

# Introduction to International Relations

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Fall 2016

## Instructor

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## Content

Introduction to International Relations introduces students to the main theories that have been developed to explain international relations. Students will be introduced to the important actors, conflicts, and dynamics that influence important international events. The course covers the main theories, and introduces some key concepts discussed in the literature. Students will be given the opportunity to learn about the theories through applying them to several cases of their choice in policy oriented interactive discussions.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the different theoretical positions taken by the different schools of thought within international relations theory and the major authors studied.
- Distinguish between the major theoretical schools within international relations theory.
- Distinguish between the major authors within each school.
- Explain why different theoretical approaches reach the conclusions that they do.
- Compare and independently analyze the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches.
- Compare and independently analyze the strengths and weaknesses of different authors, both within and across schools.
- Be able to use this theoretical knowledge to independently analyze a historical event or make claims about the future direction of the international system.

**Course structure:** One lecture per week, 10:00-12:00 Monday (U82). Class attendance is not mandatory but *strongly encouraged*. Classes will involve a combination of lecturing designed to clarify key aspects of theories and interactive class discussion that applies these theories to examples to assess their utility.

**Equity and Disability Policies:** The University of Southern Denmark and I are committed to providing a supportive learning environment. I will not accept disparaging comments and

disruptive behavior. If you are facing medical, emotional or personal circumstances that will affect your attendance and performance, please see me.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated and could result in a grade of zero for the course or expulsion from the University. Please see the University's plagiarism policies.

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**Assessment.** There are two pieces of student assessment in this module.

*A mandatory assignment.* This assignment will test your ability to operationalize the theoretical concepts we will study in the course. The task for this assignment is to take a historical event of your choice and either:

- 1) Demonstrate how we can understand its nature or outcome using one of the theoretical perspectives that we have learned in class.
- 2) Demonstrate how one of the theoretical perspectives that we have learned in class fails to capture the nature or outcomes of the event.

The assignment will be handed in on Blackboard, and be no longer than 4 pages of 2400 characters per page including spaces.

*A 53-hour take-home exam.* This exam will test your knowledge of the theoretical concepts and your ability to evaluate one over another. It will feature six essay questions, of which the student can choose two. The assessment, both in terms of content and grading expectations, will be based on the essential readings. The examination questions can draw on any topic covered.

The questions will be comparative in nature, so each question will feature more than one scholar or theoretical perspective. They will be designed so that the student must present and defend their own argument on the subject matter – mere description of the arguments found in the literature will not be sufficient. The questions can be legitimately answered in many different ways, reflecting the complexity of the issues that we will be dealing with, but the answers must engage with the academic literature in a coherent way to defend the student's position.

The questions will be posted to Blackboard, and the completed exam will be handed in on Blackboard. The total length of the exam will be no longer than 8 pages of 2400 characters per page including spaces.

### General Resources

Although this course is based solely on an engagement in academic texts, there are many general works on international relations theory that might be useful for supplementary reading: Baylis, John, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens. *The Globalization of World Politics*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Booth, Ken and Steve Smith. *International Relations Theory Today*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1995.

Brown, Chris and Kirsten Ainley. *Understanding International Relations*. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. London: Palgrave, 2009.

I also strongly encourage you to read good newspapers, magazines, and blogs. Recommended (English language) newspapers include the *New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Washington Post*; magazines include the *Economist*, and *Newsweek*. There are also a variety of high quality popular magazines: *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy* are focused on international politics, but the *New York Review of Books*, *New Yorker*, *The Nation* and *The New Republic* often cover these issues as well. Important blogs (or at least my favourites) *Duck of Minerva*, *The Monkey Cage*, *War on the Rocks*, and *Political Violence at a Glance*. There is a lot of high-quality journalism, writing, and analysis out there, and I encourage you to familiarize yourself with some of it.

## Readings

### Week 1: How to study International Relations?

Aron, Raymond. "What is a Theory of International Relations?" *Journal of International Affairs* 21(2) 185-206.

Hoffmann, Stanley (1977), "An American Social Science: International Relations," *Daedalus*. 106 (3) 41-60.

Walt, Stephen M (1998), 'International Relations : One World, Many Theories', *Foreign Policy*, n° 110. Available here :  
<http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/hpschmitz/PSC124/PSC124Readings/WaltOneWorldManyTheories.pdf>

Jackson, Patrick Thaddeus (2015) 'Must International Studies Be a Science?' *Millennium* 43 (3) 942-965.

