



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
MIREL-500	Theory of International Relations	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Politics and Governance	Fall or Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Core	International Relations	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
2 nd Cycle	Prof. Farid Mirbagheri	1 st
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Conventional	None	None

Course Objectives:

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:

- Understand and effectively apply the frameworks with which international relations can

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

Course Content:

Theory Formation
Theory and International Relations
Statehood and International Relations
The Great Debates
Peace and War
Post-Modernism and Critical Theory
Power and Collective Security
Security and Balance of Power
Foreign Policy in International Relations
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 (6th edition)	Robert Jackson, George Sorensen	OXFORD University press	2015	978-0-198-70755-4
International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity	Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith (eds.)	Oxford University Press	2016 (4th edition)	9780198707561

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Transformation of Political Community: Ethical Foundations of the Post-Westphalian Era	Linklater Andrew	University of South Carolina Press	1998	1-57003-258-0
Theories of International Relations	David A. Baldwin (ed.)	Routledge	2016	9780754627470

Theories of International Relations	Burchill et al.	Palgrave Macmillan	2013 (5th edition)	978- 0230362239
---	-----------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	--------------------