Abstract:

- **length: 300 (+/- 50) words**

Introductory chapter
- indicating the topic, justifying the choice of topic in the light of the literature,
- the hypothesis, question or formulation of the examined problem related to the topic of the author
- methodology,
- description of the structure of the thesis.

An explanation of the topic divided into main-, sub-, and general titles: the breakdown can be done according to individual issues or temporality,

- outline the theoretical framework of the topic and interpret the concepts used in the processing
- the author of the thesis must have a thorough knowledge of literature on the topic, and if he / she deems it necessary, a detailed literature review may also be included
- the confirmation or refutation of the hypothesis may belong to the main part of the thesis, but it can also be included in the conclusion

Conclusion

- conclusions: the confirmation or refutation of the hypothesis
- difference to previous research results or their confirmation

Formal requirements

**In case the thesis does not conform to the formal requirements, the thesis cannot be uploaded/accepted.**

- Table of content (in the beginning of the thesis)
- Internal division of the thesis, numbering of the different chapters and subchapters
- References (on the bottom of the page, in-text reference, etc.)
- At the end of the thesis: annexes, documents etc. Tables, images, figures which relate to the topic or are essential for the comprehension of the reasoning are to be located within the main text. All tables and figures have to be numbered and titled, and the source of the data need to be indicated.
- The thesis closes with a bibliography in an alphabetical order of the authors’ family name.
- Follow one of the academic traditions when marking the reference.
- Never forget that internet resources must also be accurately marked.
- 2.5 cm margins
- 1.5 line spacing
- Font size 12 (Calibri)
- page numbering at the bottom right
- 18,000 (+/- 2,000) words of content with footnotes, excluding the first page, table of contents, appendices, appendices, etc.
Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences
Faculty for Social Sciences
Master Thesis

Title of Thesis

Name of Student NEPTUN-code
International Studies

Supervisor:
Name

Month and Year
(7) **On the International Studies Master's Degree course**

a) the final examination consists of two parts:
   aa) the student defends the degree thesis against the opponent’s report and answers the questions in connection with the degree thesis and the general questions on the subject matter. The defending of the degree thesis is graded on a five-grade scale by the committee;
   ab) the student picks an item from the basic and core module and one from the items of the specialisation. For working on the question, the final examination committee provides proper time. For the two questions the committee gives a grade on five-scale, this is the grade for the theoretical question;

b) the result of the final examination is the average of three grades, rounded to two decimals: the grade for the degree thesis, for the defending and for the theoretical question;

c) the rating of the degree certificate is the same as the grade of the final examination.
1. Institutions and human rights protection

• What is the general idea of human rights? (How) do they exist? What challenges and criticisms have been voiced regarding the normative grounds, universalism, and effectiveness of human rights?
• Discuss the UN system of human rights protection.
• Regional system of human rights protection, select one:
  - Council of Europe OR
  - The European Union and human rights OR
  - The Inter-American System of Human rights protection OR
  - ASEAN and its human rights implications OR
  - The African system of human and people’s rights AND The Arab Charter on Human Rights, Arab Human Rights Committee (these two are under one since there is not so much)

Literature:


Moeckli, Daniel; Shah, Sangeeta; Sivakumaran, Sandesh; Harris, David; (eds.) - International Human Rights Law – Oxford University Press 2018, relevant chapters

2. Democracy interpretations from the 19th till the 21st century

• What similarities and differences describe different democracy interpretations if we examine them from the perspective of key concepts of democracy (representation, participation, majority, consensus)?
• What is democratization, what are its specificities? To what extent can Huntington’s wave theory be considered valid in light of the developments of the 21st century, considering the global situation of democracy?
• How do the ideas and practices of liberal constitutionalism and democracy interact (on the basis of Berman, Hobson and Zakaria)?

