



POL101
Introduction to International Relations
Summer 2019

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor	Prof. Bernd Bucher
Instructor's Email	bbucher@fus.edu
Office Hours	Mondays - Thursdays 14:00h
Class location	KC 1
Class meeting times	Mondays - Thursdays 14:30h

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides the basic tools necessary for analyzing international relations (IR). After a brief introduction to the history of IR, the course will focus on the main schools of thought in IR theory. In a final step, we will take a look at war and humanitarian intervention.

III. RATIONALE

This course is not only central for those majoring in IR, but counts towards the major in social justice and sustainability.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goals for this course include the following:

- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
 - Practice synthesizing information from classroom discussions, reading assignments and individual research.
 - Further develop and apply a relevant analytic and methodological skill set.
 - Acquire a theoretical repertoire to explore and understand issues related to social justice and sustainability
 - Develop professional skills such as conflict resolution, advocacy, policy design and assessment, as well as proficiency in relevant software packages.
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V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the main concepts and theories in IR. Upon completion of this class, students should be familiar with the major schools in IR theory and should be familiar with some of the major scholarly debates on contemporary issues. Students should have developed the ability to critically discuss historical and contemporary developments in a theoretically guided fashion.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

This course will mainly draw on:

Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, eds. (2016) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to international relations* (7th edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press [GWP].

Students are required to purchase the above mentioned book for this course! The book is available at the University bookstore.

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 skills.

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS (indicative)

Essay	25%
Presentation	25%
Final Exam	35%
Overall participation	15%

IX. 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. Doing the class readings and engaging in class discussions will be central.

Please note:

The use of electrical devices is strictly forbidden during 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. If it is a final examination, the student may 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.

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

All texts (not GWP) will be made available.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Week 1

History and organization of IR

To begin with, we will have a brief look at the history of international relations leading up to the End of the Cold War. We will then pause to focus on the emergence of the United Nations (1945) as the central international organization.

- Course Reading: The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 3.

The Cold War, deterrence and MAD

To better understand international relations during the Cold War, we will discuss the logic of nuclear deterrence and the concept of Mutually Assured Destruction.

After the Cold War and contemporary challenges

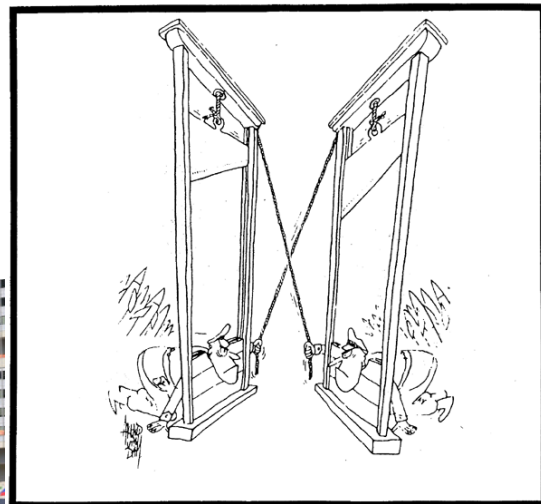
We will discuss the challenges of the post Cold-War era and today.

- Course Reading: The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 4 and 5.

Wednesday and Thursday:

Essay writing session: Following our discussion of international relations history and challenges, we will go to the library to work on a **1000 word short essay**. The essay should focus on one of the topics we discussed during the first week.

The essay should include an introduction, a main part and a conclusion. Please make sure to reference correctly and include any literature you used in a reference list. We will discuss the details of the assignment in class.



Week 2

Classical Realism

- Course Reading: The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 6

Liberalism and the democratic peace

- Course Reading: The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 7

The English School

- Course Reading: Bull, Hedley (1977) *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*, London: Macmillan.
Please read pages: 8-20, 24-27, 40-52, 53-57, 65-76.
Discussion: Will China lead? The Role of China from an English School Perspective.

Analyzing National Security Strategies (preamble and introduction), which will be provided in class.



Week 3

Humanitarian intervention

- Course Reading: The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 32

A critical view of the Responsibility to Protect

- Course Reading: Chapter 16 in: Thakur, Ramesh and William Maley eds. (2015) Theorizing the Responsibility to Protect. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wednesday: Library session

Thursday: Presentations: The role of human rights in international relations

Please prepare a 15 minute presentation focusing on a case of human rights protection or human rights violation. We as a course will discuss the presentation topics for roughly 10 minutes following each presentation. Please prepare 2-4 questions which could structure or guide our debate. You may, but are not required to, use powerpoint. Please have handouts ready and distribute them to all class participants prior to your presentation.



Week 4

Course recap and exam preparation

Wednesday: Final exam

The exam consists of a 90 minute written exam.

- Section 1: True or False questions
- Section 2: Multiple Choice Questions
- Section 3: Short Answer Questions
- Section 4: Argumentation Question(s)

We will discuss the details of the exam format in the introduction to the course and the exam preparation class.

Thursday: Feed-back, wrap-up and outlook

XIV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to moodle for details.