1ST SEMESTER

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

The purpose of this mandatory course is to introduce and present the scientific principles of economic thinking, together with the basics of micro- and macro-economics. Understandability and comprehensibility to a wide spectrum of students are the key approach. The course puts economics into interdisciplinary context and builds applied competence in the first place.

INTRODUCTION TO INTERPERSONAL AND MEDIA COMMUNICATION

The course is an introduction into psychological and mediological problematics of human communication. The first part of the course focuses on selected psychological aspects of verbal and non-verbal interpersonal communication. The second part of the course concentrates attention to important media strategies, interpretations and norms, including critical theories of persuasion, discourse and audience. As the course explains the most influential theories and presents their application to selected examples, it helps to improve the skills needed for better orientation in human relations; it makes the communication with individual, group and audience more effective.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

The course aims at providing students with basic knowledge on law as a normative system of behaviour. As the course shall be introductory to any other legal courses in the programme curriculum, it shall cover the basic themes and issues. Course content is divided into two parts, where the first one is focused on theory of law and elementary legal terminology, theory of the state and forms of government and legal systems in the world. The second part focuses more on valid law and practical aspects of it, where focus is on substantive and procedural civil and criminal law. The international law introductory information shall be covered as well. In the second part, main focus shall be on Czech legal system and students shall be able to gain basic orientation in the relevant legislation.

EVOLUTION OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

This course is to introduce students to the development and evolution of European cooperation and integration. It provides the students with an historical overview of European integration as well as with the key controversies of the integration process. The course considers the milestones of post-war European integration by analysing the institutions, procedures and instruments of European integration. It also discusses major EU policies and the distribution of competencies between member states and the Union. By the end of the semester, students will have a good understanding of how the European integration process has evolved over time and which have been its main controversies and challenges.

INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN STUDIES

Within the course students should acquire a broad and introductory awareness of the basic cultural, political, historical, religious, and linguistic issues that play role both in the individual countries as well as in the region as a whole. Special attention will also be paid to the position of the region within the system of international relations. Upon completion, the students should be capable of

a) defining and explaining the significance of basic concepts relating to population, climate, political structure, cultural and socio-economic diversity in India, Southeast Asia, China, Korea, and Japan;
b) identifying the most important historical events, religions, languages, literary classics, social groups, social and religious movements, and socio-economic issues in Asia;
2ND SEMESTER

WORLD POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

This compulsory course is meant to introduce students to the geopolitical, geo-economic, geo-social and geostrategic map from the perspective of international relations. It helps students visualise international relations phenomena, such as conflict and conflict resolution, regime types, nations and states, economic wealth and disparity and values (etc). Additionally, this course intends to critically evaluate maps and mapping to show the forms of political expression than may be projected and/or suppressed through such maps. Finally, this course acts in tandem with the Introduction to International Relations and History of the 20th Century courses to assist students understand the international relations environment that surrounds them and the origins of that environment.

HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY 1

This two-semester course is designed to introduce students to the major developments in early twentieth-century politics, society and economy around the world. In the first part of the course, there is a particular focus on international relations, including imperialism and the two world wars.

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

The course is designed to provide students with an introduction to political science as a discipline. The course first explores the scope of political science as a field of inquiry as well as the qualitative and quantitative methods used by political scientists. It then focuses on the fundamental concepts of political science and examines the nature of modern state, the main differences between democratic and non-democratic regimes and how political institutions work within different regime types. The course also examines how political preferences are formed, the role of social cleavages and how they shape party systems as well as how parties compete. Finally, the course discusses the outcomes of political processes and why some political institutions tend to produce desirable social outcomes, such as accountability, redistribution and political stability.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The course focuses on international cooperation within institutionalized processes, regimes and policies, while aiming to assess the functioning of various forms of international organization. It combines theoretical, methodological and practical aspects relevant for the study of international institutions. Firstly, the course introduces the key conceptual and theoretical frameworks for understanding international cooperation and integration processes. Secondly, it analyzes the most significant international organizations, including both governmental and non-governmental institutions. In addition to the combination of theoretical and empirical study, the lectures are covering universal, global and Western organizations as well as various significant institutions established in the regions of Africa, Asia or Latin America. The key assumption of the course is inclusive approach to international politics with special emphasis on critical thinking encouraged among students.

