



## **Course P204 (Core): International Relations Theory (C.H. 3)**

Sundays and Tuesdays, 1:30-2:50 pm, Room: 26

**Associate Prof.: Riham Bahi**

**Office Hours: Sundays 11:00 am -1:00pm & Tuesday 4:30-6:00**

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### **Course Objectives:**

This course introduces Political Science students to the study of International Relations (IR). Its aim is to present the state of knowledge in IR in a comprehensive and accessible way. It provides a map of the subject covering its sub-fields of international security studies and international political economy. The goal is to enhance the students' understanding of relations among international actors and acquaint them with the core concepts, processes and issues of IR.

Upon completion of this course, students should have a richer understanding of the dynamics of IR and develop their critical thinking of its phenomena and the concepts and theories that interpret them. The knowledge students gain in this course would provide them with a solid foundation necessary to conduct further research and to proceed with advanced and specialized courses in IR.

### **Course Contents:**

The course covers the substantive topics of IR both in international security studies and international political economy. The following topics are discussed:

- International Actors: State and non-State Actors
- Levels of Analysis in IR: The International, Domestic and Individual Levels
- IR Theories: Liberalism, Realism, Neo-Liberalism, Neo-Realism and Constructivism
- Power in IR, Balance of Power Theory, and Hegemonic Stability Theory
- Traditional and Critical Approaches in the Study of International Security Studies
- International Conflict: Explanations of the Outbreak of International Conflict and the Changing Nature of Armed Conflicts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- International Integration: Functionalist and Neo-Functionalist Approaches to Peace
- International Political Economy: Classical and Structural Theories in Explaining the North-South Gap, Controversies in the Role of International Economic Organizations, and Disadvantages of Hard Currency Sources for the Global South

**Lectures Schedule:**

Lec. No.	Date	Topic		
1	10 February	Introduction to the course		
2	12 February	International Actors: State and non-State Actors		
3	17 February	Levels of Analysis		
4	19 February	IR Theories	The Evolution of Theoretical Inquiry	
5	24 February		Liberalism / Liberal-Idealism	
6	26 February		Realism	
7	3 March		Neo Liberalism	
8	5 March		Neo Realism	
9	10 March		Constructivism	
10	12 March		General Discussion of all Theories	
11	17 March		Power	Defining Power: Power as Influence and Capabilities
12	19 March			Hard Power and Soft Power
13	24 March			Balance of Power Theory
14	26 March	Hegemony and Hegemonic Stability Theory		
	31 March & 2 April	Mid-Term - Exams Week (to be confirmed by Faculty Administration)		
15	7 April	International Security Studies: The Traditionalist View		
16	9 April	International Security Studies: Critical Approaches		
17	14 April	International Conflict: The Changing Nature		
18	16 April	International Conflict: Theoretical Explanations		
19	21 April	International Conflict: Theoretical Explanations		
20	23 April	International Conflict: Theoretical Explanations		
21	28 April	International Integration: The Functional Approach		
22	30 April	International Integration: Neo-Functionalism and the EU Model		
23	5 May	International Integration: Theoretical Preconditions for Integration		
24	7 May	North-South	Global South Relations: Definitions and Background Classical and Structural Theories	
25	12 May		The Role of International Economic Organizations: the WB and the IMF	
26	14 May		Disadvantages of Hard Currency Sources for the Global South	

**Required Readings:**

Students are expected to study the chapters relevant to the topics discussed in the following text books:

- Rourke, John T. *International Politics on the World Stage*, 12th Edition, NY: Mc Graw Hill, 2008.
- Kegley, Charles. *World Politics: Trends and Transformation*, 11th Edition, Belmont CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.
- Haynes, Jeffrey and Peter Hough, *World Politics*. London: Pearson, 2011.
- Goldstein, Joshua S., *International Relations*. NY: Longman, 1999.
- Nye, Joseph S., *Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power*. NY: Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1990.

Copies of the assigned chapters are available in the Faculty's print room.

**Assessment:**

- **50% of the grade is assigned to the course work throughout the semester, as follows:**

5 grades	participation and discussion in lectures
20 grades	two assignments
20 grades	mid-term exam
5 grades	attendance and participation in discussion sections

- **50% of the grade is assigned to the final exam**