different structures.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, written examinations
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

Geopolitics

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course aims at providing an overview of geopolitical thought from its classical to its post-modern theories. Separate attention will be devoted to the Cold War and how the international system has been transforming into a more multipolar setting since the collapse of the Soviet Union. While states and the state system will be under investigation, students will have the chance to look into non-state actors and the new dynamics of entities of the semi-periphery. Africa will be exposed as an intriguing case study for geopolitical considerations. The methods will include lectures, classroom discussions, student presentations and documentaries.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

History of EU Integration I.

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The European Union is a system of cooperation that has an inevitable influence on Hungary. The goal of the subject is to familiarise students with the history and special features of this integration. They will be given an overview of the international system of relations that influence European integration, the history of relations between the member states and their development through



	crises with special attention to the enlargement process. The courses will explore the creation, structure, operation and relations of the integration institutions - the European Parliament, the Commission, the Council, the Court - and the opportunities for the enforcement of supranational, intergovernmental and subnational agreements with the help of advisory organisations. They will put a great emphasis on the struggle of Hungary to achieve full membership and its role in the Union. Students will have sufficient knowledge to understand the development of integration, be able to assess the role of member state interests, analyse the special transformation of the Union and interpret the different standpoints coherently. This knowledge will contribute to the evolution of European identity.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

International Political Economy I.

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	seminar
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	This course provides an introduction into the political economy. It also examines the different national economies and the role of different actors. It has got a special focus on Central and Eastern Europe, discussing the transition into market economy and also the integration of the CEECs both into the global economy and the European Union. The course highlights among others the different approaches of economic transformation, privatization, the changing role of the state, creation of financial markets, the determining role of the FDI and discussing the differences of the 'Outer directed and the Top-down directed capitalism' transition models. Students will be able to distinguish the importance and consequences of the different scenarios of the change of the regime and the role of the Central and Eastern European region and the European Union as a global market in the world economy.



Assessment methods:	Active participation, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

Latin America from the Cold War up to the present

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	During the Cold War the opposition between USA and the Soviet Union resulted a nuclear standoff. In order to avoid the direct conflicts within the territories of the two camps the Latin American countries became the locations of superpower conflicts. The wars in Latin America substituted the conflicts among the superpowers. This course observes the geopolitics of the Latin American world, the Cuban revolution, the democratic transition and the system of the new international relations.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

Political Africa Studies

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course is designed to investigate the historic heritage and potential place and role of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) - its countries, regional economic communities, together with the continent-wide African Union, including also countries of North Africa as its member states - in the global arena. It will tackle a number of intriguing current issues of EU-SSA relations, the major bilateral linkages such as the ones with the USA, China, Japan, India, Brazil, and other emerging economies of Asia, their development, aid and foreign policies. Special attention will be given to analysing the re-emergence of Central and Eastern European countries across SSA and how they could formulate separate (or joint) policies towards African countries, former allies or friends



	from the era of the Soviet Bloc. The present setting and interactions among state elites, governments, non-governmental organizations, the citizens themselves and the numerous external actors will stay in the centre of discussion.
Assessment methods:	Active presence, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

Political Geography, Geography of Security

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	Within the framework of the course students will get acquainted with the geographical frames of the modern geography of security and the role of the state. Students will have the opportunity to examine the concept of the state within different disciplines, touching issues like states, borders, nations, national minorities, identities, sovereignty, state policies, the size and shape of states, etc. The question of borders will also be discussed with the help of the following concepts: borders, borderlines, CBSs, Euroregions, natural and artificial borders. The question of 'core area' and its role in international conflicts will also be discussed with the help of the Balkan peninsula, as an example. (The Balkans and the successor states of Yugoslavia, and the problem of Kosovo.) The course deals with the special role of capital cities based on different examples. The course also examines the role of enclaves, corridors, exclaves, their challenges from the point of state security. The course will discuss the effect of environmental and political conflicts and their consequences for state security. With the help of this course students will be able to understand the different historical, economic, cultural and security aspects of the role of the state.
Assessment methods:	Active presence, midterm and final exam
Teaching period:	Fall Semester