Literature:

3. Europe as a political concept

- Unity and diversity in European history
- The changing nature of European order in history
- The political concept of Europe

Literature:

4. Dynamics and challenges in contemporary European politics

- Social cleavages and political structures in modern European politics
- Key dynamics of change in contemporary European politics
- Political parties and electoral behavior in contemporary European politics

Literature

5. European integration and disintegration

- The idea and visions of European integration
- The multiple crises of the European Union in the past decade
- Theories of European disintegration

Literature

6. European Union institutions and their functioning

- The nature of the EU political system
- Overview of key EU institutions
- The way of making EU policies

Literature
7. **Security policy**
- What is the traditional model of security? (Explain the security dilemma on an empirical example.)
- What is the security concept of the Copenhagen School (CS)? (Explain securitization on the example of migration)
- Discuss one of the topics from the lens of security policy: development policy, the principle of R2P, environmental changes, civil rights and the *surveillance state*.

**Literature:**


8. **Theories of international relations: realism vs liberalism and the neo-neo debate**
- Compare classic, neo-, and neoclassic realism.
- Introduce the four branches of neoliberalism (interdependence, sociological, republican, institutional). How do they differ from classic liberalism?
- Introduce the neo-neo synthesis. How have the two approaches come closer and what are remaining points of disagreement?

**Literature:**


9. **The turn of the theory of international relations after 1989: What novelty has constructivism brought?**

- The end of the Cold War as a key event of the IR
- The roots of constructivism in the philosophy of science and the fourth grand debate
- Compare the two versions of constructivism (mainstream and critical)
- Introduce mainstream constructivism on the basis of norms and state identity
- Introduce critical constructivism on the example of securitization

**Literature:**

10. **Critical theories in international relations**

- What does critical theory mean in international relations?
- Critique of the notions of state, sovereignty, power, and security
- The transformation of the notion of security after the Cold War

**Literature:**

11. **Foreign policy decisionmaking**

- What are the limits of rational decisionmaking?
- Does state’s morality differ from that of the individual?
- What does Putnam mean by two-level games? What role does the media play in this?

12. Equality

- The theoretical foundations of equality (Aristotle, Marx, Rawls, Dworkin — a selected author)
- Conceptions of distributive equality (libertarianism, utilitarianism, welfare, resources, opportunity — a selected conception)
- Direct and indirect forms of discrimination (ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual identity, disability, age)
- Preferential treatment and allocation of scarce resources

Literature:
Jarlath Clifford, Equality in The Oxford Handbook of International Human Rights Law
Stefan Gosepath, Equality in The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
in Justice: What's the right thing to do?
Equality in Encyclopedia of Marxism
Ronald Dworkin, Equality in Justice for Hedgehogs

Cases:
1. Brown v Board of Education of Topeka
2. Edwards v A. G. of Canada (Persons)
3. Horváth and Kiss v Hungary
4. Eweida v the United Kingdom
II.A. CRITICAL SECURITY STUDIES SPECIALISATION

1. What makes critical security studies “critical”? What aspects of the traditional understanding of security are under criticism? (refer to at least two critical approaches)

Literature:

2. What role can language, discourse and rhetoric play in critically engaging the concept of security?

Literature:

3. How does technological change challenge our understanding of the state, sovereignty, security, and democracy?

Literature:

4. The role of international organizations in guaranteeing international security (organizations v states, global and regional institutions)
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of intergovernmental organizations?
- How has the role of international organizations evolved since the end of the Cold War globally, in Europe and the Euro-Atlantic area?
- What is the relationship between various international institutions in Europe and the Euro-Atlantic area?

Literature:

5. The evolution of conflicts in the last three decades. The phases (constituting elements) of the conflict management cycle

- How have international conflicts changed since the end of the Cold War: Which are the main identifiable tendencies?
- Which are the phases of the conflict management cycle? What has led to the conflict management cycle that consists of three phases?
- What risks do weak, failing and failed states carry (nationally and internationally)?

