

## Information sheet for the course Current Issues of World Politics

<b>University:</b> <i>Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín</i>	
<b>Faculty/Department:</b> <i>Department of Political Science</i>	
<b>Course unit code:</b> <i>PLTV6</i>	<b>Course unit title:</b> <i>Current Issues of World Politics</i>
<b>Type of course unit:</b> <i>optional</i>	
<b>Planned types, learning activities and teaching methods:</b> <i>Seminar: 2 hours weekly/26 hours per semester of study; face to face (classroom mode)</i>	
<b>Number of credits:</b> <i>2</i>	
<b>Recommended semester:</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the 1<sup>st</sup> year (full-time)</i> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the 1<sup>st</sup> year (part-time)</i>	
<b>Degree of study:</b> <i>Master's</i>	
<b>Course prerequisites:</b> <i>none</i>	
<b>Assessment methods:</b> <i>include evaluation of activities below:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Term paper writing project (5-8 pages) 30%</i></li> <li><i>2. Active participation 20% (attendance, class activities, consultation)</i></li> <li><i>3. Presentation 20%</i></li> <li><i>3. Test 30%</i></li> </ol> <i>Passing grade: 60% and above.</i>	
<b>Learning outcomes of the course unit:</b> <i>At the end of the course, students are <b>familiar</b> with the scope and major actual issues of current world politics. They <b>develop</b> a capacity that will enable them to critically assess actual issues of contemporary world politics and offer analysis as well as predictions about its future perspectives. They are <b>able</b> to explain the fundamental changes that the international system is undergoing, including: how the United States as a super power is attempting to shape the contemporary "world order," and how other actors are responding to these attempts, the implications of this process for the spread of democracy, the management of ethnic conflicts, the promotion of human rights, retroactive justice for crimes against humanity, economic globalization, ecological as well as issues of deepening gaps between world citizens.</i>	
<b>Course contents:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Introduction to contemporary world politics and the major actual issues</i></li> <li><i>2. Definitions and concepts of current world politics and its scopes</i></li> <li><i>3. Debates about world order and disorder</i></li> <li><i>4. Hegemonic leadership and the unipolar moment</i></li> <li><i>5. Uni-multipolarism and the tilt towards multi-multipolarism</i></li> <li><i>6. America: as asserting liberal hegemony and reactions to American hegemonic leadership</i></li> <li><i>7. The potential to transform the international/global system</i></li> <li><i>8. Spreading democracy and globalization and discontents</i></li> <li><i>9. Ethnic and civil conflicts and efforts to manage them, Post modern wars and terrorism</i></li> <li><i>10. Promoting human rights and transitional justice</i></li> <li><i>11. Wars: The wars of the American Empire, Pre-emptive and Preventative War</i></li> <li><i>12. Humanitarian intervention, hot and cold wars, revolutionary wars,</i></li> <li><i>13. Widening environmental and social issues in world politics</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Recommended of required reading:</b> <i>Mark Juergensmeyer, The New Cold War? Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State, ch. 1, 2, 3, 6.</i> <i>G. John Ikenberry and Charles Kupchan, "Socialization and Hegemonic Power," International Organization, summer 1990, 283-315.</i>	

*T. McKeown, "Hegemonic Stability Theory and Nineteenth Century Tariff Levels in Europe," International Organization, winter 1983.*

*Paul Kennedy, Strategy and Diplomacy, 1870-1945, ch. 1, 2, 8. The British empire lasted so long because of astute retrenchment and appeasement.*

*John Ruggie, Winning the Peace: America and World Order in the New Era.*

*Alexander Wendt, Social Theory of International Politics, esp. chapters 1 and 7. This is very abstract and is not for everyone. However, it is the most ambitious attempt to think about the processes through which state identities might change and with them the nature of the anarchical states system.*

*S. Van Evera, Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*

*F. Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," Foreign Affairs, Nov. 1997.*

*M. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," American Political Science Review, December 1986. The classic article on the democratic peace.*

*D. Lake and D. Rothchild, "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict," International Security, fall 1996.*

*Pauline Baker, "Conflict Resolution versus Democratic Governance: Divergent Paths to Peace?" in C. Crocker, ed., Managing Global Chaos, 563-573.*

*Hedley Bull, The Anarchical Society, Chapter 4, "Order versus Justice in World Politics."*

*David Shambaugh, "Containment or Engagement of China? Calculating Beijing's Responses," International Security 21:2 (Fall 1996), 185-6.*

*Charles H. Fairbanks, Jr., "The Postcommunist Wars," Journal of Democracy 6:4 (October 1995): 18-34. 17 pages.*

*Walter Laqueur, "Postmodern Terrorism," Foreign Affairs 75:5 (September/October 1996): 24-36. 13 pages.*

*E-materials relevant to the course would be utilized.*

**Language:** Slovak, English

**Remarks:** The course is provided only in the case it is chosen by at least 16 students.

**Evaluation history:**

A	B	C	D	E	FX
0	0	0	0	0	0

**Lectures:** Mgr. Getnet Tamene, PhD.

**Last modification:** June 30, 2014

**Supervisor:** Prof. PhDr. Samuel Čelovský, DrSc. – guarantor of the study program "Political Science"