



Course Syllabus

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Course Code | Course Title | ECTS Credits |
| MIR-500DE | Theory of International Relations | 10 |
| Prerequisites | Department | Semester |
| None | Politics and Governance | Fall |
| Type of Course | Field | Language of Instruction |
| Core | International Relations | English/Greek |
| Level of Course | Lecturer | Year of Study |
| 2 nd Cycle | Professor SM Farid Mirbagheri | 1 st |
| Mode of Delivery | Work Placement | Corequisites |
| Distance Learning | N/A | None |

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

International Relations as a separate field of study has undergone major developments since the end of WW I. The establishment of the discipline and its development has been accompanied and impressed by fundamental changes in the international political arena. The issues of collective security, international cooperation, causes of conflict, the cold war, containment, nuclear deterrence, decolonisation, unipolarity and globalisation have been some of the themes that have dominated the international scene with varying frequency in different periods.

Underlying these developments, however, scholars of the field have attempted to explain and describe international life through a number of paradigms. Realism, Idealism, Behaviouralism, etc., all attempt to theorise international behaviour. Making sense of what goes on internationally and eroding as much as possible the element of surprise is the main task of theories in International Relations.

This course aims to introduce an overall survey of theories of International Relations, past and present as well as trends for the future. This is to equip students with conceptual understanding of the motives and objectives of behaviour in international life. It provides a connecting link between international phenomena that renders them intelligible.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Understand frameworks with which international relations can be analysed
2. Grasp the multi-faceted nature of world affairs
3. Develop the ability to identify shortcomings in different IR paradigms
4. Illustrate the workings of international political machinery at the theoretical level by various paradigms
5. Demonstrate the linkages between theory and practice in international relations
6. Expose the inequalities and the inadequacies of the international system
7. Offer historical perspectives to international developments
8. Communicate in English language both orally and in written form at a high level of competence.
9. Use IT skills (word processing, Internet and e-mail) as study and communication tools.
10. Have the learning skills to allow them to partake in research of international phenomena with a minimal amount of assistance.
11. Make efficient use of libraries, bibliographical material and academic research

Course Content:

1. Theory Formation
2. Theory and International Relations
3. Statehood and International Relations
4. The Great Debates
5. Peace and War
6. Post-Modernism and Critical Theory
7. Power and Collective Security
8. Security and Balance of Power
9. Foreign Policy in International Relations
10. Justice and Order

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Class participation, Presentation and discussion, personal guidance

Assessment Methods:

Presentation and discussion; Essay; Mid-term assignment; Final Exam;

Required Textbooks / Readings:

| Title | Author(s) | Publisher | Year | ISBN |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Introduction to International Relations – Theories and Approaches (6 th edition) | Robert Jackson, George Sorensen | OXFORD University press | 2015 | 978-0-198-70755-4 |
| Transformation of Political Community: Ethical Foundations of the Post-Westphalian Era | Linklater Andrew | University of South Carolina Press | 1998 | 1-57003-258-0 |

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

| Title | Author(s) | Publisher | Year | ISBN |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Understanding International Relations (4th edition) | Chris Brown and Kirsten Ainley | Palgrave Macmillan | 2009 | 978-0-230-21311-1 |
| Theories of International Relations (4th edition) | Scott Burchill et al (eds.) | Palgrave | 2009 | 978-0-230-21923-6 |
| The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations, Routledge | Patrick Jackson | Routledge | 2010 | 978-0-415-77627-1 |