

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **IRL 2000: FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**EMAIL:**

**CREDIT: 3 UNITS**

**CONSULTATIVE HOURS:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is for students who have hitherto had no exposure in the academic field of International Relations. It seeks to introduce students to the basic concepts and understanding of the major issue areas of contemporary international relations. It introduces students to:

- § the basics of understanding and producing theories in IR
- § the canonical theories of IR: Realism, Liberalism and Marxism
- § the relatively new and increasingly influential theory-constructivism
- § ways in which such theories approach central topics in IR including sovereignty, power, war, peace, IPE, New World (dis-)Order, humanitarian intervention, International Law and Terrorism.
- § a good basis from which to appreciate the theoretical schools of thought in the study of international relations
- § a strong foundation in the study of international politics as a basis for further study

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- § think of IR scholarship as a practice that is historically and culturally dependant
- § understand the major debates in classical IR Theory AND think theoretically
- § critically analyze and compare different theoretical approaches
- § utilize the concepts and theories they have learnt to understand issues of world politics
- § make use of theories and concepts to analyze current international issues
- § have some grasp of a set of core concepts and problems presently being debated in IR
- § appreciate throughout their degree pathway, the theoretical schools of thought in their study of international relations

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

In addition to the aforementioned course-specific outcomes, the module will also promote the generic learning outcomes of the Department's undergraduate programs listed below:

- § 1-Explain concepts and theories in International Relations
- § 4-Critically analyze the dynamics of world politics
- § 6-Apply understanding of a global, multi-cultural and complex interconnected world to explain and predict issues in International Relations

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students wishing to pursue this course should have taken the following prerequisites and/or should be registered in the following co requisites:

§ All level 1 core courses

**NB/ This is NOT an upper level course.**

### **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

§ **Readings** - students are expected to complete the required readings before class. A reading list will be provided and in some cases, individual students will be assigned particular readings to facilitate discussions. Additional readings offer a good and basic foundational basis for building up a bibliography.

§ **Lectures** – Lectures offer an established basis for delivering core knowledge about the subject. Lectures will not necessarily summarize but rather complement the readings provided. Lectures will be held in room B2, Business Block, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.30 to 5.10 pm.

§ **Power Point** – The lecturer will use power point slides to deliver the contents of the lecture. These will also be available before class

§ **Class presentations/Group Discussions**- This will encourage students to work together in researching, presenting and assessing their own work

§ **Consultative hours** – students are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor. The lecturer will use these hours to address individual problems or difficulties.

§ **Student participation** – Students are encouraged to interact in class. Student participation is very important. The students’ skills that will be developed include the development and presentation of oral skills directed towards international relations discourse.

§ **Current affairs** – this is a mandatory exercise. Students are meant to familiarize themselves with events from across the globe for further discussion in class. Students should demonstrate some background knowledge of the news they read.

§ **Blackboard** - Blackboard will host PowerPoint slides, discussion pages, useful links, further readings and other course related information

### **ASSESSMENT**

The Evaluation Method will be as follows:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| · Attendance, Participation, Group Work | 10% |
| · Article Reviews                       | 10% |
| · Research/ Writing Assignment          | 20% |
| · Mid-semester Exam                     | 20% |
| · Final Exam                            | 30% |

### **Attendance**

Students are required to attend **ALL** lectures. In case of absence, please contact the lecturer in advance. All reasons for non-attendance must be accompanied by a written explanation from a recognized authority and not by students themselves. Students will automatically be awarded an F-grade for missing 5 classes.

### **Participation**

Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate fully in class discussions. To encourage equality and fairness, the instructor will randomly select students from the class list to initiate or offer views on certain topics. Class discussions will be regulated due to time constraints. Discussions will primarily be based on current affairs.

### **Blackboard**

Students will be required to fully utilize Blackboard not only to obtain notes but to interact with other students.

### **Group work**

Students will be expected to make a presentation as a group. Students will also be expected to assess their peers. This will offer persuasive scores. The final mark tally will be the prerogative of the instructor. Students will be assessed as a group and not as individuals. Students are therefore required to maintain coherency with their fellow group members at all times.