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

This course aims at achieving two broad objectives. Firstly, it establishes knowledge pool enabling an understanding of the main terms, issues and conceptual contours of conflict resolution. It overviews theories and models of conflict resolution and conflict management. The course provides an understanding of contemporary conflict resolution, from local community mediation, through peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-enforcement to humanitarian intervention and post-conflict peace-building. Also, it highlights history and development of the field. A series of case studies will be put under the microscope. Secondly, it is designed to encourage students in developing critical thinking and
transferable skills. With regard to the logic of the course organisation, it is divided into two main parts. The course starts with the conceptual part and the second part consists of case studies, both done in an interdisciplinary manner.

THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

This elective course investigates into the relationship between the environment and international politics. It offers insights into how environment can influence relations between states and how states deal with environmental issues. Generally, it first presents the link between environment and politics/security, then focuses on the inception of environmental agenda in international relations, then introduces the concepts of sustainable development and then introduces various governance practices in the field of environmental protection and cooperation.

3RD SEMESTER

HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY 2

This follow-up course aims to acquaint students with the major developments in later twentieth-century international politics, from 1945 until approximately 2001, including important social, economic and ideological aspects. There is a particular focus on the Cold War and on regions of key importance.

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

The aim of the course is to introduce the students to questions regarding how to plan and carry out research. The students are intended to get an enhanced understanding of what research methodology is and how methodological awareness can improve the quality of research papers and dissertations. The first part of the course provides the participants with an overview regarding the methodological issues you need to address while carrying out any kind of research assignment; including issues related to research questions, choice of methodology, linkage between theory and methodology. The second part of the course focuses on methods for how to gather and interpret data.

GLOBAL ISSUES

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the main characteristics of the current global system and to identify important changes brought by the end of the Cold War. In the end, students should be able to understand the on-going process of globalization and to address both the positive and negative consequences for the international politics. We will start by explanation of some basic concepts, like the nation state, transnationalism, interdependence and finally globalization. These theoretical blocks will be followed by topics divided into three main areas: global governance, global security and global development. We will address various actors involved in world politics and challenging issues that need to be responded, for instance the on-going clash of fundamental principles, the changing nature of war, increasing importance of human security, or the environmental problems. The lectures will be followed by group discussions so that students would be able to think critically and independently about contemporary world affairs.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

This course should extend the knowledge and skills of the students from previous legal courses in the field of International Law. The course program shall present to students the elementary principles of the International law as separate and distinctive legal system. Partly, this course shall be a presentation of selected disciplines within international law, such as humanitarian law or law of the sea. Mainly, it shall be aimed to present the issues related to sources and subjects of international law, negotiating of treaties
and creation of customary law and international judiciary bodies and their role in the system of international law. The course has been designed as interactive with full participation of students on each topic. Students will be required to prepare for each session reading selected texts and preparing answers on question submitted for each session. Also, there shall be a moot court (simulated case trial) during the semester and students will be required to take an active part in it, as an applicants, defendants as well as the court.

POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

This course’s main function is to explore how various systems of categorising the world helped sustain conflicts, changed the course of history, and contributed to prosperity and stability. In addition to exploring key concepts, political programs, and normative principles of systems of ideas, we will seek to broaden understanding of the concept of ideology. A number of persistent issues underscore the enduring effect of political beliefs and doctrines that have dominated and shaped world politics throughout the twentieth century. Rather than exploring ideologies from purely philosophical vantage point, this course blends practical, historical, and philosophical aspects placing emphasis on connection between various ideologies and their tie in to international relations. The emphasis is placed on the effects each of key ideologies of the twentieth century had on the development of international system, on how ideologies impinged upon relations between nations, on how they spread norms, affected social interaction, structured societal organisation and transformation.

THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA

The first decade of the 21st century gave Latin America much to celebrate. Open markets and largely stable economic policies enabled the region to take advantage of surging commodity prices and global demand. Many Latin American countries shined on the world stage, becoming important participants in multilateral institutions and forums: Brazil is leading a UN mission on Haiti and strives, along with Argentina, for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Mexico is today’s fastest growing commercial partner for the USA, whereas Chile is considered as a “Pacific gateway” to Latin America. Upon completion of this elective course, students will:
• Develop a critical understanding of crucial Latin America’s political, social, economic and cultural challenges of today;
• Gain a clear understanding of Latin American countries’ role and relevance in contemporary international relations, as well as the foreign-policy ambitions of selected group of actors;
• Comprehend major historical and political trends that helped to shape the region;
• Gain skills to identify the most relevant national and transnational issues that Latin America has been facing;
• Put in context the existing schemes of regional and global economic integration relating to Latin America;
• Be able to analyze and contextualize the most relevant media coverage of Latin America;

4TH SEMESTER

INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN LAW

This course shall provide students with elementary knowledge of the Law of the European Union and fulfil by that their general knowledge on EU that they have acquired in other courses of the program. The course expects students to know the history, development and institutional system of EU and will be focused solely on the legal matters. Therefore, main impact shall be in presenting and understanding of EU Law as separate legal system and it functioning within the legal systems of the member states, which includes the supremacy principle, direct effect, subsidiarity principle, proportionality principle and other. As part of the course shall study of the judicial remedies within EU Law system, from various legal angles
as standing of the participants, terms, scope of various actions. The last part of the course shall aim on four freedoms – free movement of goods, persons, services and freedom of establishment and the competition rules.

**COMPARISON OF MODERN DEMOCRACIES**

The main objective of the course is to familiarize students with the major concepts and models of democracies. The course focuses on the historical evolution of modern democracies as well as the social, cultural and economic determinants of democracies. It examines the criteria for defining a democracy (compared to other regime types) and specifically looks at the relation between democracy and dictatorship. The course also considers different models of modern democracies and discusses democratic transitions and different waves of democracy. It also examines the recent challenges of modern liberal democracies related to globalization as well as the notion of ‘illiberal’ democracy. Through class presentations, students will also examine cases of modern democracies in comparative perspective.

**INTRODUCTION TO EU POLICIES**

The aim of the course is to introduce students to policy-making and major policies of the EU. It starts by discussing the specific nature of EU policy-making as well as different approaches to the EU’s multi-level governance. The course then analyses the most important internal and external policies of the EU. It also provides the students with a deeper understanding of the contemporary developments within most important EU policy fields. At the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the EU, its institutional processes and key policies, as well as challenges of policy-making in the context of European integration.

**EUROPEAN SECURITY**

The aim of this course to examine how Europe has addressed key challenges to its security. The course specifically looks at the EU’s responses to the recent challenges posed by expanded notions of external and internal security. It also takes a closer look at the nature of security in contemporary Europe and how Europe’s internal and external security relate to each other. The course first discusses external security threats and examines the EU’s attempts to construct a unified security and defence policy backed up by military capabilities under EU command. We will then assess the dimensions and importance of transnational terrorism, illegal immigration and organized crime – such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling, cybercrimes and trafficking in human beings – as key internal security issues. The course approach ways in which illegal immigration has affected national security concerns and how the immigration and terrorism dynamic plays out over time. Finally, the course will assess climate change and environmental issues that play an increasingly important role in European security debates.

**INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

This course provides an introduction into the institutions and decision-making in the European Union. We will start with the historical evolution of the institutional framework of the EU, which has undergone substantial changes since the beginning of the European integration process. Emphasis will be put on the four key EU institutions: the European Commission, the European Council, the EU Council and the European Parliament. However, we will also address other advisory and judicial institutions that form the complex and interlinked institutional framework of European integration. Given the increasing importance of the Eurozone as the focus of further deepening of European integration, we will pay particular attention to the euro area institutions. Students will learn how the key decisions affecting the strategic direction of the EU are adopted through the revision of the Union treaties and the day-to-day decision on the form of EU legislation. We will also discuss ways in which the EU enforces its rules, and mention the specific decisions, such as the admission of new members or withdrawal of existing ones.
Finally, we focus on the theoretical reflection of the involvement of European (and national) institutions in EU decision-making processes and their role in the integration process in general.

CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“Conflicts in the Middle East” is an elective course on the history of the region from the late 19th to the beginning of the 21st century. From the rise of nationalism and the First World War, to the following major political and military clashes and the Cold War, students will gradually move to the present crisis, when the Middle East is mainly associated with the rise of Muslim extremism and global terrorism. The course attendees should gain an overview of the fundamental influences that contributed to the region’s current instability. The Middle East will be therefore discussed also as the scene of global strategic competition, as the top weapons market and the key source of oil products for the rest of the World.

THE DOMESTIC POLITICS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The focus of this course is on the interaction between European integration and domestic politics. It specifically aims to examine the impact of European integration on the domestic politics of European states. It therefore looks at how parties respond to the growing influence of the EU and the effect of EU impact on national party systems. The course seeks to answer how political parties determine positions on the EU, what are the key motives behind their positions and what are the drivers of Eurosceptic attitudes. The course also examines the way the European issues play out in the party systems of member and candidate states, and specifically the role of European issues in domestic elections. It thus explores how general public form opinions on this issue and looks at voters’ preferences in both national and European parliamentary elections as well as referendums on EU-related issues.

5TH SEMESTER

EU AND EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD

Eastern Neighbourhood of the European Union has become one of the most significant foreign policy issue areas of the bloc. Eastern Neighbourhood is made up of the post-Soviet states. The relations of those states are closely intertwined and significantly affect the European Union. Stability, regulation of migration, and resolution of conflicts – all have become inextricably linked to the EU’s strategic narratives in the region. Theoretically, this course employs regional, geopolitical analyses and theoretical framework of international relations theories. Empirically the course identifies and researches various EU strategies in dealing with the post-Soviet space. Detailed analysis of multilateral frameworks, advanced by the EU for its engagement with its Eastern neighbours, is employed. Along with it, origins of the post-Soviet space, legacy of the USSR, and its international effects are addressed. Major objective of this course is developing advanced knowledge of regional affairs and EU’s multilateral/bilateral approaches to the region. Studying EU relations with its Eastern periphery will be most useful for students primarily focusing their research on security, international conflicts, regionalism, alignment studies, EU energy security, geopolitics of Ukraine, Russia, Baltic States, and Caucasus. Additionally, the course will be advantageous for those interested in EU Eastern Neighbourhood.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS

The aim of the course is to introduce students to political systems and societies of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) states. The course starts with an introduction of the concept of Central and Eastern Europe, followed by an examination of the impact of communism and the challenges of transition to post-communism in this region. The course then examines political and party systems, political parties and electoral systems that have emerged over the last two decades in this region. It also discusses the nature of the region’s post-communist democratisation and the kind of democracy that has been developing in
Central and Eastern Europe. The course also examines the long-term consequences of the economic reforms pursued by the regional governments and related social transformations in Central and Eastern Europe. The course ends by an examination of the process of European integration of these countries as well as the specific circumstances of the transition of the Western Balkans.

**EU AND NON-WESTERN REGIONS**

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the most important issues relating to the EU external action in non-Western regions of the world, most importantly in Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. First, the course will examine the evolution of the role of Europe in these regions over time. We will then discuss specific examples of contemporary EU action and partnerships in selected countries, some of which have been linked to Europe by strong historical, cultural and economic ties. Last, attention will also be paid to the main policies and practices - both formal and informal – that the EU has developed in selected non-Western regions: regional policies, cultural diplomacy, economic, security cooperation and military missions.

**THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE EU**

This course examines the relationship between the Czech Republic and the European Union. It starts with historical discourse of the European integration after the Second World War and its deepening and widening processes until its biggest enlargement in 2004. It assesses how European integration, its processes and policies affected the Czech domestic policies, laws and government institutions. The course also addresses the Czech representation in the EU institutions and the conduct of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2009. Second part of the course focuses on the policies of the European Union in detail, such as the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Economic and Monetary Union, Common Agriculture, Environmental and Regional Policy and the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Lectures will assess, on one hand, the impact of such policies on the Czech Republic and on the other hand, Czech influence on its implementation and future development.

**UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING**

The course covers the problematics of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKOs), one of the hottest topics in international politics of the post-Cold War era. Peacekeeping operations have always placed high on the UN agenda and in the last decade, they have become the most visible of all UN activities. They have also expanded substantially in terms of their scope and their mandates nowadays often include various peacebuilding activities. We will cover the following topics: definitions, taxonomies, history, principles and legal framework of UN PKOs, principal critiques of UN PKOs in the post-cold war era, research and analysis of the success of UN PKOs operations in resolving contemporary conflicts, current and future trends in UN PKOs, other Conflict Resolution methods available to the United Nations. Since UN is not the only actor involved in either peacekeeping or peacebuilding, we will also explore non-United Nations operations.

**INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY**

The aim of this one-semester course is to familiarize students with the most important approaches to the study of anthropology and peoples of the world and their relevance to the international relations and international security. We will first examine the key approaches toward the study of anthropology and the evolution of its key concepts over time: notion of culture, question of diversity, race, colonialism, religion, power relations and hierarchies. Simultaneously, we will explore in which ways the anthropological analysis helps us better comprehend the contemporary topics in international relations, such as the international cooperation; political ideologies and/or democracy; international security; international political economy and the impact of globalization on states and societies.
6TH SEMESTER

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The aim of the course is to give participants an overview of recent developments related to European integration. The course targets topical issues and students are encouraged to reflect on those from a scholarly perspective. For this reason, the course schedule is continuously subject to change. However, some of the issues that have caused controversies throughout history of European integration are targeted during the first part of the course, such as the issue of democratic legitimacy, Euroscepticism and disintegration, the plausibility of European integration, the limits of enlargement.

CZECH POLITICAL SYSTEM

The aim of the course is to provide an analysis of the political system and political development of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic since 1918 up today. The first part of the course will look at the political development and political system in Czechoslovakia in years 1918-1992. It will focus on political traditions of Czechs and Slovaks before World War I., activities during World War I., the politics of so called First Czechoslovak Republic, crisis of the First Czechoslovak Republic and rise of semi-authoritarian Second Republic and Slovak autonomy, so called Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and Slovak War State. Following lectures will deal with after World War II. development, so called Third Republic, rise of communist and their power takeover in February 1948, the politics under totalitarian regime, unsuccessful attempt to reform the system in 1968, normalization and Velvet Revolution. The last lecture in the historical part will deal with the period of 1989-1992 and the split of Czechoslovakia. The second part of the course will focus on current Czech Republic, its development since it gained independence in 1993 and the main institutional pillars of the constitutional system. It will analyze the political, electoral and party system.

WORLD ECONOMY

The course introduces the world economy as a study subject and a scientific field. The course first examines the world economy (henceforth WE) as a real socio-economic system. Looking into the beginnings and functioning of the WE, the course introduces the elements and functioning of the system. In the second part of the course, evolution of the WE is studied with the main focus on the period from the end of WWII until present. After that, world economic centres are studied and mutually compared. Finally, the course examines developing countries and transition economies along with the current issues of the WE and the future perspectives.