

## Current Issues in International Politics (K001258)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 3.0** **Study time 90 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent	seminar
			independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Van de Graaf, Thijs	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
Biscop, Sven	PS03	co-lecturer
Haesebrouck, Tim	PS03	co-lecturer
Lesage, Dries	PS03	co-lecturer
Vermeiren, Mattias	PS03	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Political Science)</a>	3	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Political Science(main subject International Politics)</a>	3	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

International politics – topical issues – globalization and global trends

**Position of the course**

This course aims to present students with interpretations of current, topical developments in world politics. More precisely, it aims to provide deep insights into the actors, interests, mechanisms and trends that underpin current events. This course is related to the following competencies of the Master in Political Science: M. 1.2, M. 1.3, M. 1.4, M. 2.1, M. 3.1, M. 3.2, M. 3.3, M. 4.1, M. 5.2 en M. 5.3.

**Contents**

The contents of this course are largely dependent on what happens at the international stage. The headline events in international relations will be framed in a broader context. Wars, geopolitical shifts, international negotiations and agreements, sanctions, referenda and elections, and global economic issues are just the beginning of a long list of potential topics that could be dealt with in this course. Through debates, group discussions and collaborative work we will explore the specific issues and frictions linked to each topic.

**Initial competences**

The course builds on several competences of the courses 'History of World Politics' and 'Theory of International Relations'. Having passed these courses is highly recommended.

**Final competences**

- 1 Assess the dynamics and structure of topical developments in world politics, and find links with theories and concepts of international relations
- 2 Situate current developments in world politics in a broader (historical and theoretical) framework
- 3 Form a creative and nuanced opinion about topical issues in world politics, and support it with arguments
- 4 Report and debate orally and in writing about current issues in world politics

- 5 Collaborative group work on international political issues
- 6 Defend an assigned position on a current issue in international politics and provide constructive feedback on others'

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

### Extra information on the teaching methods

This course is designed to give students greater flexibility to explore a current international theme in depth, supported by feedback, expert debates, and group discussions.

The course is structured around two main components: group work and panel debates.

For the group work, students are assigned to small teams. Under the guidance of a lecturer or department staff member, they prepare an **Oxford Style** debate in which the group must defend a controversial proposition.

In addition, two public panel debates featuring external speakers are organized. Each panel is followed by a **facilitated group discussion** with a limited number of students.

### Study material

None

### References

### Course content-related study coaching

### Assessment moments

continuous assessment

### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

### Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

### Extra information on the examination methods

Participation in two lectures is required, as well as active involvement in the moderated group discussions.

The group work must result in two final outputs: a debate briefing document and participation in an Oxford Style debate.

If a student does not participate in the evaluation of one or more components of the course, they cannot pass the course as a whole. In such cases, even if the calculated final score is higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-deliberable grade (7/20).

### Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation (100%).

If an event is missed due to a valid reason (e.g., illness with a doctor's note), the student should immediately contact the lecturer, who will look for a compensating activity or assignment. Each student should attend at least 3 events. Students that do not attend an event or group discussion and do not have a valid reason for their absence, or who refuse to take part in a compensating activity or assignment, can obtain a final mark no higher than 7/20.

### Facilities for Working Students

This course may be difficult to combine with a working student status, as attendance is **mandatory** for certain course components. **No recordings** or

**alternative assignments** are provided for these sessions.  
Please take this into account when enrolling.