

COURSE OUTLINE

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Does the world live in a state of anarchy or does global interdependence maintain a system of justice and order? Do organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union undermine and override the sovereignty of individual nation-states? Does terrorism pose a concrete threat to global security?

This course combines theory and practice to explain, analyse, and predict international relations in the twenty-first century. A critical approach to neo-realist and neo-liberal models will reveal patterns in foreign policy in different countries, from post-industrial states to democratising third-world nations. Economic and political agenda will be scrutinised side-by-side to broaden understanding of national, regional, and international variables.

The course teaching will be supplemented by periodical articles on current affairs to keep students updated on the dynamic developments of global politics. Students will engage in seminar discussions and weekly presentations, alongside research projects of their own choice which will be supervised during their one-on-one tutorials.

Week One

Classic, revisionist, and contemporary theories of international relations, ranging from just war theory to the Cold War to 'wars of the third kind'.

Week Two

Area studies 1: the developed world; featuring the USA and the UK, also covering relevant nations in Europe, Asia, and South America.

Week Three

Area studies 2: the developing world; featuring China and Africa, also covering relevant nations in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

Week Four

The impact of international institutions, assessing their increasingly regulatory role and relative efficacy in maintaining global order and justice.

Recommended texts

Ngaire Woods (ed.)
Oxford University Press 2002

Explaining International Relations Since 1945
ISBN 0198741960 (1996)

Peter Calvocoressi
Pearson Longman 2008

World Politics 1945-2008 9th ed
ISBN 1405899387

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk>

or

www.amazon.co.uk