

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Theory of International Relations
Course code	27160
Scientific sector	SPS/04
Degree	Economics and Social Sciences
Semester and academic year	2nd semester, a.y. 2020/2021
Year	free choice course
Credits	6
Modular	no

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	-
Total exercise hours	-
Attendance	Recommended, but not required
Prerequisites	None
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/

Specific educational objectives	<p>This is a free choice course of the PPE, within the disciplinary sector of Political Science. The focus is mainly theoretical for the course is built, as any standard IR Theory course, to give a general overview of the design and logics of functioning of international systems. The course does not aim to offer specific professional skills. As to the educational objectives, students who take this course will develop the ability to understand the logics of international systems.</p>
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Lecturer	<p>Roberto Farneti Office SER E202 roberto.farneti@unibz.it Tel. 0471/013128 https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/17315-roberto-farneti</p>
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SPS/04 Political Science
Teaching language	English
Office hours	<p>18 hours Cockpit – students’ zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13141%2C13182 Office hours are scheduled before the course starts, but in general they take place before and after lecture hours and by appointment</p>
Lecturing assistant	-

Teaching assistant	-
Office hours	-
List of topics covered	The course engages with the main theories and discourses in the study of International Relations: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism will be explained by illustrating the debates and discussions that animate the discipline. Globalization is the backdrop where international actors engage in a system of relations ranging from cooperation to conflict. The course will illustrate a number of dyads, like East-West and North-South that structure IRs, and will expand on such issues as national security, international and transnational institutions and global governance
Teaching format	Frontal lectures

Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain insights into the leading theories and debates in the discipline of international relations. <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn to use theories of international relations to understand the contemporary international system • They will learn how theories inform decision-making and policy-making processes in international relations. • Learn how to use concepts in analyzing current facts. <p>Making judgments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to read policy statements, assessing their consistency and applicability. <p>Communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to construct clear, concise arguments using scientific language and methods. • Ability to synthesize complex arguments. • Ability to research and write research reports <p>Learning skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to engage in higher order abstraction • Ability to apply concepts in empirical research
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Assessment	<p>Assessment is based on a two-hour Final Examination (that adds up to 100% of the grade) consisting in three short written texts where students are expected to demonstrate that the basic learning outcomes are achieved. The exam consists in a choice of three out of five questions: question one is mandatory. Students have to choose two more questions. Bibliography and footnotes are not required, but please refer to the literature listed in the syllabus. Exam's format may change depending on how on measure taken by Unibz to contain Covid-19, but any changes will be shared in due course.</p>
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	A note on participation: depending on how many students attend the class, format and participation are discussed and agreed-upon on week one. Attendance is not compulsory, but registered students are normally encouraged to do presentations and in-class discussion of case studies.
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	The evaluation is based on the students' ability to demonstrate effective reading of all materials featured in the coursework. Students are expected to understand the questions and address them in a language that is not 'their own' language but rather the (technical) language of the Theory of IRs. Students have to synthesize the argument, stay on topic, and make judgments based on a careful reading of the assignments. The 'realities' of the theory are, in fact, empirical, they exist out there in a political world inhabited by human beings, but they remain accessible through written texts. Students are expected to study carefully these sources and make coherent references to the items listed in the syllabus
Required readings	John Baylis. Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. <i>The Globalization of World Politics</i> . 8th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. Cap. 4-13, 15-16, 19-31. Sebastian Rosato. "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory" <i>The American Political Science Review</i> . Vol. 97, No. 4 (Nov. 2003), pp. 585-602
Supplementary readings	Robert Jackson and George Sorensen. <i>Introduction to International relations: Theories and Approaches</i> . 5 th Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.