



Department of Political Science and International Relations

MA COURSE

POLS 503 - ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

Teaching Staff

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Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with a sophisticated introduction to and grasp of International Theory. The emphasis of the course is on theory and on enabling students to recognize the importance of theory and of how theory is used in order to make sense out of a complex world. (The subject of international relations is referred to as International Relations/IR).

The course is directed toward answer the following questions:

- 1) How has IR as an academic subject developed over its history?
- 2) What is the main subject matter of IR? What does it leave out? Why?
- 3) What are some of the core theories or paradigms that have defined the field?
- 4) How does theoretical analysis contribute to both our understanding of the world, and to the construction of this world?

Any attempt to define IR theory will run into difficulties. The subject has changed much over the years, and it now boasts a significant number of different theories and even topics which it has become concerned with. IR is different to different people, and in this class we will focus on two elements that are important for understanding the subject. First, the course aims to provide a historical overview of how IR as a subject has developed, of what its core theories or paradigms are. The main theories or, as they are sometimes and rather problematically called, paradigms, will be explored in the historiographical context of the academic subject.

This is a theory course. We are not concerned with the foreign policy side of IR and the course will not be focused on exploring specific events in global politics. Rather, the module will explore various theoretical claims that are core elements in the theory of international relations. In this regard, this module is closely related to political theory.

The Master's course seminars are designed to provide specific opportunities to examine specific topics of readings. Please note, the seminars are what you make of them. It is your responsibility to come prepared and contribute to these sessions. You will get out of the seminars what you put into them. Every seminar session will start with a lecture which will be based on exploring specific topics in the course, either by looking at specific text(s) or a specific theoretical topic. The lectures are not substitutes for the readings, and in order to get as much out the lectures you must have done some of the core readings for that week's lecture. After the lecture, there will be discussion sessions in which the students and the lecturer will discuss the readings and lecture given for that week.

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the basic vocabulary of IR theory, but also understand how IR theory functions, what the strengths and weaknesses are of IR specific theory, and how IR represents a sustained attempt to make sense out of politics that are not confined to life inside the state, but life between and amongst states. The course will thereby provide knowledge of the discipline or field of International Relations, but also key skills in abstract thought and reasoning.

Assessment and Marking Criteria:

The course is assessed by means of three assignments:

- 1) Research Essay (50%)
- 2) Student Presentations (30%)
- 3) Reflection Papers (20%)

Grading Scale of the University

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|----|------|----------|
| 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 % |

1- Research Essay

For the essay, you are required to write a 5.000-word academic article on a subject of your choice from the list provided by the lecturer (**see the list on page 8 of this booklet**). **THE DEADLINE FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE ESSAY TO THE LECTURER WILL BE THE LAST CLASS OF THE TERM.**

The acceptance of late submissions of the essay is the prerogative of the lecturer who will be marking the essays. In general, the deadline should be regarded as fixed, and there is no obligation to accept late work. If you think that you will be unable to submit the essay by the deadline, you should consult your lecturer as soon as possible. However, requests must be made with sufficient notice. We will not accept any requests made on the day of deadline. Essays submitted late without prior approval will not be accepted and you will not pass the course.

You will be expected to demonstrate understanding and in-depth knowledge of the topic by writing a strong and clear argument in the form of tightly structured essay. You will be given a selection of essay questions to answer and you will be required to select one question to answer in essay form. The essay must be written in formal prose, and include full references/documentation/bibliography. The maximum limit of 5.000 words includes everything except the bibliography at the end which lists the details of all the sources that were used.

The essay is designed to reflect the content of the course. It is a way of assessing your acquisition of important intellectual skills such as the selection and application of appropriate concepts and tools to support your knowledge and understanding in answering a specific question in limited time.

The essay gives you the opportunity to show your ability in researching material and sources beyond the reading list and analysing and applying a wide-range of knowledge to produce a critical assessment of a theory or theoretical issue. Essay is therefore more than a description of competing views on a subject; this knowledge is instead utilised to develop a coherent argument that mediates between different accounts and approaches highlighting key differences, strengths and weaknesses to produce a positive conclusion. The essays are the most crucial component of the course and are the primary method to assess your progress during the course.

ENSURE THAT YOUR ESSAY COVER PAGE INCLUDES YOUR NAME, THE COURSE NAME, ESSAY TITLE, DATE AND WORD COUNT.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO STAPLE YOUR ESSAY BEFORE HANDING IT IN THE FINAL CLASS OF THE TERM TO YOUR LECTURER.

Word limits exist in order to ensure equity in the marking of assessed work. They are to be adhered to strictly.

The word count should **include**: all text, all footnotes, all appendices, and all tables and diagrams estimated in terms of the number of words which would fill the same space.

The following should **not be** included in the word count: the bibliography, pictorial illustrations, the title page, any acknowledgements or non-substantive preface. The word count is to be done using the facilities of a word-processing program such as *Microsoft Office Word*, or if a word processor has not been used, by hand. The **exact** number of words indicated by the count should be stated in the cover page.

No essay should be submitted with a word count above the stated limit plus allowance. Essays submitted with a word count acknowledged in the cover page to be above the limit will be subject to a mark penalty depending on the size of the excess. Over-length essays submitted with a false word count will be subject to the same penalty, and in addition may attract disciplinary action on the grounds of dishonest practice.