Regional Policy

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	Regional policy is one of the most important public policies of the EU and for the European member states. Its aims, institutions, means are used in Europe and also are expanding to another continents applied by international development agencies. The principles of the EU structural and cohesion funds like subsidiarity, partnership, monitoring, evaluation, have crucial influence in formulation of domestic development policies aimed catching up the regions lagging behind. The course in a frame of regional and civilization studies introduces the main objectives of EU cohesion policy, and its means like planning, financing, monitoring etc. The students can get insight into the basic terms of regional (social, economic, infrastructural) inequalities and challenges of economic development as well. The material of the curse consists public policy documents (guidelines, plans, legal regulations), statistical data and maps on regional inequalities and also some theoretical literature. Basic skills and theoretical backgrounds, methodological means for analysing of territorial, regional inequalities both in the home countries and international level.
Assessment methods:	Active presence, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

The EU in International Affairs

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8



Course description:	The precise and real nature of the European Union (EU) has long been a question in international affairs. It is difficult to understand, how to deal and cooperate with an actor, which is neither a traditional state nor an intergovernmental international organization. While the EU has significant decision-making authority in certain policy areas, it lacks influence in others. This mix of competencies in external relations can confuse non-members and strain relations among EU member states and the Union's supranational institutions. The course investigates the complexities of the EU's role and authority in international affairs and its relations with peripheries and other actors.
Assessment methods:	Active presence, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

Theories of International Relations

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	This course is designed to provide comprehensive knowledge on the field of theories of international relations. It will introduce students to the most important contending theories such as liberalism and neo-institutional liberalism, realism and neorealism, radical perspectives, and postmodern approaches. It describes how these different approaches explain the basic concepts of international relations, how they define the international system; state and nation; or the role of individuals. Among these topics, it will outline how violent conflicts and wars evolve, how we define peace, and how we can use theories in practice.
Assessment methods:	Active presence, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester



Political Culture - International Cultural Relations

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	<p>The aim of the course is to look into the connections among the various aspects of political culture ranging from the importance of international cultural relations and co-operation, to cultural protectionism, and the aspects of culture and development. The course uses methods from comparative politics and global studies. Theories of international relations, together with the critics of the basic notions of political culture, cultural diplomacy, intercultural communication, as well as concepts and phenomena of European culture, the "Americanisation" of global culture, cultural hegemony and cultural protectionism will be discussed and debated. A number of institutions, tools and programmes of cultural institutions worldwide will be also analysed. Students will broaden their understanding of the concept of political culture. They will be able to point out the underlying connections among the different aspects of "politics" and "culture", and how culture is defended by political tools, as well as how politics need to base upon and protect culture in different contexts. Contemporary knowledge will be acquired about institutions and programmes of culture in our global world.</p>
Assessment methods:	Active presence, written examination
Teaching period:	Fall Semester

Comparative Politics

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	<p>The course aims at providing an overview of the comparative study of politics, which involves the understanding what politics is and the way in which political comparisons can be made. We will</p>



	look at elements, issues, processes closely related with politics, together with different political systems, and what methodology our comparative investigations can be supported with. Major points to be elaborated on: political culture, government, interests, parties and public policy. While some case studies will be introduced and reflected upon, students will be required to deliver group presentations on different political systems in a number of countries
Assessment methods:	exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

Democracy Theories

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	As a form of government, in the history of mankind, most of the time, democracy was an accident rather than the rule for human societies and even in those times when it existed, its critics (Plato, Aristotle, to name just the most influential) were more to be heard than its enthusiasts. This brief statement suggests that democracy is something unnatural, while we live in an era in which democracy seems for us the most natural form of government, and even autocratic regimes try to get democratic legitimacy. We will follow the historical path of democracy from 5th Century B.C. Athens to the Italian city states of the 15th Century, from the first description of democracy as found on the ground by Alexis de Tocqueville and in the meantime rendering the first thorough critique of it, from its takeoff in the liberal 19th Century and its collapse at the beginning of the 20th (think of Nazism and Communism), from the heyday of democracy in the second half of the 20th Century to its limits experienced today when populism takes the stage. While embarking on this



	historical journey, we will try to disclose the inner contradictions of democracy as well.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, final exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

History of EU Integration II.

