

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number: POLS 303	Course Title: Theory of International Relations								
Required / Elective: Required for the International Relations Program, elective for the Political Science Program	Pre / Co-requisites: -								
Catalog Description: Meaning and historical development of theory of international relations. Classification of main theories; emphasis on theories related with the changing structure of the world order and globalization.	Textbook / Required Material: Robert Jackson & Georg Sorenson. <i>International Relations: Theories and Approaches</i> , (Oxford University Press, 2010), 4th edition.								
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS									
<p>Extended Description:</p> <p>This course is designed to introduce students to the major theories in the field of International Relations (IR). Actually, the main question is how the theories of IR make sense of the world we are living in. Since the IR theory construction process is drastically different from that of the natural sciences, the initial sessions introduce an overview of “meta” debates concerning the philosophy of science and methodology. The rest of the course focuses on the dominant approaches to IR. In this course, you are expected to read much, think more, and apply what you have learned to several cases. The course is an early step to a broad subject; at the end you will get a taste of IR theories and learn about a modest bibliography, which includes major works in the field.</p>									
Design content: None	Computer usage: None								
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a broad understanding of theory in the social sciences • Learn about the major theories of International Relations • Demonstrate the ability to analyze events in light of theories of International Relations • Differentiate the actors and their interactions in the international system. • Compare and contrast different approaches to international politics. 									
<p>Teaching methods:</p> <p>Lectures, slides, class discussions, movies.</p>									
<p>Course Outline</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Week</th> <th>Topics</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Introduction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>International Relations as an Academic Study</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Realism</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Week	Topics	1	Introduction	2	International Relations as an Academic Study	3	Realism
Week	Topics								
1	Introduction								
2	International Relations as an Academic Study								
3	Realism								

4	Realism
5	Movie: Lord of the Flies (1990)
6	Liberalism
7	Movie: Independence Day (1996)
8	Constructivism
9	Movie: Wag the Dog (1998)
10	The English School
11	Marxist Theories
12	International Political Economy
13	Foreign Policy
14	Non-Western World and the Theories of International Relations
15	Conclusion

Assessment methods:

Midterm exam	30 %
Class participation	10 %
Quizzes	25 %
Final Exam	35%

The Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events					x
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions				x	
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture					x
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations				x	
IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					x
IR6	Understand the international legal framework			x		
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international					x

	relations					
PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events					
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions					
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)					
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)					
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought					x
PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics					
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically					x
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative					
10	Have self-confidence				x	
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences					x
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups				x	
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms					
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly					x
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					x
16	Understand, read, and write in English					x
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report					x
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research					
19	Understand and interpret statistical data					
20	Be prone to team work			x		
21	Possess computer and technological literacy					

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading	93 hrs
Lectures	33 hrs
Movies	8 hrs
Class discussion	10 hrs
Examinations (Quizzes and midterm)	6 hrs
TOTAL	150 hrs (25x6) 6 ECTS
Prepared by: Özlem Kayhan Pusane	Revision Date: 25. 06. 2013