### **Research/ Writing Assignment**

Students are expected to submit researched answers to a set of 5 questions to be provided by the Instructor (include bibliography). Although USIU has general guidelines on writing researched papers, additional course-specific guidelines regarding the same will be provided. The assignment will form 20% of the overall grade. It is intended to encourage individual research into a topic of contemporary international concern. This assignment places particular emphasis upon the acquisition and application of relevant critical, analytical and evaluative skills.

### **Academic Integrity**

Blackboard integrates a software program to assist in the detection of plagiarism called SafeAssign. SafeAssign is a text-matching software which provides a report on whether a student's work is original. It is therefore mandatory for all works to include full and correct referencing. To this end, all submitted works should be accompanied by an identical soft copy.

### **Examination**

There will be two examinations; the mid-semester and final exam. Each examination consists of a two-hour paper. Questions will require the student to briefly explain key IR-related terms. The examinations form 50% of the overall assessment. Although considerable choice is available, the questions ensure that all students acquire a substantial grasp of the course content.

## USIU GRADING SYSTEM

A 90-100	C 70-73
A- 87-89	C- 67-69
B+ 84-86	D+ 64-66
B 80-83	D 62-63
B- 77-79	D- 60-61
C+ 74-76	F 0-59 OR 5 MISSED CLASSES

### REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

#### Textbooks:

Although course books are provided by the course text section in the library, students are nevertheless strongly encouraged to borrow or purchase other recommended texts for their own private and further reading. Other recommended readings can also be found in the library, online journals or on Blackboard. The recommended course books for this course are:

- § Baylis J and Smith S. (2008). *The Globalization of World Politics: an introduction to international relations*.(Oxford: Oxford University Press)
- § Brown C. (2004). *Understanding International Relations*.( Palgrave: McMillan).
- § Viotti P and Kauppi (1999) M, *International Relations Theory: Realism, Pluralism, Globalization and Beyond* (Allyn and Bacon)

Students may also consult one or all of the following texts for their preliminary reading. ALL be found in the library:

- § Bell P.M. (2001), *The World Since 1945: An International History*, (London, Arnold),
- § Booth K and Smith S (eds). (1995). *International Relations Theory Today*. (Oxford: Polity Press).
- § Bull H. (1995). *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*. (London: Macmillan).
- § Burchill S .et al. (2001). *Theories of International Relations, 2nd edition*. (Basingstoke: Palgrave.)
- § Buzan B (2004), *From International Society to World Society? English School Theory and the Social Structure of Globalization*.(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- § Falk R (1999). *Predatory Globalization. A Critique*. (Oxford: Polity Press)
- § Gills BK and Thompson WR (eds) (2006). *Globalization and Global History* (New York, London: Routledge)
- § Hollis M & Smith S. (1990) *Explaining and Understanding International Relations* (Oxford: Clarendon Press)
- § Iver B. Neumann and Ole Wæver (eds). (1997). *The Future of International Relations: Masters in the Making?* (New York, London: Routledge)
- § Jackson R and Sorensen G. (2003). *Introduction to International Relations: Theories & Approaches*, second edition, (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
- § Roberts J.M (1999), *Twentieth Century: A History of the World 1901 to the Present* ( Penguin)
- § Smith S, Booth K and Zalewski M (eds) (1996) *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)**

### Introduction to 'Foundations of International Relations'

Course outline

Course-related information

#### **Lecture Theme 1: Introductory Lecture & Course Overview**

Students will be introduced to the course instructor and the course. The instructor will explicate the course schedule throughout the 13 weeks of study. She will address all queries regarding the course organization and how the course is relevant to students.

**Thinking theoretically-** The lecture delves into the issue of the need to explain global events theoretically.

#### Preliminary Reading

James Rosenau in Viotti and Kauppi, *IR theory*, pp 29-37

#### **Lecture Theme 2: Introduction to the study of International Relations in a global world**

Introduction, definition & scope

Theories of world politics (overview)

The international relations actors

Key enquiries: Why study International Relations? Why study theories? What is the difference between ir and IR? What is sovereignty? Why is it integral in contemporary IR arguments? Can we study IR scientifically? How should we analyze international affairs? How should the world be divided so that we can study it systematically?

