

COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Nordic Studies	SISA3126

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinators: prof. dr. Baldur Thorhallsson Other(s): assist. Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson	Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First cycle	Elective

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Lectures, seminars, self study	6 semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: Sufficient level of English (B2)	Additional requirements (if any): None

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	130	32	98

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed
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The purpose of this course is to provide students with theoretical knowledge and skills for the independent analysis of politics of small states via an in-depth study of practical examples coming from the Nordic states (Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland).

The course aims to develop subject specific competences, such as the ability to understand and explain the position of small states in the international system, ability to define the vital interests of small (Nordic coastal) states in comparison to traditional military interests of naval powers, in-depth knowledge and understanding of the Nordic states' negotiations with the EU and the challenges and opportunities they face while in the EU, ability to explain and assess the Nordic socio-economic model and its impact on international policy and economic performance, ability to assess the Nordic states' capacity for withstanding stress and international financial crisis, knowledge of the new challenges (such as climate change, melting of the Arctic) faced by the Nordic states. In addition, the course develops generic competences: ability to work and study individually and in a group, ability to present findings in a coherent and well-argued manner, ability to share insights during discussions, ability to approach political and social phenomenon from a culture-sensitive perspective.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Will be able to understand and explain the position of small states in the international system, define the interests of small coastal Nordic states and assess their leverage in international negotiations	Face-to-face lectures, discussions	Assessment of work during seminars
Will be able to explain and assess the Nordic socio-economic model and its impact on international policy and economic performance	Independent reading , exam	Assessment of exam
Will be able to understand and explain the Transarctic Agenda	Research methods (texts analysis, preparation of essay)	Assessment of essay

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours				Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments

1. Introduction to the Course			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: F. Nansen, The Mission of the Small States, The American Scandinavian Review, 6 (1), 1918, p. 9-13. A. J. K. Bailes, Does a Small State Need a Strategy?, Occasional Paper 2-2009 of the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland, 2009, p. 1-40. (http://stofnanir.hi.is/ams/sites/files/ams/Bailes_Final_o.pdf)
2. Theoretical Understanding of the Position of Small States in the International System (part 1)	2		2	4	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. P. Keohane, Lilliputians' Dilemmas: Small States in International Politics, in International Organizations, 23 (1), 1969, p. 291-310. B. Olafsson, Small States in the Global System: Analysis & Illustrations from the Case of Iceland, Ashgate Pub Ltd, 1998, 174 -195.
3. Theoretical Understanding of the Position of Small States in the International System (part 2)	2		2	4	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. Thorhallsson, The Size of States in the EU: Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives, Journal of European Integration, 28 (1), 2006 p. 7-31. D. Vital, The Inequality of States – A Study of the Small Power in International Relations, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1967, p. 54-71.
4. The Law of the Sea Convention: Vital Economic Interests of Small (Coastal) States vs. Traditional Military Interests of Naval Powers			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. P. Barston, H. Hannesson, The Anglo-Icelandic Fisheries Dispute. International Relations 4(6), 1974 p. 559-591. G. Th. Jóhannesson, Troubled Waters: Cod Wars, Fishing Disputes and Britain's Fight for the Freedom of the High Seas, 1948-64, Studia Atlantica, 11, 2007, 17-25.
5. The EEA-agreement (1989-94): The Nordic and the Alpine States' Negotiations with the EU. The Largest Free-trade Area in the World			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: H. P. Graver, Mission Impossible: Supra Nationality and National Legal Autonomy in the EEA-agreement, European Foreign Affairs Review, 2002, p. 73-90. J. Jónsdóttir, Europeanization and the EEA: Iceland's Participation in the EU's Policy Process. Routledge, 2013, P. 17-31.
6. The Nordic Model and the Nordic States within the International System. The Major Characteristics of the Nordic Socio-economic Model and its Reflection in their International Policy and Performance			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: C. Ingebritsen, Norm Entrepreneurs. Scandinavia's Role in World Politics, in I. A. Ingebritsen (ed.), Small States in International Relations, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2006, p. 273-285. J. Pontuson, Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal America, Cornell University Press, 2005, p. 27-41.
7. Small States and International Organizations			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. Thorhallsson, Small States in the UN Security Council: Means of Influence?, Hague Journal of Diplomacy, 7, 2012, p. 135-160. W. Habeeb, Power and Tactics in International Negotiations: How Weak Nations Bargain with Strong Nations, Baltimore, 1988, p. 100-128.
8. States within the EU: Policies, Strategies, Challenges and Opportunities (Part 1)			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: A. Wivel, The Security Challenge of Small EU Member States: Interests, Identity and the Development of the EU as a Security Actor, Journal of Common Market Studies, 43 (2), 2005, p. 393-412. C. Archer, N. Nugent, Introduction: Small States and the EU, Current Politics and Economics of Europe, 11 (1), 2002, p.1-10.

