

POLS 321 THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Fall 2022, Friday 2-5pm

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Overview:

This is an advanced level undergraduate course designed to introduce students to theories of international relations, provide a comprehensive and in-depth overview of major scholarly traditions as well as major theoretical debates in the discipline of IR. It aims to:

- introduce students to different perspectives or intellectual frameworks for making sense of what conventionally has been called international relations (though many prefer terms like international, transnational, global, or world politics)
- cultivate necessary analytical skills to use these theories to study international politics
- examine the basic assumptions, conceptual and theoretical insights offered by theories of IR, relating these both to contemporary events and historical processes, and assess their contributions as well as their shortcoming

Structure:

There will be weekly lectures, which are designed to provide a broad overview of that week's topic, offer contesting views on the topic and contextualize it within wider debates. The discussions aim to encourage students to do textual exegesis, think critically and independently on the conceptual and theoretical questions while remaining firmly grounded in the assigned readings.

Grading:

- Participation 5%
- Reading Quizzes 20 % (Four)
- Mid Term Exam 35 % (NOVEMBER 18, 2022)
- Final Exam 40 % (TBA, January 2-13 Final Exams)

All students are expected to attend the lectures and actively participate. Attendance is required. Two or more unjustified absences will amount to an F from this course.

Course Schedule

(Note: Readings can be subject to modifications)

Week 1 (Sept 30) Introduction: Theorizing "the international"

Week 2 (Oct 7) Doing Theory, Theorizing IR

- Wight, M (1960) "Why is there no international theory?" *International Relations*, 2(1)
- Cox, R (1981) "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory" *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10(2)

Optional:

- Hamati-Ataya, I "IR Theory and the Question of Science" in Booth & Erskine (Eds.) *International Relations Theory Today*

Week 3 (Oct 14) Liberal Internationalism

- Doyle, M (1986) "Liberalism and World Politics" *American Political Science Review* 80: 1151-1170.
- Ikenberry, J (2018) "The End of Liberal International Order?" *International Affairs*, 94(1): 7-23.

Optional:

- Jahn, B (2009) "Liberal Institutionalism: From Ideology to Empirical Theory – Back Again" *International Theory* 1(3): 409-438.

Week 4 (Oct 21) Realism

What is the national interest? How do we know?

- E.H.Carr "The Harmony of Interests" *The Twenty Years Crisis*
- Waltz, K (1979) "Reductionist and Systemic Theories" in *Theory of International Politics*. Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley PC.
- J. Rosenberg "What's the matter with realism?" *Review of International Studies* Vol. 16, No. 4 (Oct., 1990), pp. 285-303

Week 5 (Oct 28) National Holiday

Week 6 (Nov 4) Marxist Theories

- (Also in Week2) Cox, R (1981) "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory" *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10(2)
- Anievas, Nisancioglu "What's at Stake in the Transition Debate? Rethinking the Origins of Capitalism and the 'Rise of the West'" *Millennium*
- Linklater, A (1986) "Realism, Marxism and Critical International Theory" *Review of International Studies* 12: 301-312.

Optional:

- Davenport, A (2011) "Marxism in IR: Condemned to a Realist Fate?" *EJIR* 19(1): 27-48.
- A. Morton, D. Bieler Ch7 "Global Capitalism and Rising Powers" in *Global Capitalism, Global War, Global Crisis*

Week 7 (Nov 11) Feminism

- C. Cockburn "The Continuum of Violence: a Gender Perspective on War and Peace"
- Hozic, True "Don't mention the war! International Financial Institutions and the gendered circuits of violence in post-conflict" *Review of International Political Economy*
- Richter-Montpetit, M (2018) "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Sex (in IR) But were Afraid to Ask: The 'Queer Turn' in International Relations" *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Vol. 46(2): 220–240

Week 8 (Nov 18) MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9 (Nov 25) The English School

- H Bull *The Anarchical Society* Ch 1 "The Concept of Order in World Politics"
- B. Buzan "Culture and International Society" *International Affairs* 86(1)

Optional:

- Clark, I (2009) "Towards an English School Theory of Hegemony", *EJIR* 15(2): 203-228.

Week 10 (Dec 2) Social Constructivism

- J. Weldes "Constructing National Interest"

Optional:

- A. Wendt "Anarchy is What States Make of it"
- Finnemore, M and Sikkink, K (1998) "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change"
- Zehfuss, M (2001) "Constructivism and Identity: A Dangerous Liaison" *EJIR* 7(3): 315-348.
- R. Price, C. Reus-Smit (1998) "Dangerous Liaisons? Critical Theory and Constructivism" *EJIR*

Week 11 (Dec 9) PostStructuralism

- D Campbell "Why fight: Humanitarianism, Principle and PostStructuralism"
- D. Lisle "Consuming Danger: Reimagining the War/Tourism Divide"

Optional:

- R. Ashley, RBJ Walker (1990) "Speaking the Language of Exile" *International Studies Quarterly*

Week 12 (Dec 16) PostColonial/DeColonial Approaches

- T. Barkawi, M. Laffey "The Postcolonial Moment in Security Studies" *Review of International Studies*
- R. Shilliam "Decolonising the Grounds of Ethical Inquiry: A Dialogue between Kant, Foucault and Glissant"

Week 13 (Dec 23) Overview, Looking Ahead

- Special Issue, "The End of International Relations Theory?", edited by Tim Dunne, Lene Hansen and Colin Wight, *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 2013