#### Preliminary Reading:

Baylis, *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp 2-8

Brown, *Understanding IR*, pp 1-18

Jackson, *Introduction*, pp 1-31

Viotti, *IR Theory*, pp 1-28

Waltz S, *International Relations: One World, many theories* (2008) 110 Foreign Policy, pp 29-35

#### Further Reading

Steve Smith in Viotti and Kauppi, *IR theory*, pp 38-54

#### **Lecture Theme 3: Historical origins of international relations**

This lecture will try and trace the origins of international relations with an enquiry into its early and modern approaches from early known documented periods to the current day. It will be marked by a group work exercise.

Key enquiries: Ancient Greece and Renaissance Italy; European international society and the peace of Westphalia; the global international society; World War 1 and the Versailles Treaty; the global economic slump 1929-33; world war 2 in Asia and the Pacific

#### Further Reading:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, Part one, pp 38-87

Holis & Smith, *Explaining*, pp 16-44

#### **Lecture Theme 4: Globalization**

The lecture considers the effect of globalization on the nature of world politics and consequently on traditional patterns of sovereignty, democracy and governance

Key enquiries: What is globalization? What are its precursors? What is its effect on sovereignty? How do the main theories relate to globalization? What is the state of globalization since 9/11? How does it impact global politics? How do private-sector bodies contribute to the governance of global relations?

##### Preliminary Reading:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 6-33

Brown, *Understanding*, pp 116-140

##### Further Reading

Nnoli, Okwudiba, (2003) 'Globalization and African Political Science' *African Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 8 No 2 pp 11-32

#### **Lecture Theme 5: Realism**

##### Realism & Neo-realism

This lecture will look into one of the key theories of classical IR and its contemporary argument.

Key enquiries: What is realism? What are the key assumptions of realism? What are classical & modern realism and their theorists? What was E.H. Carr's contribution to realism? What are the differences between classical Realism and Neo-realism? Does the anarchic structure of the international state system require states to engage in power politics? What is power? How can it be measured and managed in international politics? What is the realist balance of power theory? Is Unipolarity/hegemony stabilizing or destabilizing? What are the principle criticisms of realism?

##### Preliminary Readings:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 92-106

Brown, *Understanding* pp 19-39

Dougherty, *Contending*, pp 63-103

Jackson, *Introduction*, pp 67-104

Viotti, *IR Theory*, pp 55-99

##### Further Reading:

Barry Buzan, 'The timeless Wisdom of realism?' In Booth & Smith (eds.), *International theory* pp 47-65

'The Melian dialogue' in Viotti pp 100-105 & 'On Princes and the Security of States' in Viotti pp 105-107

#### **Lecture Theme 6: Liberalism**

Key enquiries: What are the key pluralist assumptions? Who were the classical liberalists? What are the four liberal strands? What is Neo-liberalism? Why do states participate in international institutions? Do states use institutions to advance national interests? What are the principle criticisms of this theory?

##### Preliminary Readings:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 110-22

Brown, *Understanding*. pp 40-62

Burchill, *Theories*, pp 29-69

Viotti, *IR Theory*, pp 199-232

'Liberalism & World Politics in Viotti pp 233-45

Further Reading:

Richard Little, 'The growing relevance of Pluralism', in Booth & Smith(eds.), *International theory* pp 66-86

McDonald P, Sweeney K, "The Achilles' heel of liberal IR theory? Globalization and conflict in the Pre-World War I Era" Vol 59, No. 3, (1995) *World Politics* 370

**Lecture Theme 8: Marxism**

This lecture introduces students to Marxism. It will outline and assess the Marxist contribution to the study of International Relations.

Key Enquiries: What are the approaches of Marxism? How do they compare in explaining the structure of the international system? How do they perceive the role of politics and the state? Can Karl Marx be depicted as the theorist of Globalization? What are the Marxists strands? What are the principle criticisms of Marxist theory?

