



**POL 301 Theories of IR
Spring 2019**

I. COURSE INFORMATION

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|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Instructor: | Prof. Bernd Bucher |
| Instructor's Email | bbucher@fus.edu |
| Office Hours: | TBA |
| Class location | MV1, KC |
| Class meeting times | Monday / Thursday 14:30 – 15:45 |

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the major developments in International Relations Theory over the last decades.

In doing so, it traces the major shifts in Realist and Liberal thinking before discussing newer trends in the English School. A specific focus will then be placed on the emergence and the role of constructivist theory in IR.

While an overview course on IR theory cannot address the entirety of theoretical developments and 'turns' we have seen over the last years, this course will familiarize students with the main contemporary IR theories and provide a glimpse into ongoing IR theory debates.

The course is specifically designed to build on POL101 and it equips students with theory skills necessary to succeed in the thesis writing process. As such, it serves as a 'theory bridge' between the introductory course and the capstone. More broadly, it will provide students with a more sophisticated set of tools to analyze and understand historical and contemporary political processes.

III. RATIONALE

This course is central for those majoring in international relations and serves as a central building-block for anyone considering a Master's program in IR.

IV. COURSE GOALS

This course seeks to familiarize students with current developments in the theory of IR. This not only provides necessary theoretical knowledge for conducting theory guided research. It also allows students to analyze historical contemporary political processes in a multidimensional and sophisticated way. The course aims to:

- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Practice synthesizing information from classroom discussions, reading assignments and individual research.
- Acquire a theoretical repertoire to explore and understand issues related to social justice and sustainability
- Develop professional skills such as conflict resolution, and advocacy.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the field of IR theory. Upon completion of this class, students should be familiar with a broad range of classical and modern IR theories and the central arguments of the major schools of thought in IR. Students should have developed the ability to critically discuss a range of contemporary global challenges in a theoretically informed way.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

(Most) required readings will be made available on moodle.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed on the basis of a variety of assignments, with a particular emphasis on the acquisition of analytical and critical thinking. Thus active participation will figure into the overall grade.

Students will have to take 1 mid-term exam and hand in 2 text summaries. While this course does not have a final exam, students must hand in a final essay of 3000 words.

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS (tentative)

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|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 midterm | 20% |
| 2 Text summaries (1-2 pages) | 20% (10% each) |
| 1 Final essay (3000 words) | 40% |
| Overall participation | 20% |

Note: Students must complete and pass all assignments to pass the course!

XIX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Examinations are given letter grades according to the following numerical scale:

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| A: 94-100 | B+: 88-89 | C+: 78-79 | D+: 68-69 | F: 0-59 |
| A-: 90-93 | B: 84-87 | C: 74-77 | D: 64-67 | |
| | B-: 80-83 | C-: 70-73 | D-: 60-63 | |

The course grade is an average of examination letter grades according to the following grade points:

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| A: 4.0 | B+: 3.3 | C+: 2.3 | D+: 1.3 | F: 0.0 |
| A-: 3.7 | B: 3.0 | C: 2.0 | D: 1.0 | |
| | B-: 2.7 | C-: 1.7 | D-: 0.7 | |

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Regular attendance is required. Each student will be allowed two absences during the course of the term. If you miss class three to four times, your overall participation grade will drop by one letter grade. Being absent five times or more will lead to a failing grade. The roll is called at the beginning of each session.

Please note:

The use of entertainment devices is strictly forbidden during class. Laptops are permitted, but using laptops for non-class purposes (e.g. Facebook, e-mail, chatting, etc.) will result in student dismissal from class.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the scientific community. Cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers and notebooks must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.

So far as logistically possible, students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.

During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors may be on the desk. Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence during an exam, the presumption will be that the student is using those notes for cheating on an exam. If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.

It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.

A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean and may be called before the Student Appeal and Grievance Hearing Board for further disciplinary action.

A student found cheating on an exam will receive an "F" for that examination at a minimum. If it is a final examination, the student will automatically receive an "F" for the course.

A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an "F" for the course. Notification will be sent to the Dean. A second offense in that, or any other, course may result in dismissal from the University.

Cases of academic dishonesty may be handled by the instructor in whose course the violation occurred - if the matter is a result of student ignorance or is a first offense. The instructor will assess the severity of the violation and impose an appropriate penalty. In the event of a repetition of dishonesty, the matter will be referred to the Dean, and the student will risk expulsion.

To be clear: I have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to plagiarism or cheating of any kind. This includes contracted essays! Anyone found in violation of our academic integrity standards can expect me to apply the strictest interpretation of rules available to me.

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Please refer to moodle for details.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Week 1

21.1.2019 Introduction and course requirements

24.1.2019 Recap: Realism
Reading: Wohlforth

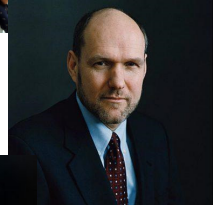


Week 2

28.1.2019 Structural Realism
Reading: Waltz

30.1.2019 Guest lecture by Prof. James W. Davis: 'The future of war' (18h auditorium)

31.1.2019 Structural Realism
Reading: Waltz



Week 3

4.2.2019 Neorealist Foreign Policy Analysis
Reading: Baumann, Rittberger and Wagner

7.2.2019 Think like a Realist
Reading: Walt

Week 4

11.2.2019 Recap: Liberalism
Reading: Burchill

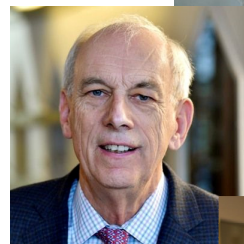
14.2.2019 No class



Week 5

18.2.2019 Neoinstitutionalism
Reading: Keohane and Nye

21.2.2019 Neoinstitutionalism
Reading: Keohane and Nye



Week 6

25.2.2019 Regime Theory and Global Governance
Reading: Karns and Mingst

28.2.2019 Recap and theory comparison

Week 7

4.3.2019 Midterm

7.3.2019 Midterm feedback



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Week 8 Academic Travel
Week 9 Academic Travel

Week 10
25.3.2019 Project Z by James Der Derian
28.3.2019 Project Z continued

Week 11
1.4.2019 Recap: The English School
Reading: Linklater and Suganami
4.4.2019 International and World Society
Reading: Buzan

Week 12
08.4.2019 Constructivist Thinking
Reading: Onuf
11.4.2019 Constructivist Thinking
Reading: Wendt

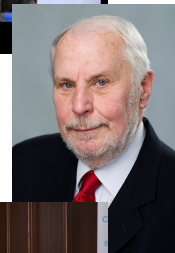
Week 13
15.4.2019 Securitization Theory
Reading: Buzan, Waever, de Wilde
16.4.2019 Essay meetings, scheduled individually
18.4.2019 No class

Week 14
22.4.2019 No class – Easter break
25.4.2019 Understanding the constructivist turn

Week 15
29.4.2019 Recap
2.5.2019 Theory and methodology

Exam week: essay workshop
9.5.2019 13:30 15:30

Final Exam: There is no final exam for this course
Deadline for essays: 9.5.2019 (15:30, turn-it in)



XIV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to moodle for details.

XV. Essay

Essay requirements

Building on the content of the course, students are encouraged to write an essay that traces a theoretical development, elaborates on a conceptual puzzle, or apply a theory to an empirical case. Apart from the formal requirements (roughly 3000 words, table of contents, reference list, ect), students are free to choose a topic and structure their project in accordance with their own intellectual curiosity. We will discuss possible topics over the course of the semester and in individual advising sessions.