9. States within the EU: Policies, Strategies, Challenges and Opportunities (Part 2)			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: C. H. Grön, A. Wivel, Maximizing Influence in the EU after the Lisbon Treaty: From Small State Policy to Smart State Strategy, Journal of European Integration, 53, 2011, p. 523-539. A. J. K. Bailes, B. Thorhallsson, Instrumentalizing the European Union in Small State Strategies, Journal of European Integration, 2012, p. 1-17.
10. The International Financial Crisis: Small States' capacity for Withstanding Stress. Are Small States better off on their own or within an Alliance?			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. Thorhallsson, R. Kattel, Neo-Liberal States and Economic Crisis: Lessons for Democratic Corporatism, Journal of Baltic Studies, 2012, p. 54-77. B. Thorhallsson, Domestic Buffer vs. External Shelter: Viability of Small States in the New Globalized Economy, European Political Science Symposium, 10, 2011, p. 324-336.
11. The International Financial Crisis: The Case of Iceland, Ireland and the Baltic Countries			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: P. Hreinsson, T. Gunnarsson, S. Benediktssdóttir, Causes of the Collapse of the Icelandic Banks: Responsibility, Mistakes and Negligence, Report prepared by the Icelandic Special Investigation Commission, (SIC), 2009, p. 1-27. (http://www.rna.is/media/skjol/RNAvefurKafli21Ensk a.pdf) J. B. Hannibalsson, The International Financial Crisis: the Case of Iceland: Are there Lessons to be Learnt?, Working Papers on Global Financial Markets, 3, 2009, p. 87-98.
12. Iceland and the Baltic Nations' Struggle for Restoration of Independence (1988-91): The Solidarity of Small Nations vs. the Hidden Agenda of Major Powers			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: B. G. Ólafsson, Political Power and Independence: Real Independence vs. Nominal, Ashgate, 1998, p. 48-65. K. S. Readman, Between Political Rhetoric and Realpolitik Calculations: Western Diplomacy and the Baltic Independence Struggle in the Cold War Endgame, Cold War History, 6 (1), 2006, p.1-42.
13. Climate Change and the Melting of the Arctic: The Coming Grab for Resources. Can Small Nations hold their own in Co-operation or Competition with the Major powers?			2	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: L. Heininen, Post-Cold War Arctic Geopolitics: Where are the Peoples and the Environment?, Arctic Geopolitics and Autonomy, Arctic Perspective Cahier, 2, 2010, p. 89-103. K. Bergh, The Arctic Policies of Canada and the United States: Domestic Motives and International Context, SIPRI Insights on Peace & Security, 1, 2012, p. 1-19.
Essay			2	2	20	Preparation of essay
Total	4	2	26	32	98	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Evaluation of work during the seminars	30%	Throughout the semester	Active participation in seminars (10%), Relevant comments and reasonable insights (10%), Critical thinking and ponderable argumentation (10%)
Exam	40%	During session time	Comprehensiveness of the answers (20 %) Ability to base the answers on the academic literature that was provided throughout the course (10%) Critical analytical thinking (10%)
Essay	30%	End of semester	Ability to employ theories and methods discussed throughout the course (5%), Depth of analysis of the topic (10%);

