



Course Code IREL-560	Course Title Philosophy and Epistemology in International Relations	ECTS Credits 7.5
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Fall, Spring	Prerequisites IREL-500
Type of Course Required	Field International Relations	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Year of Study 2 nd	Lecturer(s) Professor Costas M. Constantinou
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The aim of this course is to study how rival ways of knowing about political and international issues have developed historically, as well as how these rival ways are currently employed in theory and practice. It introduces students into the philosophy (ancient Greek, Medieval and Enlightenment) that inspired novel and competing interpretations of society, polity and humanity, disseminating different understandings about what is at stake in organizing collectively and relating internationally. It seeks to develop into students an appreciation of the complexity of ways of knowing about political and international affairs and examines what forms of empowerment or social exclusion do specific ways of knowing legitimate within particular theoretical schemes and political projects.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Illustrate a comprehension of the main ontological and epistemological assumptions surrounding politics and international relations.
2. Analyse and evaluate theoretical claims about politics and international relations.
3. Demonstrate skills in understanding the logics and contradictions of global politics and in interpreting practices of inclusion and exclusion.
4. Illustrate a full understanding of the complexity of the field of study and its relation to other subjects.
5. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills in the formulation of conceptual problems.
6. Demonstrate extensive knowledge of the research methods used in the field of International Relations and the Social Sciences.
7. Demonstrate considerable knowledge of key research debates within the field of study.

Course Contents:

1. Doing Political Philosophy, Knowing IR
2. Philosophy, Epistemology and the Vision of the Polis
3. Religious Epistemology and the Politics of God
4. Enlightenment Epistemology and the Politics of 'Man'
5. Post-Enlightenment Epistemology and the Politics of Subjectivity
6. Non-Western Political Philosophy
7. Ethno-Epistemology
8. Historiography and the Politics of Narrative
9. Hermeneutics and the Politics of Language
10. Aesthetics and the Politics of Imagery
11. Psychoanalysis and the Politics of the Self
12. Summary and Conclusions

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures and tutorial sessions

Assessment Methods:

Exam, Essay, Class participation.

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
J.W. Moses and T.L. Knutsen	<i>Ways of Knowing</i>	Palgrave Macmillan	2007	100230516653

Recommended Textbooks:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
C. Brown, T. Nardin and N. Rengger (eds)	<i>International Relations in Political Thought</i>	Cambridge University Press	2002	52157570702
R. Wolin	<i>Politics and Vision</i>	Princeton University Press	2004	100691126275