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	This course is the second part of a one-year-long course for the first year students learning International Studies. However it is open for everyone who want to gain knowledge on European integration and its history. The procedure we call European integration started at the beginning of the 20th century or even previously. The course provides the detailed history of the bodies and key persons, events of the integration procedure after 1945. People are welcome to enroll without the first part of the course.
Assessment methods:	written exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

Hungarian Foreign Policy in the 20th Century

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	Hungary has a quite interesting path of history from a state within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy to being a free democracy. Along the way governments, regimes and political actualities formed the country's foreign affairs and acts so as the realities of this controversial era. The course is an introduction to the Hungarian foreign affairs during the 20th century. By the end the participants will have a better understanding on East-central European international



	relations and foreign affairs throughout a specific example, which ment to be Hungary.
Assessment methods:	written exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

Hungarian Foreign Policy

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The aim of the course is to introduce the history of contemporary Hungarian foreign policy to the students. It will follow Hungary's diplomatic steps, bi-and multilateral relations and international margin of action from the end of the First World War until today. Special emphasis will be oriented on the presentation of the instruments of independent Hungarian foreign policy, of the decision-making and executive processes and of the participating officials and institutions.
Assessment methods:	written exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

Hungary and its Neighbours

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	This is a course on comparative politics concentrating on the transition from communism since 1989. More narrowly defined this is an exercise in comparative "transitology". But to the transition, there is a long way to go. As a starting point, we will make an overview of the circumstances of the WWI and its outcome, when the dissolution of the Austrian-Hungarian dual Monarchy left the ground for nation states to set up their own political framework, along the lines of the Wilsonian self-determination principle. We will move to the period in which different combinations of authoritarianism and democracy characterized the countries of East-Central



	Europe. We will discuss in some detail the enduring tradition of nationalism in these countries and cultural trauma as a concept that might be used for an analysis. Our historical trail will lead us to the communisms of the region and later to the differences in transition from it to democracy. Approaching our present day, through empirical research data and several studies that evaluate them, we will attempt to describe the state of the Hungarian society as we'll find it today.
Assessment methods:	Essays, presentation, final essay
Teaching period:	Spring semester

India, Japan and China in the Global World

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course focuses on three Asian powers, Japan, China and India. While the 'Shift to the East' takes place, these powers are about to dominate political and economic relations, and have their strategic geopolitical visions as well. During the semester, we are going to examine the countries based on geopolitical and historical ties, heavily focusing on challenges and chances, while not forgetting about the society.
Assessment methods:	written exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

International Political Economy II

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	This course provides an introduction into the political economy. It examines the different actors and their influence in economy. It gives a description of the development of international markets, the role of international trade, the importance of MNCs in the international context.



	It also examines the international monetary and financial system.
Assessment methods:	Presentation, oral exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

Introduction to Diplomacy

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course attempts to discuss the evolution and development of diplomacy, 'the management of relations between independent states by the process of negotiation' (the elegant way), as well as 'the art of saying nice "doggie" until you can find a rock' (the inelegant way). First, we will look at its roots, the first theoreticians/theories and the different types of diplomacy in detail. Then, attention will be paid to bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, together with how the traditional practice of diplomacy has been broadened and what public diplomacy means in our global world today. Guest lecturers will bring other intriguing topics such as how diplomats work, or what trade diplomacy means. We will get acquainted with the basis of the diplomatic protocol as well. At the end of the course, students will be required to present briefly their countries' diplomacy.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, presentation, final test
Teaching period:	Spring semester



Introduction to Migration Policy

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course provides a theoretical background to international migration. It tackles migration policy while understanding the complexities of development, the role of the diasporas, together with the questions of integration. It addresses a number of case studies connected with the current refugee crisis in Europe.
Assessment methods:	essay, oral exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

Introduction to Political Culture

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course provides a theoretical overview of political culture in a comparative manner. A 'triangular approach' (developed by the lecturer) will be used for a better understanding of the interconnected aspects (including also political socialization and political communication): the intention is to present the three 'legs' on which the context of investigation is based when political culture is discussed and different political cultures are compared. This 'triangular framework' will show the major notions and points of reference to help students comprehend the complexity of political culture.
Assessment methods:	written exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester



