Syllabus

Regions of Peace and Regions of War: Europe Asia and the Middle East - 58385

Last update 07-10-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: International Relations

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: E. Safra

Course/Module Coordinator: Korina Kagan

Coordinator Email: korina.kagan@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff: Dr. Korina Kagan
Course/Module description:
The course will deal with issues of war and peace in three key regions of the current international system: Europe, East Asia and the Middle East. These regions show great variance in their stability and propensity to war. The question that will guide us during the course is how we can explain such differences among various regions in the same period and under the same international system. For that purpose, we shall begin with reviewing a range of factors explaining regional war and peace, and then will apply them to the three regions in turn.

Course/Module aims:
The course aims to develop a good critical understanding of the major competing approaches and theories to studying regional war and peace, as well as the ability to apply them to analyzing processes and events in the three regions the course deals with, as well as other regions.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To gain a good knowledge of the major approaches and theories in International Relations in the field of regional war and peace; to develop the ability to criticize the various approaches in the light of competing approaches; to apply the approaches to the analysis of the state of war and peace in different regions of the world; and to evaluate the relative success of the various theoretical approaches in explaining war and peace in the three regions the course deals with, as well as in other regions.

Attendance requirements(%):
80% of the classes

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture

Course/Module Content:
The Course Plan:

1. Introduction:
- Regional security as a problem for study: What is a region? What is security? What is regional security, and why should we study it?
- The major competing theoretical approaches to the study of regional war and peace
2. Regional Security in Europe:

- The causes of peace in post-Cold War Europe
- Germany as the lynchpin of the European peace: has the tiger changed its spots?
- Extending to European zone of peace eastward after the end of the Cold War: the role of European institutions
- NATO and its extension to Eastern Europe: causes and repercussions for Europe-Russian relations
- Muslim immigrants in Europe: do they pose a security threat?

3. Regional security in East Asia:

- Causes of peace and tension in Asia after the Cold War
- The intentions of rising China: a moderate status-quo power or a future aggressor?
- Japan: still a pacifist civilian power?
- ASEAN: a budding security community or an unimportant and overhyped institution?
- Nuclear weapons in East Asia and South Asia: stabilizing or destabilizing? The cases of India-Pakistan and North Korea

4. Regional security in the Middle East

- Why is there so much conflict in the Middle East? Why does the region lag behind Europe and East Asia in this respect?
- The causes of Middle Eastern Islamic terrorism
- The prospect of Iranian nuclear weapons: how much should we be worried?
- The recent US interventions in the Middle East and the war in Iraq: why has the US found it so difficult to stabilize the region?
- Why did the Arab Spring fail?
- US – Israel relations: the debate over Mearsheimer and Walt’s Israel Lobby thesis

Required Reading:
The Reading List

Introduction: the concept and study of regions


Theoretical approaches to studying regional war and peace:


Europe:

Joseph Joffe, “Europe’s American Pacifier”, Foreign Policy, no. 54 (1984), pp. 64-82.


Norrin Ripsman, “Two Stages of Transition from a Region of War to a Region of


John Mearsheimer, Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West’s Fault: The Liberal Delusions that Provoked Putin, Foreign Affairs, vol. 93, no. 5 (September-October 2014), pp. 77-89.

Justin Vaisse, Eurabian Follies, Foreign Policy, no. 177 (January-February 2010), pp. 86-88.

East Asia:


The Middle East:


Ehud Sprinzak, “Rational Fanatics“, Foreign Policy, no. 120 (September-October 2000), pp. 60-73.


Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
- End of year written/oral examination 0 %
- Presentation 0 %
- Participation in Tutorials 0 %
- Project work 100 %
- Assignments 0 %
- Reports 0 %
- Research project 0 %
- Quizzes 0 %
- Other 0 %

Additional information: