



Course Code IREL-101	Course Title Introduction to International Relations	ECTS Credits 6
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Fall/Spring	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field IR	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 1 st	Lecturer(s) Dr Giorgos Kentas
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

This course provides a general analysis of the contemporary international system and the forces that shape relationships between states and other groups at an international level. The course focuses on international politics and relations in the twentieth century. Three approaches are briefly examined. Firstly the 'realist' power-politics, which has dominated the events of this century in terms of power, resources and wealth. The second approach is the 'structuralist' approach which describes how international frameworks control the distribution of wealth and power. The third approach is that of the 'pluralists', which explore the emergence of various agencies, structures, norms and rules in international politics. The course aims to provide the student with a greater understanding of the many factors that have molded the world system, in order to give them an overview of the social, political and economic forces that have influenced twentieth century history and the contemporary international system. This will provide them with a contextual basis for more specialized studies of the above.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Illustrate mature comprehension of the key theoretical and analytical perspectives to international politics.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key historical, theoretical and methodological debates that shaped the discipline in the 21st century.
3. Examine the importance of international politics in our daily life.
4. Report on and explore international issues on the basis of the three levels of analysis.
5. Illustrate an understanding of the interplay between the three levels of analysis.
6. Use international theory in order to tackle issues in international politics.

Course Contents:

1. International politics in everyday life
2. Explaining and understanding international politics
3. Theoretical approaches to international politics
4. The historical context of contemporary international politics
5. The international system as a level of analysis
6. The state as the principal actor in international politics
7. The individual in international politics
8. War and strife
9. International organizations
10. International political economy
11. Globalizing issues

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussion, Presentation and Assignments

Assessment Methods:

Participation, Review Essay, Mid-term and Final Exam

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Mingst, Karen (2004), *Essentials of International Relations*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.
Hollis, Martin and Steve, Smith (1990), *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
Waltz, Kenneth (1959), *Man, the State and War*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Brown, Chris (2007), *Understanding International Relations* (3rd edition). London: Palgrave.
Ray, James (1998), *Global Politics* (7th edition). New York: Houghton and Mifflin Company.
Calvo-coressi, Peter (1991), *World Politics Since 1945* (6th edition). New York: Longman.