Preliminary Readings:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 144-59

Burchill, *Theories*, pp 129-80

Viotti, *IR Theory*, pp 341-64

Further Reading:

Andrew Linklater, 'The achievements of critical theory' in Booth & Smith (eds.), *International theory* pp 66-86

**Lecture Theme 9: Social Constructivism**

This theory is relatively new in IR debates. It emerged in the 1980's as a reaction to the neo-neo debate. Constructivism highlights how ideas can define world politics as opposed to earlier attempts at viewing world politics in terms of the pursuit by the state of power and wealth.

Preliminary Readings

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 162-75

Burchill, *Theories*, pp 209-230

Jackson pp 253-59

Viotti, *IR Theory*, pp 427-59

**Lecture Theme 10: International Political Economy**

This lecture will further the arguments touched on by Marxism regarding viewing world politics economically. It will offer a shift from earlier theories dealing with power politics and politics of cooperation. It will introduce students to the merger of politics and economic issues in the international system.

Key enquiries: What is IPE? What are the arguments of its main theories: Mercantilism, economic liberalism and Marxism?

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 244-60

Jackson pp 176-93

### **Lecture Theme 11: International Law & International Humanitarian Law**

This lecture will offer an insight into a very integral sub-field of International Relations called International Law. It will trace the origins of International law to Hugo Grotius and analyze the intentions of introducing International Law into world politics. Key international legal instruments will be discussed including the distinction of bilateral and multilateral treaties. The lecture will then look at a pertinent and current sub-field of international law, International Humanitarian Law or the law of armed conflict or the law of war. It will briefly trace its humble beginnings from the battle of Solferino to the Geneva Conventions. The lecture will finally view how International Law and International Relations contribute to International Relations.

#### Preliminary Readings:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 278-93, 522-39

Brown, *Understanding*. pp 207-28

Viotti, *IR Theory*, pp 199-232

Yasuaki Onuma (2003) 'International Law in and with International Politics: The Functions of International Law in International Society' *European Journal of International Law* Vol 14 No. 105

#### Further Reading

Koh Harold Hongju (1995) 'Why do Nations Obey International Law?' 106 *Yale Law Journal* 2599

Keohane, R., (1997) 'International Relations and International Law: Two Optics' 38 *Harvard International Law Journal*, 487.

### **Lecture Theme 12: Diplomacy and Foreign Policy**

This lecture will focus on diplomacy as a key process of communication and negotiation in world politics and as an important foreign policy instrument used by global actors. Diplomacy may have changed in context and form but it remains a highly relevant process in contemporary world politics.

#### Preliminary Readings:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 317 - 329

Brown, *Understanding*. pp 63-77

#### Further Reading

Hollis M & Smith S. (1990) *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*

Hamiltone K and Langhorne R *The Practice of Diplomacy*

### **Lecture Theme 13: Environmental issues**

Environmental Issues emerged in the late 20th Century as a major focus of international concern and activity. Understanding the cause of global environmental change is an urgent task. Approaches and concepts developed within International Relations can contribute to such understanding.

#### Preliminary Readings:

Baylis, *The Globalization*, pp 387 - 410

Brown, *Understanding*. pp 116 -129

#### Further Reading

Hollis M & Smith S. (1990) *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*



### **Lecture Theme 14: Power, Security and Terrorism**

The exercise of influence is the characteristic way that states interact with one another. There is a relationship between influence and power. Power is a term in political discourse that has been so widely used and it is almost lost in translation. In this anarchical global society, there is usually a degree of order in the world and insecurity, while ever present, is kept at manageable level. How?

#### Preliminary Readings:

Brown, *Understanding*. pp 80 – 95

Dougherty & Pfaltzgraff pp 231-243

#### Further Reading

Hollis M & Smith S. (1990) *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*

### **Lecture Theme 15: Summarizing ‘Foundations’: Ethics & International Relations**

#### **ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES**

1. Article Review due on the Third Week on Thursday
2. Weekly Reading Checks (Quiz) to be administered in class.
3. Research and Writing Assignment on the Tenth Week on Thursday (both soft copy to SafeAssign and hard copy for grading)
4. Group Work -TBA

*Education is the guardian genius of democracy.  
It is the only dictator that free men recognize,  
and the only ruler that free men require.*

**Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar**

*Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude  
from achieving his goal;  
nothing on earth can help the man  
with the wrong mental attitude.*

**Thomas Jefferson**