

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Theory of International Relations
Course code	27160
Scientific sector	SPS/04
Degree	Economics, Politics and Ethics
Semester and academic year	2nd semester, a.y. 2024/2025
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/de/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-politics-ethics/

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.
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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-robeto-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
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	<p>Knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glean insights into the leading theories and debates in the discipline of the theory of international relations. <p>Applying knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Making judgments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyze facts and statements, assessing their consistency with ideas of democracy and democratic peace. <p>Communication skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Learning skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to distinguish between a theoretical hypothesis and an empirical statement • Ability to appreciate the epistemic value of theories
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Assessment	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Assessment language	English

<p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Required readings</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Supplementary readings</p>	<p>Robert Jackson and George Sorensen. <i>Introduction to International relations: Theories and Approaches</i>. 5th Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.</p>