Introduction to Security Policy

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course examines security from a global perspective and discusses security issues that transcend borders and which can only be adequately addressed through global security cooperation. Most of the actual global security issues are non-traditional in the sense that they are not directly related to traditional nation state competition and interstate war. The course introduces the concept of security and discusses the key theories, concepts, and issues that are under its domain, such as realism, liberalism, great power politics, regional issues, and asymmetric conflict. The course also gives a special focus on Hungarian issues.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, final exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

Modern Social Philosophy

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	This is a short introduction to the history of political thought, picking those themes that are of major importance even today. Past thoughts are not past but might be relevant insofar as we reconsider them according to our present needs and circumstances. Historical and interpretive dimensions intersect each-other. Socrates and the first tragic encounter of thinking and politics, Aristotle's theory of family and the role of women within it, Plato's utopia and social engineering, Thomas Aquinas and his natural law theory, Machiavelli and political realism, Thomas Hobbes and authoritarian government and social contract, John Locke and natural liberties, Montesquieu and division of powers, Jean-Jacques Rousseau's strive for



	perfect equality and his notion of general will, Alexis de Tocqueville who describes the first occurrence of democracy and gives it the first critical assessment, John Stuart Mill on individualism and liberty, Immanuel Kant and the categorical imperative, Hegel's philosophy of history, Karl Marx's class theory are those authors and themes we will center upon, beginning from the 5th Century B.C. to the 20th Century.
Assessment methods:	oral exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester

The History of IR I.

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	The course examines the history of international relations between 1945 and the turn of 1970/1980s. Within this course we will focus on the most important events, places and actors. The following topics will be discussed: the Yalta system, the beginning of the Cold War, the détente period in Europe, the process of decolonization, the crisis in CEE countries, the birth of the Brezhnev Doctrine and the analysis and the consequence of the Helsinki summit. Skills and abilities: Students completed this course will be able to explain the process and the challenges of the bipolar system, the consequences of the changes in orientation among the great powers after 1945, the threats of the bipolar system and the frames of the independency within the socialist countries.
Assessment methods:	Active participation, final exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester



Theory and Practice of Diplomacy in a Global Context

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	<p>The course attempts to discuss the evolution and development of diplomacy, 'the management of relations between independent states by the process of negotiation' (the elegant way), as well as 'the art of saying nice "doggie" until you can find a rock' (the inelegant way). First, we will look at its roots, the first theoreticians/theories and the different types of diplomacy in detail. Then, attention will be paid to bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, together with how the traditional practice of diplomacy has been broadened and what public diplomacy means in our global world today. After the mid-term test at the end of February, forms of unconventional diplomacy will be analyzed. Prior to the sessions devoted to the student presentations, city and university (education) diplomacy will also be featured, offering the case of the City of Pécs and the University of Pécs from both angles.</p>
Assessment methods:	presentation, written exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester



USA Foreign Policy

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	Within the framework of this course students have the opportunity to get informed about the international relations of the USA and the changing role of the USA in world politics. The course observes the growth of the USA, the process how it became a world power from a neglected group of colonies. The course focuses on the doctrines and opportunities of foreign policy carried out by the different governments. Students have the possibility to develop their knowledge about the wars the USA participated in, and the peace treaties and alliances the USA carried out. The course also focuses on the internal background of the foreign policy of the USA. This course gives an outline introduction to the history of the USA. Students can get acquainted with the aspects of a world power and a non-European point of view of foreign policy.
Assessment methods:	written exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester



World History in the 20th Century II.

Language of instruction:	English
Form of teaching:	lecture
Class hours per week:	2
Credits (ECTS):	8
Course description:	<p>The course will introduce students to the main events of second part of 20th Century. It will explain the consequences of Second World War, describe the evolution of Cold War; outline its most important elements in Europe and worldwide; and specify the fall of Soviet Block and its effects on the international system. Special emphasis will be put on Asia and the decolonization process. We will end the semester with an overview of the Twentieth Century and analyse how the course of the history changed during this period.</p> <p>Competences:</p> <p>The subject will create a basic framework for understanding contemporary international relations. Students completing this course will be able to understand the most important features of the 20th century and will understand the patterns that still influence our current international affairs.</p>
Assessment methods:	exam
Teaching period:	Spring semester