

REFLECTIONS ON THE USE OF INTERACTIVE METHODS IN TEACHING
COURSES IN THE FIELD OF “INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS”

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Abstract. This article discusses the importance of modern interactive methods in teaching international relations. The paper highlights how interactive methods are used in the educational system, the skills students acquire through them, and the advantages of using interactive approaches in the study of political science. Additionally, the positive impact of interactive methods on the educational process is demonstrated: the development of analytical thinking, the formation of independent decision-making skills, and political culture. Interactive methods also contribute to a deeper understanding of political systems and processes through activities such as group work, debates, case studies, and role-playing games.

Keywords: political synopses, interactive methods, political science, pedagogy, teaching methods, debates, case studies, analytical thinking, educational innovation, student engagement, international negotiations.

РАЗМЫШЛЕНИЯ О ПРИМЕНЕНИИ ИНТЕРАКТИВНЫХ МЕТОДОВ В
ПРЕПОДАВАНИИ ДИСЦИПЛИН ПО СПЕЦИАЛЬНОСТИ «МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ
ОТНОШЕНИЯ»

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Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается значение современных интерактивных методов в преподавании международных отношений. В работе освещается, как интерактивные методы применяются в системе образования, какие навыки приобретают студенты с их помощью, а также преимущества использования интерактивных подходов в процессе изучения политических наук. Показано положительное влияние интерактивных методов на образовательный процесс: развитие аналитического мышления обучающихся, формирование навыков самостоятельного принятия решений и политической культуры. Интерактивные методы также способствуют более глубокому пониманию политических систем и процессов через такие формы работы, как групповая деятельность, дебаты, кейс-стади и ролевые игры.

Ключевые слова: политические синопсисы, интерактивные методы, политические науки, методы обучения, дебаты, кейс-стади, аналитическое мышление, инновации в образовании, активизация студентов, международные переговоры.

Introduction. One of the most important requirements placed on the education system in the context of current globalization is the development of students' independent thinking, analytical skills, the ability to make sound decisions in problem situations, and the formation of an active civic position. This demand is becoming especially urgent in the teaching of political science, as political knowledge is not just theoretical information, but a system of knowledge that is actively applied in practical life. Traditional teaching methods often shape the student into



a passive listener. This limits their ability to understand, analyze, and express independent opinions about political processes. Therefore, the implementation of interactive teaching methods in the educational process has become one of the pressing pedagogical issues.

Features of Teaching International Relations. Political science subjects (political science, fundamentals of state and law, international relations, and others) are part of the system of social sciences and humanities. Their main characteristics include the following: the harmony between theoretical and practical aspects; direct connection to societal life; the ability to analyze various political views and ideologies; and the requirement for critical thinking. Therefore, teaching these subjects requires more than just lectures and memorizing texts. Students must develop the skills to analyze political processes, engage in debates, and substantiate their own positions.

The Essence of Interactive Methods. Interactive teaching methods are a pedagogical approach based on active, two-way communication between students and the teacher. These methods place the learner at the center of the educational process. The main principles of interactive methods include: student engagement; collaborative learning; problem-solving in real-life situations; the development of independent thinking; and a focus on practical application. In this approach, the teacher acts not as a “provider of knowledge,” but as a “guide and facilitator.”

Interactive Methods Used in Teaching Political Sciences. A number of effective interactive methods can be applied in teaching political science subjects.

“Brainstorming.” This method allows for generating a large number of ideas in a short period of time. For example, a question such as “What are the main principles of democracy?” is posed, and students’ free ideas are collected.

Debate (discussion). This is one of the most important methods for international relations. Students are divided into two groups on a particular political issue and defend opposing viewpoints. This helps develop their logical thinking, ability to present arguments, and speaking skills¹.

Case Study. Real or simulated political situations are analyzed. For example, cases such as “a problem arising during the election process” are examined, and possible solutions are proposed.

Role-playing games. Students take on the roles of political actors (deputy, voter, journalist, diplomat). This method helps them gain a deeper understanding of political processes.

Clusters and concept maps. These allow for the systematization and visual representation of complex political concepts².