Length in excess of stated word limit:

- Up to 5%: no penalty
- Between 5% and 20%: 10 mark reduction penalty
- Between 20% and 50%: 20 mark reduction penalty
- Above 50%: fail to pass

Essays must be printed with the main text in a 12-point font with double line spacing. Footnotes may be at a reduced font size (minimum 10-point) and may be single spaced. Page margins should be approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) top and bottom and 1.5 inches (4 cm) on each side. These requirements are to ensure readability and to enable the marker to make a rough check

that the word limit has been complied with. Failure to meet these requirements may result in a marking penalty and is likely to induce a manual word count by the marker.

References should be noted in footnotes. If you are in doubt or need assistance to correctly organise your references and bibliography, please contact your lecturer. The lecturer is responsible for guiding you on this matter and will provide you samples from academic essays.

***Plagiarism**

Plagiarism 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.**

2- Student Presentations

For the first five weeks of the course, the lecturer will give all presentations. These can be seen as a useful guidance on how to deliver academic presentations. From the sixth week onwards, there will be presentations prepared by students based on the readings that will be sent by the lecturer. **Please see the "list of seminars" on page 7 of this booklet to choose your presentation subjects.** Each Master's course student is required to deliver two or three presentations over the academic term [depending on the number of students]. Each presentation will affect 10% or 15% [depending on the number of students] of your final mark, the presentations collectively totalling up to 30% of your mark.

The lecturer will email you readings to assist your presentation preparation. Based on these readings, you will be required to prepare informative *Powerpoint* slides and orally deliver a presentation.

Gaining self-confidence and improving your public speaking skills through delivering presentations are crucial elements of the Master's program. These skills will greatly benefit you in your future occupations and/or academic studies.

3 – Reflection Papers

Before every seminar class, the lecturer will send you a number of readings that you will be required to read before the next class. Based on these readings, it is compulsory for you to prepare brief 250-500 word reflection papers and bring those papers with you to the next class. You will deliver these to the lecturer during or after the class.

Preparing 250-500 word papers is a way of monitoring your regular attendance to the seminars. In addition, it will serve to improve your academic writing skills over the weeks. Collectively, all the weekly reflection papers will affect 20% of your final mark for the course. Attendance will be strictly monitored and failure to attend to classes or to bring reflection papers will be noted with possible consequences. **If you do not bring three reflection papers without an excuse over the term, you will not be allowed to pass the course – regardless of your other marks.**

Reflection papers are brief critiques of the readings you will receive. You should not merely summarise what has been said in the readings, but analyse them critically in your own words. Compare and contrast the readings and explain their strengths and weaknesses in your opinion.

Optional Textbooks and Background Reading:

This course is not textbook based. There are many textbooks available on the subject of IR, and some of them may be useful to those with no background in IR theory or history. If you do decide to purchase a copy, I recommend the book by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith listed below. The Jackson and Sorenson book and the Scott Burchill text are also good. The Booth and Smith text, *International Relations Theory Today* is dated but remains a very strong text. The Mingst and Snyder “Essentials Readings” is also very good.

Baylis, John, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens. *The Globalization of World Politics*. 5th 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*. 4th Ed. London: Palgrave, 2009.

Burchill, Scott, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Terry Nardin, Matthew Paterson, Christain Reus-Smit, Jackqui True. *Theories of International Relations*. 4th Ed. London: Palgrave, 2009.

Devetak, Richard, Anthony Burke and Jim George. *An Introduction to International Relations*. 2nd Ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2012.

Dunne, Tim, Milja Kurki, Steve Smith. *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Jackson, Robert and George Sørensen. *Introduction to International Relations: theories and approaches*. 3rd Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007

Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. *Essentials of International Relations*. 5th Ed. London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

Mingst, Karen A. and Jack L. Snyder. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. 4th Ed. London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

Steans, Jill, Lloyd Pettiford, Thomas Diez, Imad El-Anis. *An Introduction to International Relations Theory*. 3rd Ed. London: Pearson, 2010.

Viotti, Paul R., Mark V. Kauppi. *International Relations Theory*. 5th Ed. London: Pearson, 2012.

List of Seminar Subjects:

Week 1: Introduction: The IR Discipline and Social Science

Week 2: Classical Realism

Week 3: Neo-Realism (Structural Realism)

Week 4: Liberalism

Week 5: Neo-Liberalism

Week 6: The English School [*Student Presentation*]

Week 7: Marxism and Critical Theory [*Student Presentation*]

Week 8: Constructivism [*Student Presentation*]

Week 9: Feminism [*Student Presentation*]

Week 10: Post-Structuralism & Post-Colonialism [*Student Presentation*]

Week 11: Green Theory [*Student Presentation*]

Week 12: Conclusion: IR Theory and the Future

List of Research Essay Questions:

*(you are required to choose only one question from the list below)

1. How do classical realists conceive of *influence*? What is its relation to *power*?
2. Is *unipolarity* more peaceful than *bipolarity* or *multipolarity* within the international political system according to structural realists?
3. How do liberals explain why democracies rarely fight each other, and do you agree with this assumption?
4. Do you agree with Hedley Bull's comment that 'international society has always been present' in the world political system?
5. What are the implications of a *dialectical* (Marxist) understanding of history for the way in which we think about *politics* and *freedom*? When we see the world in terms of dialectical theory, how do we need to redefine these terms?
6. What does it mean to say that identities and interests are *socially constructed*?
7. The debate about whether or not women should have the right to vote was a contentious issue in many countries. Do women have something different from men to say about global politics? If so, what?
8. How does Edward Said's book *Orientalism* characterise the relationship between Europe (Western world) and the East?
9. What does Green IR Theory have in common with Marxist critical theory and constructivism? How does it differ from them?