### Week 2: Classical realism

*Question : what is the conception of human nature in classical realism ?*

Lebow, Richard Ned (2008) 'The Ancient Greeks and Modern Realism: Ethics, Persuasion, and Power', in Bell, Duncan S. (ed.) *Tragedy, Power, and Justice: Realism and Global Political Theory*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 26-40. Available at:  
[http://www.dartmouth.edu/~nedlebow/anc\\_gree\\_mod\\_real.pdf](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~nedlebow/anc_gree_mod_real.pdf)

Williams, Michael (2004) 'Why Ideas Matter in IR: Morgenthau, Classical Realism, and the Moral Construction of Power Politics', *International Organization* 58(4): 633-665.

Hoffmann, Stanley (1985) 'Raymond Aron and the Theory of International Relations', *International Studies Quarterly* 29 (1): 13-27.

Desch, Michael (2003), 'It's Kind to be Cruel. The Humanity of American Realism', *Review of International Studies*, 29(3): 415-426.

### **Week 3: Classical liberalism**

*Question: Is permanent peace possible in international affairs?*

Doyle, Michael (1986) 'Liberalism and World Politics', *The American Political Science Review* 80 (4) 1151-1169.

Jahn, Beate (2005), 'Kant, Mill, and Illiberal Legacies in International Affairs', *International Organization* 59(1), 177-207.

Levy, Jack. S. (1988), 'Domestic Politics and War', *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 18(4), 653-673.

Mueller, John (2014), 'Did History End? Assessing the Fukuyama Thesis', *Political Science Quarterly*, 129 (1): 35-54.

### **Week 4: Social Constructivism**

*Question: Is constructivism a specific theory of international relations?*

Wendt, Alexander (1992) 'Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics', *International Organization*, 46 (2) 391-425.

Checkel, Jeffrey T (1998) 'The Constructivist Turn in International Relations Theory', *World Politics* 50 (2) 324-348.

Adler, Emmanuel (1997) 'Seizing the Middle Ground: Constructivism in World Politics', *European Journal of International Relations*, 3 (3): 319-363.

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink (2001) 'Taking stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics', *Annual Review of Political Science* 4: 391-416.

### **Week 5: Structural Realism 1**

*Question: Is structural realism more “scientific” than alternative approaches to IR?*

Waltz, Kenneth (1990) ‘Realist Thought and Neorealist Theory’, *Journal of International Affairs* 44 : 21-37.

Ashley, Richard (1984) ‘The poverty of Neo-Realism’, *International Organization* 38 (2) 225-286.

Waltz, Kenneth (2000), ‘Structural Realism after the Cold War’, *International Security* 25(1) : 5-41.

### **Week 6: Neo-Liberal Institutionalism**

*Question: What is the role of international institutions in international cooperation?*

Krasner, Stephen (1982) ‘Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables’ *International Organization*, 36 (2) 185-205.

Powell, Robert (1994) ‘Anarchy in International Relations Theory: The Neorealist-Neoliberal Debate’, *International Organization* 48 (2):313-344.

Moravcsik, Andrew (1997) ‘Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics’, *International Organization* 51(4): 513-553.

### **Week 7: The English School**

*Question: What is the difference between international society and the international system?*

Buzan, Barry (2001) ‘The English School: an underexploited resource in IR’, *Review of International Studies* 27(3): 471-488.

Little, Richard (2000) ‘The English School’s Contribution to the Study of International Relations’, *European Journal of International Relations*, 6(3): 395-422.

Wheeler, Nicholas (1992) ‘Pluralist and Solidarist Conceptions of International Society’, *Millennium* 21(3): 463-487.

Clark, Ian (2009) 'Towards an English School Theory of Hegemony', *European Journal of International Relations* : 15(2) 203-228

### **Week 8: Structural realism 2**

*Question: How did the end of the Cold War change the international system?*

Wohlforth, William C (1994-95) 'Realism and the End of the Cold War', *International Security*, 25 (3) 128-161.

Glaser, Charles L (2003) 'Structural realism in a more complex world', *Review of International Studies*, 29 (3) 403-414.

Monteiro Nuno (2011/2012) 'Unrest Assured: Why Unipolarity is not Peaceful', *International Security*, 36(3) 9-40.

