

**International Relations Theory**

Code: 101089  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500259 Political Science and Public Management	OT	3	2
2500259 Political Science and Public Management	OT	4	2
2503778 International Relations	OB	2	2

**Contact**

Name: Rafael Grasa Hernández  
Email: rafael.grasa@uab.cat

**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

**Other comments on languages**

Spanish, but also for papers english and catalan

**Prerequisites**

The students must read aprox 1000 pages

It's very useful to read newspapers and journal, particularly international sections and international news.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The general and specific goals are:

1. To locate knowledge of international theory in historical and epistemological perspective, in a comparative approach with social sciences and social and political theory.
2. To understand the concepts of international theory and international theory, with all the nuances and meanings.
3. To study the main approaches of international theory from: a) the normal presentation in handbooks and mainstream narratives; b) some classical sources; c) some classical and selected texts; d) new analytical tools; e) the view of each approach of the alternative approaches
4. To know several conceptual and analytical frameworks and mappings for locate and understand the international theory debates.
5. To study some special issues: a) realism-liberalism debates; b) interdependence and security impact in theory; c) reflectivism and rationalism approaches, in the context of constructivism

6. To explore some concrete issues about the contemporary international agenda from the point of view of the main international theory approaches

## Competences

Political Science and Public Management

- Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
- Demonstrating they know theoretical tendencies and classical and recent analytical approximations of International Relations.
- Distinguishing the discipline's main theories and different fields: conceptual developments, theoretical frameworks and theoretical approaches underlying the discipline's knowledge and different areas and sub-areas, as well as their value for the professional practice through concrete cases.
- Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
- Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
- Producing and planning researches or analytical reports.
- Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
- Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
- Working autonomously.
- Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

International Relations

- Identify the main theories of international relations and their different fields (international theory, conflicts and security, international politics, etc.) to apply them in professional practice.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
2. Critically assessing the impacts of globalization in several areas: safety, environment, human rights, migrations and peace.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of theoretical trends and classical and recent analytical approaches to international relations.
4. Demonstrating they know theoretical tendencies and classical and recent analytical approximations of International Relations.
5. Describe the major approaches to international relations (realism, transnationalism, structuralism).
6. Describing the international order: anarchy versus order, society of states and transnational society.
7. Describing the main characteristic elements of the international society as a whole (1945-2000).
8. Evaluate the different aspects of the different trends and analytical approaches in international relations from a specific methodological and conceptual viewpoint.
9. Explaining the major approximations to the international relations (realism, transnationalism and structuralism).
10. Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
11. Make adequate use of the theory and concepts of international relations (Hobbesian, Grotian and Kantian thought).
12. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
13. Producing and planning researches or analytical reports.
14. Properly using the theory and concepts of international relations (traditions of Hobbesian, Grotian or Kantian thought).
15. Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
16. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
17. Working autonomously.
18. Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

## Content

### PART I. CONTEXT AND TOOLBOX

Lecture 1. *International Relations versus international relations: context and concepts*

Lecture 2. *The notion of theory and the theory change (scientific revolution) in social sciences and International Relations*

Lecture 3. *Tools for mapping diversity: the state of the art on international theory*

### PART II. GREAT VISIONS AND APPROACHES

Lecture 4. *Classical Realism (s)*

Lecture 5. *Structural Realism and another realisms*

Lecture 6. *Classical Liberalism (s)*

Lecture 7. *Neoliberalism or liberal neo-institutionalism*

Lecture 8. "English school" of International Relations and the concept of "international society"

Lecture 9. *Marxism and structural views*

Lecture 10. *Neo-marxist approaches and critical theory*

Lecture 11. *Constructivism (s)*

Lecture 12. *Several approaches and schools applied to International Political Economy (IPE)*

### PART III. METAHEORETICAL APPROACHES

Lecture 13. *"Post" Approaches: post-structuralism, post-colonialism...*

Lecture 14. *Approaches based in feminist theory and gender studies*

### PART IV. CONCLUSION

Lecture 15. *Examples of contemporary debates and the present situation of international theory*

## Methodology

The educación del estudiante a la asignatura se divide en diferentes tipos de actividades, que, en coherencia, se concretan en diversas exigencias y metodología diferenciadas. Se trata de una asignatura de 6 ECTS, por tanto equivalente a 150 horas

The course has 6 ECTS, 150 hours in total:

a) *Presential activities s* (50 hours, 33,3 %)

b) *Supervised activitites*: 25 hours (16,7%)

c) *Papers and exams*: 7,5 hours (5%)

d) *Autonomous work*: 67,5 hours (45%)

