



**Department of Political Science and International Relations**

**BA COURSE**

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**POLS 102 – INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Teaching Staff**

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## **Course Description:**

Of all the students of the social sciences taught in universities, those concerned with IR probably encounter the greatest degree of misunderstanding, and engage in more ground-clearing, conceptual, factual and ethical, than any other.

*Halliday, F. Rethinking International Relations.  
(Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 1994) p.5*

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Students of this course are bound to ask the question – what exactly is IR (International Relations)? What distinguishes it from history, law, economics or political science? When did IR emerge as an academic subject? What does IR contribute to the sum of human knowledge? And why has it become one of the most popular 21<sup>st</sup> century social sciences, despite the fact that – according to Halliday at least – IR students have to spend more time than most to defining their subject?

The purpose of this course is to try and answer these questions while providing you with a foundation for more specialised IR topics that you will study in the coming years. We will look in some detail at both the real world problems which IR addresses, and some of the essential theories it employs to understand the international system.

This course does not presuppose a specialised knowledge of international affairs. On the other hand, it does assume that you will have a genuine interest in world politics and a willingness to expand your knowledge of geography and key moments in international history. This course is therefore a roadmap and guide to complex issues. Rather than trying to be exhaustive, it seeks to introduce you to a wide range of issues and problems that have preoccupied writers, scholars and policy-makers for many decades – even centuries. Instead of arguing in favour of a specific approach or pointing to an absolute truth in IR, this course will ask you to think about international events in a systematic and critical fashion, coming to well-reasoned conclusions based on a combination of empirical observation and theoretical rigour. The aim, in other words, is to inform and stimulate and, in so doing, to get you to ask questions and think of answers that you may never have thought of before.

This course aims to:

- explore the evolution of the discipline of IR over the past century by examining our changing understandings of order within the anarchic international system,
- consider the impact of major historical events on the evolution of academic IR, including the ongoing impact of globalisation,
- introduce you to a range of theoretical tools that will help you to examine the behaviour of international actors and the nature of international systems,
- define and discuss some of the main concepts within the discipline, including war, peace, the state and power,
- critically assess challenges facing contemporary international society, including security and global governance.

At the end of the course, and having completed the essential reading and activities, you should be able to:

- explain the relevance of key terms in IR,
- identify the strengths and weaknesses of IR's various theoretical approaches,
- analyse international events from a variety of theoretical viewpoints,
- describe the nature of units and socio-political structures within the contemporary international system.

### **Essential Reading Source:**

- ❖ John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens – *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010)

During our weekly classes, you will be prompted to read specific sections from this textbook. Please note that **it is compulsory to obtain this book**, yet **it is not sufficient by itself**. You have to use the textbook alongside my lecture notes and prepare for the exams accordingly. Second hand copies of the book are available on the Internet. You can buy either the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> editions. All are acceptable. For any other information regarding the book, please contact me through e-mail.

You can buy the book online and have it delivered to your address from the website of the bookshop given in the next page:

<http://www.pandora.com.tr/urun/globalization-of-world-politics-5e-an-introduction-to-international-relations/239018>

Please rest assured that I will personally provide all the other required reading material when necessary during the term.

## **Course Schedule and Readings:**

### **Week 1 – Introduction: Course Overview & International Relations in the Age of Globalisation**

#### **Essential Reading:**

- Baylis, Smith and Owens course textbook, *Introduction* – pages 1-13.
- Textbook, *Chapter 1* – pages 15-31.

## ***The History of IR***

### **Week 2 – The Evolution of International Society, Pre-1900 Era**

#### **Essential Reading:**

- Textbook, *Chapter 2* – pages 35-49.

### **Week 3 – International History – The World Wars, 1900-1945**

#### **Essential Reading:**

- Textbook, *Chapter 3* – pages 51-56.

### **Week 4 – International History – The Cold War, 1945-1991**

#### **Essential Reading:**

- Textbook, *Chapter 3* – pages 56-65.

#### **Summary Paper Reading I:**

- Barton J. Bernstein (1995), *The Atomic Bombings Reconsidered* – pages 135-152.

