Fall 2020

**IR 201 Fall 2020**

**International Relations Theory**

**Sabancı University**

Instructor: Oya Yeğen TA: Samet Apaydin

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W 9:40 - 10:30 F 1:40 – 2.30

F 9:40 - 11.30

https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/93812175685

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the concepts, theories and issues in international relations. Throughout the semester we will address the theories and tools, which international relations students and scholars use to evaluate the working of international politics and understand how states and other actors behave and interact in world politics. By the end of this course, students will be able to explain the mainstream IR theories as well as critical approaches to the subject; assess the main similarities and differences between them; familiarize themselves with seminal works, contemporary debates and puzzles and apply the theoretical frameworks to current developments and issues in international politics.

Student presentations and Friday discussion sessions will serve as opportunities to bring together international relations theory and contemporary events.

**Course Requirements:**

There is no textbook for the course, readings are available on SuCourse+. For discussion sessions, additional short readings and videos may be shared via Sucourse+ and e-mail. Students are responsible for all assigned readings and must complete them before class each week.

This is an introductory level course; therefore no prior background in international relations is assumed or required. However students are expected to follow developments in the international arena. Please maintain an awareness of current events so we can discuss them in class as examples of the subjects we are covering (we will not be making judgments but use current events to apply the IR toolkit). For these purposes, please follow reputable newspapers such as those of the New York Times, The Guardian, Washington Post or news agencies such as BBC News, CNN, Al-Jazeera, Reuters and etc.

You may also keep yourself updated by following international relations related blogs and magazines, including Foreign Policy (<https://foreignpolicy.com>), Foreign Affairs (<https://www.foreignaffairs.com>), War on the Rocks (<https://warontherocks.com>), Lawfare Blog (<https://www.lawfareblog.com>), The Duck of Minerva (http://duckofminerva.com/) The Monkey Cage (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage>) and Political Violence at a Glance (<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>). I encourage you to share what you have read, with your comments on Sucourse+.

**Course Assessment:**

Quizzes (40%): There will be four pop quizzes, each worth 10% of your grade. These will include multiple choice and short essay questions. They will take place on Wednesdays.

Student Presentations (20%): Starting from week 6, students in small groups will present a (recent) development in international politics or an on-going issue of significance using the IR toolkit. This means that your presentation should be informed by the readings and class lectures. To encourage feedback as you prepare your presentation, 5% of this grade will be based on your working-outline due a week before your presentation. Further guidelines and possible topics will be shared on SuCourse +.

Attendance and Participation (20%): 10% of this grade will come from your participation in Wednesday and Friday lectures and 10% from your participation in Friday discussion sessions. You will be evaluated on contributions to class discussions, both in terms of quality and quantity. See course policies for further details.

Take-Home Exam (20%): There will be an essay type take home exam. The date is to be announced Student Resources.

**Course Policies:**

For the Fall 2020-2021, the teaching mode will be synchronous lectures and class discussions. These will be recorded and shared with all students. Attendance is mandatory and unless you have a valid excuse, absences will result in point deductions from participation grade. Having said that, if you have a foreseeable valid reason for recurring absences, such as a technological problem, you should tell me at the beginning of the semester so that we can find alternative ways to make up for it.

Discussion sessions are intended to advance students’ ability to bring together international relations theory and contemporary developments in world affairs. Therefore it is important that students attend and use synchronous Zoom discussion hour on Friday to prepare for student presentations and exams in order to practice how to apply IR theory to international events and processes. While we prefer participation via Zoom, when students are unable to log on to Friday sessions because of health or internet connection issue, you can make up by responding to discussion questions posted for that week or by posing your own questions in the course forum. Excused absences for discussion hours must be communicated to our TA Samet Apaydin [samet.apaydin@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:samet.apaydin@sabanciuniv.edu)).

There is not going to be an extension or make up unless truly extenuating circumstances prevent the student from completing the work on time. In case you do encounter problems, please let me know as early as you can.

Please always feel free to e-mail me at any time. I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours. If you have a matter that requires extended discussion, please meet me during office hours (over Zoom). You can email me to set up a time at the designated office hours (**Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5.00-6.00**) or another convenient time that works for both of us.