Advantages of Interactive Methods. The use of interactive methods in teaching political science yields a number of positive outcomes: students’ interest in lessons increases; independent thinking is developed; theoretical knowledge is linked with practice; teamwork skills are formed; and political culture and civic awareness are enhanced. Most importantly, the learner is no longer a passive recipient of ready-made knowledge, but becomes an active participant in its creation.

Challenges and Limitations. There are also certain challenges in implementing interactive methods: insufficient methodological training of teachers; limited classroom and technical resources; difficulties in time management; and the passivity of some students. Therefore, for the effective use of interactive methods, it is important for teachers to continuously improve their qualifications and master modern pedagogical technologies. Political

¹ Климов, А. В. Интерактивное обучение: теоретические и практические аспекты. —Москва: АСТ.—М.: 2017. С. 234

² Shaykhov V.B., Yusuf, J. Siyosiy ta’lim va interfaol metodlar. —T.: 2018. “Fan va texnologiya” nashriyoti. B. 322



science education is increasingly being enriched with modern pedagogical approaches worldwide. In particular, interactive teaching methods are regarded as an effective tool for engaging students and developing their independent thinking and analytical skills in the field of political science. Today, many universities—especially internationally recognized higher education institutions—have advanced experience in applying interactive methods in teaching political science. Below is a brief overview of how interactive approaches are studied and implemented in some leading universities.

Harvard University, USA. Harvard University is one of the leading educational institutions in the world in implementing interactive methods in political science education. In this university, continuous communication and exchange of ideas between students and instructors play a key role in the teaching process of political science. At Harvard, within the political science faculty, students often analyze political situations through debating and case study methods. Students are divided into groups based on specific political issues and defend their positions. In addition, role-playing exercises and simulations that train students to make decisions in problem situations are also widely used at the university.

Oxford University, United Kingdom. Education in political science at Oxford University is based on advanced interactive methods. A special tutorial system has been developed, where students have lessons in small groups with their instructors. The teacher encourages each student to engage in deep analysis, particularly allowing them to express their opinions freely on the nuanced aspects of political science, such as international politics or public administration. At Oxford, interactive approaches that promote independent learning through academic research and inquiry are widely used. Debate and seminar methods have become an integral part of political science education at the university.

Stanford University, USA. Stanford University also successfully applies interactive methods in teaching political science. Courses in political science at this university are often based on a *problem-based learning* methodology. Students study various situations in order to express their opinions, analyze political processes, and evaluate them from an analytical perspective. At Stanford, interaction between instructors and students is also built on interactive approaches. Students are encouraged to participate in political decision-making processes and to study different political models and systems.

London School of Economics (LSE), United Kingdom. London School of Economics and Political Science widely uses interactive methods in political science education. The teaching process here encourages students to work collaboratively, think independently, and evaluate political systems from a broad perspective. At LSE, students analyze political and social issues through seminars, political debates, and simulations. They are given the opportunity to study course topics not only from instructors but also through group work with fellow students, which helps strengthen their political knowledge³. Students participate in group-based classes focused on topics such as political systems, legal foundations, and international relations, where they engage in discussion and analysis. In addition, LSE provides opportunities to learn political science not only theoretically but also practically through political simulations.

Conclusion. Several leading universities around the world successfully implement interactive methods in teaching political science. Higher education institutions such as Harvard University, University of Oxford, Stanford University, and London School of Economics and Political Science encourage students to study political science not only theoretically, but also from practical and analytical perspectives. These methods contribute to strengthening political knowledge, preparing students for independent thinking and decision-making. Interactive

³ Miller, L. D. *Active Learning in Political Science*. — New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. P.344.



approaches also prepare learners to actively participate in political processes and increase their civic responsibility. The application of interactive methods in teaching political science has become an integral part of modern education systems. These approaches serve not only to transmit knowledge, but also to develop analytical thinking and an active civic position in students. The wider implementation of interactive learning is one of the key factors in improving the quality of education. Based on cooperation between students and teachers, this system helps educate a well-rounded generation capable of independent thinking and active participation in society.

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