

1. The emerging Cold War

- The position of the victorious powers after the Second World War. The appearance of conflicts between the Allies (1945–1947)
- Subjects of international law and their characteristics. Recognition of States and governments under international law
- Transatlantic and regional pillars of the post-World War II European security architecture
- The birth of the science of international relations. The ontological framework of the science of international relations

2. The framework of the post-World War II peace settlement

- The peace treaties of 1947 in Paris and the 1951 Treaty of Peace with Japan
- Sources of international law
- The United Nations' role in international security
- The epistemological framework of international relations studies

3. Realpolitik, ideology and open conflict in the early Cold War

- The coldest years of the Cold War (1947–1953)
- Use of force under international law (its prohibition, exceptions and grey zones), lawfulness of the use of force during the Korean war of 1950–1951 and the in the Arab–Israeli conflicts
- The spread of nuclear weapons and the nuclear arms race
- The principles of realism in international relations theory. Classical and modern realism (Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Morgenthau)

4. The Soviet Union after Stalin's death

- Fundamental change in East–West relations: the first *détente* period, 1953–1956. Pseudo Cold War crises, 1956: Poland, Hungary, Suez
- Peaceful settlement of international disputes by diplomatic means and in the framework of international organisations; discussions on the 1956 Hungarian revolution in UN organs
- Definition of peacekeeping and the first generation of peacekeeping operations
- The neoliberal movement in international relations theory

5. The strategic arms race

- Real Cold War crises: The Berlin crisis and the Cuban missile crisis
- Weapons of Mass Destruction non-proliferation during the Cold War
- International humanitarian law (The Hague law and Geneva law), its basic principles and prohibited weapons
- The principles of liberalism in international relations theory; the neoliberal institutionalism strand

6. The question of European security: the Helsinki process

- The German question and West-German *Ostpolitik*
- The Helsinki conference and its consequences, the Helsinki Follow-up Meetings
- Establishment of diplomatic relations, functions of diplomatic missions, immunities of diplomatic missions
- The democratic peace theory – are democracies more peaceful than other regimes?

7. The transformation of East–West relations and political transition in East–Central Europe

- The Cold War between 1979–1985, NATO Double-Track Decision
- Gorbachev's reforms and the US–Soviet summits
- Process of political transition in a selected country of East–Central Europe
- Territory of States under international law: territorial sovereignty, State borders, acquisition of State territory and limitations of territorial sovereignty
- Offensive and defensive neorealism in international relations theory

8. The end of the Cold War, dissolution of the Soviet Union and German reunification

- The causes and the process of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the creation of CIS
- Nuclear non-proliferation after 1990, START Treaties, nuclear weapons in the post-Soviet states
- Questions of state succession and its practice in relation to the dissolution of USSR and Yugoslavia
- Social liberalism and liberal republicanism in international relations theory

9. The 1990s: a New World Order?

- The role of the UN Security Council in international lawmaking in relation to the use of force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and the 1991 Gulf War.
- Difficulties in drafting and ratification of the ICC Statute and the CTBT and BTWC treaties, reasons for rejection by States not Party
- Changing concept of security, contemporary security challenges
- Constructivism in international relations theory

10. Regional conflicts – China and Taiwan

- Basic trends and stages of China's foreign policy from 1949 to the present day
- Role and importance of the concept of 'State sovereignty' and questions of recognition in relation to Taiwan
- Stages of China's economic reforms from 1978 to the present day
- Geopolitical importance of the South-China Sea
- The 'one China' principle

11. Regional conflicts – South Asia (India and Pakistan)

- Historical background of the Kashmir issue, the Indo–Pakistani wars and the possible solutions
- Use of force under international law, the practice of the UN Security Council to authorise use of force, and disputed forms of self-defence (e.g. preventive/pre-emptive self-defence, against non-State actors etc.)
- Impact of the 1998 nuclear tests on the Kashmir issue. India, Pakistan and the nuclear arms race
- The shifting world order and the principles of Indian foreign policy with a special attention to the Indo–Chinese rivalry
- World systems theory and neo-Gramscianism in international relations theory

12. Regional conflicts – Ukraine

- Definition of hybrid warfare in relation to the events in Ukraine
- Russia's annexation of Crimea and international law (self-determination)
- Energy security of Europe
- Analyse how Russia's war aims declared on 24 February 2022 were achieved during the war in Ukraine
- Migration as an element of dependency

13. Regional conflicts – Middle East and North Africa

- Definition of the Middle East and classification of the Middle Eastern states from political and social perspectives; the evolution of the contemporary state system in the region
- The Arab–Israeli conflict (with a focus on the Oslo Process and its failure, second intifada, recent developments)
- The shifting order in the Middle East and North Africa (post-American Middle East, the regional order, Arab Spring—common features and differences)

14. European integration

- Four main decision-making institutions and the decision-making system of the European Union
- Relationship of the United Kingdom with the European integration from its application for membership until leaving the EU (Brexit)
- Primary and secondary legal sources of the European Union. The most important provisions of the Treaty of Maastricht and the Treaty of Lisbon
- Introduce one of the major common policies of the EU and its development
- What are the main developments of the European Common Foreign and Security Policy after 2016?