Rose, Gideon (1998) 'Neo-Classical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy', *World Politics*, 51 (1) 144-172.

### **Week 9: Gender and International Relations**

*Question: Is the Gender perspective on IR descriptive or normative?*

Cohn, Carol (1987) 'Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals', *Signs* 12(4): 687-718.

Burguières, Mary K (1990) 'Feminist Approaches to Peace', *Millennium* 19 (1): 1-18.

Brown, Sarah (1988) 'Feminism, International Theory and International Relations', *Millennium* 17 (3) 461-475.

Tickner, J Ann (1988) 'Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism: a Feminist Reinterpretation', *Millennium*, 17 (3) 429-440.

## **Week 10: One world, multiple perspectives.**

*Guest Lecturer: Martin Mennecke, Associate Professor, Department of Law.*

Readings to be announced

## **Week 11: Critical Theory**

*Question: What would an "emancipated" world look like?*

Booth, Ken (1991) 'Security and Emancipation', *Review of International Studies* 17 (4) 313-326.

Krause, Keith (1998) "Critical Theory and Security Studies: The Research Program of 'Critical Security Studies'", *Cooperation and Conflict*, 33 (3), 299-334.

Collective (2006) 'Critical Approaches to Security in Europe: A Networked Manifesto', *Security Dialogue* 37 (4) : 443-487.

Jabri, Vivienne (2006) 'War, Security and the Liberal State', *Security Dialogue*, 37 (1) : 47-64.

## **Week 12: Power**

*Question : How does power operate in international relations ?*

Dahl, Robert (1957) 'The Concept of Power', *Behavioral Science*, 2 : 201-215

Barnett, Michael and Raymond Duvall (2005) 'Power in International Politics', *International Organization* 59 (1) : 39-75.

Nexon, Daniel H. (2009) 'The Balance of Power in the Balance', *World Politics*, 61(2) : 330-359.

Freedman, Lawrence (1998) 'Military Power and Political Influence', *International Affairs*, 74(4) 763-780.

Kearn, David W. Jr (2011) 'The Hard Truths about Soft Power', *Journal of Political Power* 4(1) : 65-85.

### Week 13: Security issues

Question: What is the difference between IR theories and security studies ?

Waltz, Kenneth (1981) 'The Spread of Nuclear Weapons. More May be Better', *Adelphi Papers* n° 171, IISS, London.

Morgan, Patrick M. (2005) 'Taking the Long View of Deterrence', *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 28(5) : 751-763.

Stephen M. Walt (1985), 'Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power', *International Security* 9 (4) : 3-43.

Barnett, Michael N. and Jack S. Levy (1991), 'Domestic Sources of Alliances and Alignment : the Case of Egypt, 1962-1973', *International Organization*, 45(3) : 369-395.

### Week 14 : Making peace

Question : Is peace the absence of war ?

Galtung, Johan (1969) 'Violence, Peace and Peace Research', 6(3) : 167-191

Hampson, Fen Osler, Chester A. Crocker and Pamela R. Aal (2007), 'Negotiation and International Conflict', in Charles Webel and Johan Galtung (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Abingdon : Routledge, 35-50.

Available here : <http://www.mkgandhi.org/ebks/handbook-of-peace-and-conflict-studies.pdf>

Doyle, Michael and Nicholas Sambanis (2000) "International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis." *American Political Science Review*, 94(4): 779-801.

Autesserre, Séverine (2009) "Hobbes and the Congo: Frames, Local Violence and International Intervention", *International Organization* 63(2): 249-280.



## Week 15 : Identity politics and international relations

Question : What is the role of identity in peace and war ?

Huntington, Samuel J., (1993), 'The Clash of Civilizations ?', *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3) : 22-49.

Ned Lebow, Richard (2014), 'Identity and the Self', in Michael T. Gibbons ed., *Encyclopaedia of Political Thought* (New York: Wiley). Available through SDU library:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118474396.wbept0497/abstract>

Saideman, Stephen M. (2002) 'Overlooking the Obvious: Bringing International Politics Back into Ethnic Conflict Management', *International Studies Review* 4(3): 63-86.

Bercovitch, Jacob and Ayse Kadayicfi-Orellana (2009) 'Religion and Mediation: the Role of Faith-Based Actors in International Conflict Resolution', *International Negotiation* 14(1): 175-204.