# Syllabus

## Course description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Theory of International Relations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course code</td>
<td>27160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific sector</td>
<td>SPS/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Economics and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester and academic year</td>
<td>2nd semester, a.y. 2022/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>free choice course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modular</td>
<td>No</td>
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| Total lecturing hours | 36                                                     |
| Total lab hours       | -                                                      |
| Total exercise hours  | -                                                      |
| Attendance            | Recommended, but not required                         |
| Prerequisites         | None                                                   |


### Specific educational objectives

The focus is mainly theoretical for the course is intended 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. Students who take this course will develop the ability to understand the logics of international systems and the behavior of states and non-governmental organizations.

### Lecturer

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

### Scientific sector of the lecturer

SPS/04 Political Science

### Teaching language

English

### Office hours

18 hours  
Cockpit – students’ zone – individual timetable  
Webpage:  
https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&degree=13016%2C13141

### Lecturing assistant

- 

### Teaching assistant

- 

### Office hours

Office hours are scheduled before the course starts, but in general they take place before and after lecture hours and by appointment

### 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

**Knowledge and understanding:**
- Glean insights into the leading theories and debates in the discipline of the theory of international relations.

**Applying knowledge and understanding:**
- Students will learn to apply theories of international relations to understand the contemporary international system.
- They will learn how ideas and interests inform decisions and attitudes in international relations.
- Learn how to use and apply concepts in analyzing current facts of international politics.

**Making judgments:**
- Ability to analyze facts and statements, assessing their consistency with ideas of democracy and democratic peace.

**Communication skills:**
- Ability to present ideas adopting the language and methods of political science.
- Ability to investigate topics in the discipline and draft simple research papers and projects.

**Learning skills:**
- Ability to distinguish between a theoretical hypothesis and an empirical statement
- Ability to appreciate the epistemic value of theories

### Assessment
Assessment is based on a two-hour Final Examination (that adds up to 100% of the grade) and mixes MC questions with the writing of a short essay.

A note on participation: depending on how many students attend the class, format and participation will be discussed and agreed-upon on week one. Attendance is not mandatory, but registered students are normally encouraged to do in-class check-tests, presentations and discussion of case studies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Assessment language</strong></th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</strong></td>
<td>Evaluation (and grade) 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 are expected to stay on topic and make judgments based on a careful reading of the assignments. The ‘realities’ of IRs are empirical facts, for they exist out there in a political world inhabited by human beings, but those facts remain accessible through statements, documents, policy decisions and ultimately theories: students will appreciate the epistemic value of all these sources and will make coherent references to the items listed in the syllabus.</td>
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