



<b>Course Code</b> IREL-101	<b>Course Title</b> Introduction to International Relations	<b>ECTS Credits</b> 6
<b>Department</b> European Studies and International Relations	<b>Semester</b> Fall/Spring	<b>Prerequisites</b> None
<b>Type of Course</b> Required	<b>Field</b> IR	<b>Language of Instruction</b> English
<b>Level of Course</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	<b>Year of Study</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b> Dr Giorgos Kentas
<b>Mode of Delivery</b> face-to-face	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Co-requisites</b> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). London: Palgrave.  
Ray, James (1998), *Global Politics* (7<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: Houghton and Mifflin Company.  
Calvo-coressi, Peter (1991), *World Politics Since 1945* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: Longman.