

Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: IREL-500 Theory of International Relations

Department: International Relations

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
IREL-500	Theory of International Relations	3.7
Semester Offered	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Fall	42	None
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
International Relations	Upper Division	English

Course Description

Introduction, Theory formation, Theory and International Relations, Statehood and International Relations, The Great Debates, Peace and War, Post-modernism and Critical theory, Power and collective security, Security and balance of power, Foreign Policy in International Relations, Justice and order, International Cooperation, Revision.

Instructor

Farid Mirbagheri, Ph.D.

Course Aims and Objectives

International Relations as a separate field of study has undergone major developments since the end of WW I. The establishment of the discipline and its development has been accompanied and impressed by fundamental changes in the international political arena. The issues of collective security, international cooperation, causes of conflict, the cold war, containment, nuclear deterrence, decolonisation, unipolarity and globalisation have been some of the themes that have dominated the international scene with varying frequency in different periods.

Underlying these developments, however, scholars of the field have attempted to explain and describe international life through a number of paradigms. Realism, Idealism, Behaviouralism, etc., all attempt to theorise international behavior. Making sense of what goes on internationally and eroding as much as possible the element of surprise is the main task of theories in International Relations.

This course aims to introduce an overall survey of theories of International Relations, past and present as well as trends for the future. This is to equip students with conceptual understanding of the motives and objectives of behavior in international life. It provides a connecting link between international phenomena that renders them intelligible.

Teaching Methods

Lectures, discussions, assigned readings, projects, presentations

Course Teaching Hours

42 hours. The course is delivered during the Spring semester in 14-weeks (3 hours/week).

Evaluation and Grading

Presentation	(20%)
Project	(25%)
Mid-term exam	(25%)
Final Exam	(30%)

Readings and Resources

Required Textbooks

Linklater, Andrew, Transformation of Political Community

Waltz, Kenneth, Theory of International Politics (1979).

Bull, Hadley, Anarchical Society (1977/1995).

Jackson et al, Introduction to International Relations (2003).