I will keep you updated about the course, including additional short readings through e-mail and communicate any changes to the syllabus or deadlines through Sucourse+ announcement board.

Please be respectful of your instructors (including our TA) and your fellow classmates during class discussions. Please be mindful of zoom etiquette, meaning mute yourself if you are not speaking and do not interrupt one another when speaking.

Electronic recordings of course materials are for personal use only, do not share them outside of the class.

It is imperative that students follow the standards and provisions set by Sabancı University. Students’ cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences will not be tolerated. Cases of academic misconduct will be reported. Cheating and plagiarism will also result in failing that exam/assessment. If you have any questions about what constitutes an academic offense, you can ask the instructor or TA in advance.

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1 – Course Introduction (October 7, October 9)**

* Syllabus
* Snyder, Jack. 2004. “One World, Rival Theories” *Foreign Policy,* no. 145, pp. 52-62. https://foreignpolicy.com/2009/10/26/one-world-rival-theories/
* Ikenberry, John. 2020. “The Next Liberal Order”, *Foreign Affairs*, July/August. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-06-09/next-liberal-order
* Discussion: Amelia Hoover Green, “How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps”, 2013 https://www.ameliahoovergreen.com/uploads/9/3/0/9/93091546/howtoread.pdf

**Week 2 – Introduction to IR: concepts, levels and actors. (October 14, October 16)**

* Griffiths et al., *International Relations: The Key Concepts*, 2n ed. Routledge, 2008 (Sovereignty, anarchy, power).
* Nye Jr., Joseph S. and David Welch. 2017. *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, “Key Concepts” and “Levels of Analysis”, pp. 40-65.
* Singer, J. David. 1961. “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations,” *World Politics* 14, no. 01, pp. 77–92.
* Discussion: Stephen Walt "How to Get a B.A. in International Relations in 5 Minutes", *Foreign Policy* May 19, 2014 and Laura Sjoberg “‘Mansplaining’ International Relations?: What Walt Misses” May 21, 2014.

**Week 3 – Science of International relations: What is a theory? Is there a theory of international relations? (October 21, October 23)**

* “Evaluating Arguments about International Politics”, in Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2013. *Principles of International Politics*, pp.
* Thomas C. Walker. 2012. “The Perils of Paradigm Mentalities: Revisiting Kuhn, Lakatos, and Popper”, in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 27-36.
* Discussion: Walt, Stephen M. 2005. The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations, *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol 8, pp. 23-48.

**Week 4 – The evolution of the modern world system (November 4, November 6)**

* Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2017. Essentials International Relations, 7th ed. W. W. Norton & Company, p 21-69
* Caporaso, James. 2000. “Changes in the Westphalian order: Territory, Public authority and Sovereignty” *International Studies Review*, Vol.2, no. 2, pp. 1-28, focus on pp. 1-15.
* Carvalho et al. 2011. “The Big Bangs of IR: The Myths That Your Teachers Still Tell You about 1648 and 1919” Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Vol. 39 issue 3, pp. 735–758.
* Discussion: Musgrave, Paul. 2019. “IR Theory and ‘Game of Thrones’ Are Both Fantasies” *Foreign Policy*, May 23. https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/05/23/ir-theory-and-game-of-thrones-are-both-fantasies/

**Week 5 - Classical Realism (November 11, November 13)**

* Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue,” in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 83-87.
* Hans J. Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism” in International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 9th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis).
* Daniel W. Drezner. 2015. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*, Princeton University Press, pp. 23-50.
* Discussion: Graham Allison. 2017. “The Thucydides Trap”, *Foreign Policy*, June 9. https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/09/the-thucydides-trap/

**Week 6 – Neorealism (November 18, November 20)**

* Mearsheimer, John. 2013. “Structural Realism”, in Dunne et. al. *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, pp. 77-93.
* Waltz, Kenneth N. “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” in *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)
* Stephen M. Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning” in *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)
* Jervis, Robert. 1978. “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma” *World Politics*, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 167-214.
* Discussion: “North Korean Nukes and the Grand International-Relations Experiment in Asia”, *The Atlantic,* March 18, 2017. https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/03/security-dilemma-north-korea/520023/

**Week 7 - Liberalism (November 25, November 27)**

* Doyle, Michael. 1986. “Liberalism and World Politics”, *American Political Science Review*, vol.80, no.4, pp. 1151-1169.
* Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. ‘Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics’, International Organization Vol. 51, No. 4.
* Keohane, Robert O. 1988 “International institutions: Can interdependence work?” *Foreign Policy*, no. 110. pp. 82-96.
* Discussion: Owen, John M. 2005. “Iraq and the Democratic Peace”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, Iss. 6.