Literature:

6. Human security and the Responsibility to Protect as means of conflict resolution

- How has human security rearranged the priorities of international security?
- Is it possible to distinguish human security risks from other risks to international security? (E.g. interstate and transnational risks) Please, illustrate it on one security risk of your choice.
- What is the status (legal and in the UN) of the Responsibility to Protect concept?

Literature:
7. Uncertainty, Insecurity and Risk

- What does 'risk society' mean? What are the 'unknown unknowns' in the international system? Analyse a typical risk in the contemporary international system.
- What is the role of nuclear and traditional arms control in reducing insecurities in the international system?
- Please, describe the development of the field of Peace Studies. How would you explain the lack of "War Studies" as an interdisciplinary field?

Literature

8. Violence in the International System

- Introduce Galtung’s theory about positive and negative peace. What do you know about the concepts of structural and cultural violence?
- How does the UN Charter regulate the use of force? Describe the legitimate and the controversial ways of using force in the international system. What kind of means does the UN Charter mention for the peaceful settlement of international disputes?
- What are nonviolent conflicts? Please, illustrate it on one case of your choice.

Literature
Murakami, Yoichiro & Schoenbaum, Thomas J. Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK, and North Hampton, Massachusetts, USA, 90–106.

9. Gender in Security Studies

- Introduce the ontology, epistemology and methodology of the rationalist, standpoint and poststructuralist perspectives of feminism on IR/Security Studies.
- Introduce one typical issue (e.g. women and violence in terrorist organisations, rape as a weapon of war) in Security Studies where the variable of gender has a specific explanatory value.
- What does the concept of gender mainstreaming mean? Evaluate the development of the theory and the practice of the concept.
Literature


Laura Sjoberg & Caron E. Gentry (2008): „Reduced to Bad Sex: Narratives of Violent Women from the Bible to the War on Terror.” International Relations, 22(1), 5–23.


II.B. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIALIZATION

1. Human dignity: theoretical approaches
   · Contemporary approaches to human dignity

   Literature:
   Case

2. Right to life and human dignity I: Death penalty, Abortion

   Death penalty
   • Decision No. 23/1990 (X. 31.) of the Hungarian Constitutional Court (summary)
   • Magyar v. Hungary, App no, 73593/10, 20 May 2014, ECHR.
   • T.P. and A.T. v. Hungary, App nos 37871/14 and 73986/14, 4 October 2016, ECHR.

   Abortion

3. Right to life and human dignity II: Sexual autonomy, Euthanasia / assisted suicide, Terror and law enforcement

   Sexual autonomy
   • Goodwin v. the UK (Grand Chamber), App no 17488/90, 27 March 1996, ECHR
   • Schalk and Kopf v. Austria, App no 30141/04 (2010).
   • Oliari v. Italy, App nos 18766/11 and 36030/11 (2015) ECHR
Euthanasia/assisted suicide
- Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health, 497 U.S. 261 (1990)
- Pretty v. United Kingdom, App no 2346/02, 29 April 2002, ECHR.
- Rodriguez [1993] 3 SCR 519. (Canada)
- Airedale NHS Trust v Bland [1993] 1 All ER 821. (Australia)

Terror and law enforcement
- Gäfgen v. Germany (Grand Chamber), App no 22978/05, 1 June 2010, ECHR.
- Aviation Security Act Case, BVerfG, 1 BvR 357/05 of 15 Feb. 2006 (Germany);
- Scott v. Harris, 550 U.S. 372 (2007), with additional commentary and video footage

4. Minority rights I
- The international protection of minority rights: evolution and current state
- Present the main points of critique of international minority rights and the dilemma of individual and collective rights

Literature:

Cases:
Sejdic and Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina, App. nos. 27996/06 and 34836/06, Grand Chamber judgment of 22 December 2009, ECtHR

5. Minority rights II:
- What are the benefits and the shortcomings of the intersectionality approach?
  - Describe the status and practice of minority rights in the context of EU accession.
- Securitization of minority rights: can security-based arguments be used to limit minority rights?

