Introduction
This is an advanced level undergraduate course designed to introduce students with the theories of international relations (IR) as defined within the disciplinary studies of international politics. The central aim is to provide a comprehensive and in-depth overview of major scholarly traditions as well as the major debates in IR Theory. Through this venture, it seeks to familiarize students with debates over the key concepts and themes (i.e., sovereignty, violence, war, power, security, equality, law, justice among others). The course explores the ontological, epistemological, methodological problematics in theorizing IR and probes the ongoing debates on International Political Theory in the 21st century.

Aims
This course aims to:
- to introduce students to different perspectives or intellectual frameworks for making sense of what conventionally has been called international relations (though many prefer terms like international, transnational, global, or world politics) and to cultivate skills in applying perspectives in aid of understanding events, processes, and/or practice
- to examine the basic assumptions, conceptual and theoretical insights offered by theories of IR, relating these both to contemporary events and historical processes, and assess their contributions as well as their shortcomings
- Enable students to develop a critical understanding of the ways in which the subject/object of the discipline of IR—the international—is constructed as a field of study
- Probe the theory/practice relation and grapple with the disciplinary, political stakes in theorizing “the international”
- in sum, the lessons learned from the class will be (a) sociological/theoretical, in that we will better understand how the world works; (b) meta-theoretical, in that we will reflect a bit on how we study the world; and (c) practical, in that we will think about how we are to live in the world as it is and might be.

Objectives/Outcomes
The objectives and outcomes of this course are:
- Learn how to think and write critically about key debates in contemporary IR theory
- Explain different frameworks for thinking about international politics
- Discuss a range of ideas, concepts and texts in international political theory and the historical contexts in which they arose
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of alternative ways of explaining, understanding and judging contemporary international politics.

Course Structure
The course is composed of lectures and class discussions. The lectures are designed to provide a broad overview of that week’s topic, offer contesting views on the topic and contextualize it within wider debates. The discussions aim to encourage students to do textual exegesis, think critically and independently on the conceptual and theoretical questions while remaining firmly grounded in the assigned readings.

A good and fruitful class discussion depends on serious preparation by students. It is critical that students come to class having assigned texts carefully, reflected on them and ready to take active part in class discussions. This is important not only for your intellectual development, but also because it will constitute one fifth of your overall grade.

Course Requirements
Grading
- MidTerm Exams 1 and 2  50% (25% each)
- Final Exam  40%
- Class Participation  10 %

Class attendance and active participation in classroom discussions are required. Students who miss more than three classes without a valid excuse that is documented to the satisfaction of the instructor will automatically fail the course. Engaged attention and active participation will both be weighed in your favor, with special emphasis on the quality of student participation. It is important to be engaged on a daily basis, but comments should be to the point. Weight is given to comments that extend discussions by pointing to deeper insights or integrating earlier comments. Or, importantly, that launch new lines of discussion when the previous one has become exhausted.

Important Dates
| MidTerm Exam 1 | WEEK 5 | October 18 |
| MidTerm Exam 2 | WEEK 9 | November 15 |
| Final Exam | TBA |

Readings
We will use the following textbook:

London and New York: Routledge. (From here on IRT)

There are also assigned readings from journal articles and excerpts from books, which will allow us to deepen our discussions as we grapple with prominent theories of IR.
Course Schedule

**Week 1: Introduction and Overview**

Griffiths, M (2007) “Chapter 1: Worldviews and IR Theory: Conquest or Coexistence?” in IRT

- **Further Reading:**

**Week 2: Doing Theory, Theorizing the International**

Wight, M (1960) “Why is there no international theory?” *International Relations*, 2(1)


- Further Reading:

**Theories of IR: Mainstream Approaches**

**Week 3: Realism(s) – Classical, NeoRealism/Structural Realism, NeoClassical Realism**

Elman, C (2007) “Chapter 2: Realism” in IRT

Morgenthau, H (1948) “International Politics: A Dual Approach” in *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*


- Further Reading:
  Carr, E.H. (1939) *The Twenty Years’ Crisis 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*.
  Guilhot, N (Ed.) *The Invention of International Relations Theory: Realism, the Rockefeller Foundation and the 1954 Conference on Theory*.


**Week 4: The English School**

Bellamy, A J. “Chapter 7: The English School” in *IRT*


- **Further Reading:**

**WEEK 5: MIDTERM EXAM 1**

**Week 6: Liberalism(s) -- Liberalism, Neoliberal Institutionalism, Liberalism 3.0**


- **Further Reading:**
  Doyle, M et al (Eds.) *Debating the Democratic Peace*. Cambridge; CUP.
Princeton: PUP.
Keohane, R and Nye, J (1977) *Power and Interdependence*.
Cambridge: CUP.

**Week 7: Social Constructivism(s)**


- Further Reading:

**Theories of IR: Critical Approaches**

**Week 8: Historical Materialism(s): Marxist, Gramscian, NeoGramscian Approaches**

Rupert, M (2007) “Chapter 4: Marxism” in IRT


- **Further Reading:**

**WEEK 9: MIDTERM EXAM 2**

**Week 10: Critical Theory**


- **Further Reading**

**Week 11: Poststructuralism(s)**

Edkins, J (2007) Chapter 8: Poststructuralism in IPT


- **Further Reading**

**Week 12: Gender Studies, Feminism and Queering of IR**

Enloe, C (2007) “Chapter 9: Feminism” in *IPT*


- **Further Reading**

(2013) Special Issue: Feminism in International Relations International Studies Perspectives 14(4)

Week 13: Postcolonial Approaches


• Further Reading