**Week 8 – Neoliberalism & the “neo-neo debate” (December 2, December 4)**

* Sterling Folker, Jennifer. 2013. “Neoliberalism”, in Dunne et. al. *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, pp. 114-131.
* “A Primer on Game Theory”, in eds. Frieden et. al. 2019 *World Politics, Interests, Interactions, Institutions,* W.Norton & Company, pp. 82-87.
* Nye, Joseph S. 1988. “Neorealism and Neoliberalism.” *World Politics*. Vol. 40, Issue 2, pp. 235-251.
* Mearsheimer, John J. 1994, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” *International Security*, 19(3): 5-9, 15-22.
* Discussion: Fazal, Tanisha and Paul Poast,. 2019. “War is Not Over, What the Optimists Get Wrong About Conflict”, *Foreign Affairs*, https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2019-10-15/war-not-over

**Week 9 – Constructivism (December 9, December 11)**

* Wendt, Alexander. “Constructing International Politics” in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 302-308.
* Hopf, Ted. 1998. “The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory,” International Security, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 171-181.
* Discussion: Tannenwald, Nina. 2018. “How Strong Is the Nuclear Taboo Today?”, *The Washington Quarterly*, 41:3, 89-109 (skim) and Beauchamp, Zack. 2018. “What Black Panther can teach us about international relations”, *Vox,* February 27, https://www.vox.com/culture/2018/2/27/17029730/black-panther-marvel-killmonger-ir

**Week 10- Domestic politics and International Politics (December 16, December 18)**

* Gourevitch, Peter, “Domestic Politics and International Relations”, in *The Sage Handbook of International Relations*, Chapter 16, 2002.
* Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and domestic politics, the logic of two-level games", *International Organization*, vol.42, no.3, 1988, pp. 427-460.
* Fearon, James. 1994. “Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes”, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 88, no 3, pp. 577-592.
* Discussion: Boris Barkanov. 2014. “How Putin’s domestic audience explains Russia’s behavior,” *Washington Post* March 13. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2014/03/13/how-putins-domestic-audience-explains-russias-behavior/

**Week 11 - International Political Economy (December 23, December 25)**

* Woods, Ngaire. 2014. “International political economy in an age of globalization” in Baylis et. al. *Globalization and World Politics*, 6th ed. Chapter 16, OUP.
* Wallerstein, Immanuel. “The Modern World System as a Capitalist World Economy” in Viotti and Kauppi pp. 227-233.
* Gilpin, Robert. “The Nature of Political Economy” in *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)
* Discussion: Rodrik, Dani. 2019. “Globalization’s Wrong Turn and How it Hurt America,” Foreign Affairs, July/August. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2019-06-11/globalizations-wrong-turn

**Week 12 – Gender and International Relations (December 30)**

* Sjoberg, Laura and J. Ann Tickner “Feminist Perspectives on International Relations”, The Sage Handbook of International Relations, 2013.
* Tickner, J. Ann “Why Women Can’t Rule the World: International Politics According to Francis Fukuyama” in Viotti and Kauppi, 380-384.
* Dicussion: Hudson, Valerie M. “What Sex Means for World Peace,” Foreign Policy April 24, 2012.

**Week 13 –Non-western IR and course wrap-up (January 6 and January 8)**

* Bilgin, Pinar. 2008. Thinking past ‘Western’ IR?, *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 29, no. 1 , pp. 5-23.
* Discussion: Bhambdra et. al. 2020.“Why Is Mainstream International Relations Blind to Racism?,” Foreign Policy, July 3. https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/03/why-is-mainstream-international-relations-ir-blind-to-racism-colonialism/