Literature
Nancy Ehrenreich, Subordination and symbiosis: Mechanisms of mutual support between subordinating systems, UMKC L. Rev. 71 (2002): 251 (Chapter III only)


6. Contemporary challenges of democratic elections

- What are the key substantial and procedural elements of universal suffrage, regarding the international standards and legal practice? (International human rights conventions, case law and some case studies)
- What are the most challenging points of equal suffrage, from legal and political aspects? (Gerrymandering, malapportionment, campaign finance)
- Freedom of speech and elections: campaigns, campaign finances and their political consequences

Literature

Primary sources:
Relevant international human rights documents
Hirst v. UK case, European Court of Human Rights
Greens v. UK case, European Court of Human Rights
Scoppola No3. v. Italy case, European Court of Human Rights
Animal Defenders v. UK case European Court of Human Rights

7. Freedom of speech 1

- What are the main theoretical foundations and controversies in relation to freedom of expression?
- What are the main models and tests of the limits of freedom of expression, especially in the areas of political speech and hate speech, including speech related to terrorism.

Literature
Ian Cram, The Danish Cartoons, Offensive Expression and Democracy in Ivan Hare and James Weinstein eds, Extreme Speech and Democracy, Oxford University Press, 2009, 310-330.

Cases:
New York Times Co. v Sullivan, United States Supreme Court
Lingens v Austria, European Court of Human Rights
Jersild v Denmark, European Court of Human Rights
Brandenburg v Ohio, United States Supreme Court
Gitlow v New York, US. SC
R.A.V. v City of St. Paul, Minnesota, US SC
Virginia v Black, US SC
Lüth-decision, German Federal Constitutional Court,
Auschwitzlüge, German Federal Constitutional Court,
Faurisson v France, UN Human Rights Comission
Vejdeland v Sweden, European Court of Human Rights

8. Freedom of speech II.
- Freedom of information
- Symbolic speech
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom of association

Literature:

Cases:
Magyar Helsinki Bizottság v Hungary, European Court of Human Rights, Grand Chamber judgment
Vajnai v Hungary, European Court of Human Rights
Fáber v Hungary, European Court of Human Rights
Bukta v Hungary European Court of Human Rights
Hess-decision, German Federal Constitutional Court
https://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/SharedDocs/Entscheidungen/EN/2009/11/rs20091104_1bvr215008en.html
Vona v Hungary, European Court of Human Rights
Case C-78/18 ECLI:EU:C:2020:476, Court of Justice of the European Union (Grand Chamber) ('Transparency Law')

9. Freedom of religion I. Theoretical approaches
- What are some major theoretical approaches to the relation between religion and state/politics?
- What is toleration? What concepts of toleration are you familiar with?
- What is postsecularism? How authors like Habermas and Taylor see the place of religion and religious arguments in the public sphere and in political discourse?


- What is freedom of religion? What does the right extend to? What is religion from the perspective of human rights law? What is accommodation in freedom of religion law?
- What are the basic models of church-state relations in comparative perspective?
- Discuss ECHR case law on religion and education (apart from the headscarf controversy)

András Sajó and Renáta Uitz: Freedom of Religion in The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Law Edited by Michel Rosenfeld and András Sajó, 909-922 (OUP 2017) 
West Virginia State Bd. of Education v. Barnette (USSC) 
Employment Division v Smith (USSC) 
Yoder v Wisconsin (USSC) 
Folgero and others v Norway (subject „Christianity, religion and philosophy) (ECHR) 
Lautsi case(s) (crucifix in classrooms in Italy) (ECHR) 
Dojan and others v Germany (mandatory sex education) (ECHR) 
Osmanoglu and Kocabas v. Switzerland (ECHR) Application no. 29086/12 (mandatory mixed gender swimming lessons)