## **Week 5 – The Contemporary World, 1991-2008**

### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 4 – pages 67-80.*

## ***The Theories of IR***

### **Week 6 – Conventional Theories of IR**

#### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 5 – pages 85-99.*
- *Chapter 6 – pages 101-113.*
- *Chapter 7 – pages 115-129.*

### **Week 7 – Alternative Theories of IR – Part I**

#### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 8 – pages 131-146.*
- *Chapter 9 – pages 149-165.*

### **Week 8 – Alternative Theories of IR – Part II**

#### Essential Reading:

- *Chapter 10 – pages 167-180.*
- *Chapter 11 – pages 183-195.*

## ***The Structures and Processes of IR***

### **Week 9 – The Changing Character of War**

#### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 13 – pages 214-228.*

#### Summary Paper Reading II:

- Amitav Acharya (2001), *Human Security: East versus West- pages 1-18.*

## **Week 10 – National Security & International Security**

### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 14 – pages 231-245.*

## **Week 11 – Global Political Economy – Part I**

### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 15 – pages 247-261.*

## **Week 12 – Global Political Economy – Part II**

### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 15 – pages 247-261.*

## **Week 13 – International Law, Ethics and Cooperation**

### Essential Reading:

- Textbook, *Chapter 12 – pages 197-211.*
- *Chapter 17 – pages 278-292.*
- Textbook, *Chapter 18 – pages 294-309.*
- *Chapter 19 – pages 310-325.*
- Textbook, *Chapter 20 – pages 326-342.*

## **Week 14 – Conclusion & Revision**

**\*Important Notice:** I will be abroad to attend an academic conference in March, so I will inform you beforehand if we cannot have classes for one week.

## **Assessment and Marking Criteria:**

This course is assessed by means of three assignments:

- 1) Summary Papers and Attendance to Class ( 30%)
- 2) Mid-Term Exam ( 30%)
- 3) Final Exam ( 40%)

## **Grading Scale of the University**

AA	4.00	90-100 %
BA	3.50	85-89 %
BB	3.00	80-84 %
CB	2.50	75-79 %
CC	2.00	70-74 %
DC	1.50	65-69 %
DD	1.00	60-64 %
FD	0.50	50-59 %
FF	0.00	0-49 %

### **Summary Papers and Attendance to Class ( 30%)**

Attendance to every class is compulsory and it will constitute 10% of your total grade. The students should let me know in advance and as early as possible if there is any valid reason for absence. In case of illness or emergency, we will require proof in the form of an official document taken from the relevant authority.

Summary papers will constitute 20% of your total grade for this course and you will be required to write two short papers (1,000 words) over the term – each paper worth 10%.

I will personally provide the articles for you and your assignment will be to read them in detail, comment, criticise and summarise the key points in your own words.

The first reading will be given to you in the fourth week and the second reading will be given to you in the eight week. After receiving the articles, you will have two weeks to prepare your paper and deliver it to me personally in our class in printed form.

The summary papers should be no longer than the maximum of 1,000 words.

If you think that you will be unable to submit the paper by the deadline, you should consult your lecturer as soon as possible. We will not accept any requests made on the day of deadline. Papers submitted late without prior approval will not be accepted.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR PRINTED SUMMARY PAPER INCLUDES YOUR NAME, THE COURSE NAME, DATE AND WORD COUNT.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO STAPLE YOUR PAPER BEFORE HANDING IT TO ME.

### **Mid-Term Exam ( 30%) and Final Exam ( 40%)**

You will be given sufficient preparation throughout the academic term to be ready for both exams – which will be the primary means to determine your mark for the course. In our classes, I will provide the necessary information about my expectations from you in the exams in addition to their content, style and the required readings.

### **Rules of Academic Writing and Conduct:**

Plagiarism (“intihal” in Turkish) occurs when you copy or summarise someone else’s work without clear and accurate acknowledgement of what you have borrowed and from where. When you submit work, whether an essay, project or dissertation, you are claiming to be its author. This means that it consists of your own ideas and is written in your own words, except where you specifically indicate other sources.

Students must not claim others’ (including other students’) work as their own. Doing so is a form of cheating. In addition, students must make every effort to avoid plagiarism arising out of defects in note-taking, attribution of sources and presentation of work. Ensure that all submitted work uses a proper referencing style. ***Ignorance of the requirements for proper referencing and attribution does not constitute a defence against an accusation of plagiarism.***

Any concerns about proper referencing must be brought to the attention of the relevant lecturer before work is submitted.

Allegations of plagiarism are dealt with initially by a panel convened by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme concerned, and conducted in accordance with Istanbul 29 Mayıs University regulations. In extreme cases, plagiarism may be classed as a dishonest practice. **Proven cases of plagiarism will form part of a student’s record.**