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	40	1.6	
Practical cases and activities	4	0.16	
Seminaries	6	0.24	
Type: Supervised			
Control of readings and papers	25	1	
Exam	7.5	0.3	
Type: Autonomous			
Readings and cases	67.5	2.7	

## Assessment

The final grade is a result of:

Final exam (with a presential part and one take-home part), 50%

Control of readings, 20%

Case studies, 30%

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Case studies	30%	0	0	1, 4, 6, 13, 9, 15, 12, 10, 16, 18
Control of readings and comprehension of literature	20%	0	0	1, 4, 3, 7, 6, 9, 5, 12, 10, 16, 17, 14, 11, 2, 8
Final Exam (presential and also with a take-home)	50%	0	0	1, 4, 6, 15, 12, 10, 16, 18, 14

## Bibliography

### GENERAL LITERATURE AND HANDBOOKS

#### 1. GENERAL HANDBOOKS AND REFERENCES

*General (Handbooks on international relations, with section on international theory)*

Brown, C. with K. Ainley (2009) *Understanding International Relations* (4th ed.) Basingstoke: Palgrave/Macmillian.

Art, R. J., and R. Jervis. 1995. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*. 4th ed. Addison-Wesley.

Balaam, D. N., and M. Veseth, eds. 1996. *Readings in International Political Economy*. Prentice Hall.

Baylis, J., and S. Smith, eds. 1997. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Brown, M. E., O. R. Cote, S. M. Lynn-Jones, and S. E. Miller, eds. 1998. *Theories of War and Peace: An International Security Reader*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Bull, Hedley (1977), *The Anarchical society: a study of order in world politics*, New York: Columbia University Press (traducción castellana en editorial *la Catarata*)

Creswell, John W. (2003), *Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approaches*, 2a edición, Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications.

Keohane, Robert O. y Nye, Joseph (1971), *Transnational Relations and World Politics*, Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press.

Keohane, Robert O (1984), *After hegemony: cooperation and discord in the world political economy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Keohane, Robert O. (1989), *International institutions and state power: essays in international relations theory*, Boulder [etc.]: Westview Press.

Carlsnaes, Walter, Risse, Thomas y Simmons, Beth A. (eds.) (2002), *Handbook of International Relations*, London [etc.]: Sage Publications.

Kegley, C. H. and E. R. Wittkopf. 1998. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation. 7th ed.* New York NY: St. Martin's.

Knutsen, T. L. 1997. *A History of International Relations Theory*. Manchester University Press.

Morgenthau, Hans Joachim (1990), *Escritos sobre política internacional*, presentación de Antonio Truyol y Serra; estudio preliminar, traducción y notas de Esther Barbé, Madrid: Tecnos.

Rosenthal, J. H. 1999. *Ethics and International Affairs: A Reader. 2nd ed.* Washington D.C: Georgetown University Press.

Russett, B. M. and H. Starr. 1996. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. New York NY: W. H. Freeman.

Tuathail, G. O., S. Dalby, P. Routledge, and G. Otuathail, eds. 1998. *The Geopolitics Reader*. Routledge.

Viotti, P. R., and M. V. Kauppi. 1997. *International Relations and World Politics: Security, Economy, Identity*. Prentice Hall College Division.

Waltz, Kenneth N. (1979), *Theory of International Politics*, Reading [etc.]: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.

Wendt, Alexander (1999), *Social theory of international politics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wight, Martin (1991), *International theory: the three traditions*, edited by Gabriele Wight and Brian Porter, introductory essay by Hedley Bull, Londres: The Royal Institute for International Affairs

## 1. INTERNATIONAL THEORY HANDBOOKS, ESSENTIALS FOR THIS COURSE

- Burchill, S. et al. (2009) *Theories of International Relations* (4th ed.) Palgrave/Macmillian. A medio camino entre manual de relaciones internacionales y enfoque teórico. Nivel medio

- Dunne, T., M. Kurki & S. Smith (eds.) (2010, 2ª edición) *Theories of International Relations: Discipline and Diversity*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (A 2nd edition in 2010 is also valid - references below are for the 1st edition). The best useful handbook

- Griffiths, Martin (editor), *International Relations Theory for the Twenty-First Century. An introduction*, Londres, Routledge, 2007. Basic level, copy in virtual campus

- Jorgensen, Knud Erik, *International Relations Theory. A New Introduction*. New York. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. intermediate level.

## **Software**

Without specific software