			Reasonable argumentation, comprehensive conclusions (10%) Correspondence to methodological requirements (5%)
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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Archer, C., N. Nugent	2002	Introduction: Small States and the EU	Vol. 11 No. 1	Current Politics and Economics of Europe
Bailes, A. J. K.	2009	Does a Small State Need a Strategy?	Occasional Paper 2-2009 of the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland	http://stofnanir.hi.is/ams/sites/files/ams/Bailes_Final_o.pdf
Bailes, A. J. K., B. Thorhallsson	2012	Instrumentalizing the European Union in Small State Strategies		Journal of European Integration
Barston, R. P., H. Hannesson	1974	The Anglo-Icelandic Fisheries Dispute	Vol. 4 No.6	International Relations
Bergh, K.	2012	The Arctic Policies of Canada and the United States: Domestic Motives and International Context	Vol. 1	SIPRI Insights on Peace & Security
Graver, H. P.	2002	Mission Impossible: Supra Nationality and National Legal Autonomy in the EEA-agreement		European Foreign Affairs Review
Grön, C. H., A. Wivel	2011	Maximizing Influence in the EU after the Lisbon Treaty: From Small State Policy to Smart State Strategy	Vol. 53	Journal of European Integration,
Habeeb, W.	1988	Power and Tactics in International Negotiations: How Weak Nations Bargain with Strong Nations		Baltimore
Hannibalsson, J. B.	2009	The International Financial Crisis: the Case of Iceland: Are there Lessons to be Learnt?	Vol. 3	Working Papers on Global Financial Markets
Heininen, L.	2010	Post-Cold War Arctic Geopolitics: Where are the Peoples and the Environment?	Vol. 2	Arctics Geopolitics and Autonomy, Arctic Perspective Cahier
Hreinsson, P., T. Gunnarsson, S. Benediktssdóttir	2009	Causes of the Collapse of the Icelandic Banks: Responsibility, Mistakes and Negligence	Report prepared by the Icelandic Special Investigation Commission (SIC)	http://www.rna.is/media/skjol/RNAvefurKafli21Enska.pdf
Ingebritsen, C.	2006	Norm Entrepreneurs. Scandinavia's Role in World Politics	Ingebritsen, I. A. (ed.), Small States in International Relations	Seattle: University of Washington Press
Jóhannesson, G. Th.	2007	Troubled Waters: Cod Wars, Fishing Disputes and Britain's Fight for the Freedom of the High Seas, 1948-64	Vol. 11	Studia Atlantica
Jónsdóttir, J.	2013	Europeanization and the EEA: Iceland's Participation in the EU's Policy Process		Routledge
Keohane, R. P.	1969	Lilliputians' Dilemmas: Small States in International Politics	Vol. 23 No. 1	International Organizations
Nansen, F.	1918	The Mission of the Small States	Vol. 6 No.1	The American

				Scandinavian Review
Olafsson, B.	1998	Small States in the Global System: Analysis & Illustrations from the Case of Iceland		Ashgate Pub Ltd
Ólafsson, B. G.	1998	Political Power and Independence: Real Independence vs. Nominal		Ashgate
Pontuson, J.	2005	Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal America		Cornell University Press
Readman, K. S.	2006	Between Political Rhetoric and Realpolitik Calculations: Western Diplomacy and the Baltic Independence Struggle in the Cold War Endgame	Vol. 6 No. 1	Cold War History
Thorhallsson, B.	2006	The Size of States in the EU: Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives	Vol. 28 No.1	Journal of European Integration
Thorhallsson, B.	2012	Small States in the UN Security Council: Means of Influence?	Vol. 7	Hague Journal of Diplomacy
Thorhallsson, B.	2011	Domestic Buffer vs. External Shelter: Viability of Small States in the New Globalized Economy	Vol. 10	European Political Science Symposium
Thorhallsson, B., R. Kattel	2012	Neo-Liberal States and Economic Crisis: Lessons for Democratic Corporatism		Journal of Baltic Studies
Vital, D.	1967	The Inequality of States – A Study of the Small Power in International Relations		Oxford: Clarendon Press
Wivel, A.	2005	The Security Challenge of Small EU Member States: Interests, Identity and the Development of the EU as a Security Actor	Vol. 43 No. 2	Journal of Common Market Studies
Optional reading				
Cooper, A. F., T. M. Shaw	2009	The Diplomacies of Small States. Between Vulnerability and Resilience		International Political Economy Series
Rothwell, D.R., T. Stevens	2010	The International Law of the Sea		Hart Publishing
Steinmetz, R., A. Wivel (ed)	2010	Small States in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities		Ashgate
Thorhallsson, B.	2012	The Icelandic Economic Collapse: How to Overcome Constraints Associated with Smallness?		European Political Science