11. Freedom of religion III: 
- headscarf controversies 
- religious arbitration and the challenge of legal pluralism
- conscientious objection

Literature

Stijn Smet: Conscientious Objection through the Contrasting Lenses of Tolerance and Respect, Oxford Journal of Law and Religion, 2019, 8, 93–120

Cases:
Dahlab v Switzerland, European Court of Human Rights
Dogru v France, European Court of Human Rights
Hamidovic v Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Court of Human Rights
S.A.S. v France, European Court of Human Rights
Eweida v UK, European Court of Human Rights

12 International migration and the European Union
- Explain the most important theories of international migration!
- Explain the most important features of EU refugee policy!
- Explain the most important rules of EU immigration policy!

Literature:
II.C. EUROPEAN FOREIGN AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY SPECIALIZATION

1. Basic issues and general logic of development policy; the “blessing” and “cursing” mechanisms of development aid

• What definitions do you know of “development”? How would you define development policy goals in general?
• Why can development aid be a blessing and a curse at the same time? In what conceptual framework can these opposite effects be interpreted?
• Who are the main actors in development policy?

Literature

2. Competing ideologies of development policy and development economics

• Introduce development economics’ classical theories of development!
• Introduce development economics’ structuralist and dependence theories!
• Introduce development policy’s neoliberal and post-neoliberal paradigms!

Literature

3. Indicators and institutional conditions of an effective development policy

• Interpret quantifiable goals for development and development policy and list some possible metrics!
• Describe the most important economic and social indicators of development (GDP, GNI, HDI)!
• Summarize the possible role of the state, the market and non-governmental organizations in an effective development policy!

Literature
4. Typology and critical approaches of international development policy cooperation

• Describe bilateral forms of international development cooperation!
• Describe multilateral forms of international development cooperation!
• Introduce the main critical point in development literature concerning the current system of international development cooperation!

Literature


5. The European Union’s external relations and external policies

• The development of EC/EU external policies from the 1950s to nowadays
• The nature of EU external relations; the relationship between EU external relations and the foreign policies of the Member States
• The system, institutions and tools of EU external policies

Literature


6. The European Union’s Status in International Law and International Institutions: The Common Foreign and Security Policy

• The Union’s legal status according to the Lisbon Treaty
• The Union in multilateral international organisations
• The Common Foreign and Security Policy (including the Common Security and Defence Policy)

Literature


7. The European Union’s International Development and Humanitarian Aid Policy

• Major steps in the development of the Union’s international development policy since 1960
• Main characteristics and instruments of the Union’s international development and humanitarian aid policies
• The development, framework, present and future of the relations with ACP countries

Literature


8. The European Union’s International Trade Policy
• The Union as an international economic actor
• The Union’s international trade policy: its development, goals, principles, division of competences, and instruments
• The Union in the global arena (and institutions) of trade policy

Literature


9. The European Union and international migration

• Present an overview of the most important theories of international migration
• Describe the main objectives, principles and instruments of the European Union's asylum and migration policy
• Describe the legal environment of emigration and immigration affecting Hungary in the EU context (Hungarian citizens, EEA citizens, asylum seekers, refugees, beneficiaries of international protection, third-country nationals)

Literature


10. The system of the European Union's internal development policies; the formation and development of cohesion (regional) policy

• Which policy areas and instruments play a key role in the European Union's internal development activities?
• Present the history and evaluation of the European Union’s cohesion (regional) policy from the 1950s to the present!
• Present the policy theory approaches applicable to the European Union's cohesion (regional) policy!

Literature

11. The system of cohesion (regional) policy of the European Union; the Union budget and the financial absorption of EU funds

• Present the principles EU funding and the main elements of its intervention logic!
• What is the place of the Union’s cohesion (regional) policy in the EU budget?
• What do we mean by policy cycle in EU development policy and what are its determinants?

Literature