

**Faculty of Economics & Political Science**

**International Relations Theory**

**Information :**

**Course Code :** PSC 202

**Level :** Undergraduate

**Course Hours :** 3.00- Hours

**Department :** Department of Political Science

**Instructor Information :**

| Title               | Name                              | Office hours |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Associate Professor | Mohamed Ahmed Taha Elsayed Metawe |              |

**Area Of Study :**

This course offers students an introduction to the discipline of International Relations, presented through its classical and recent mainstream and doctrines (Ex: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Functionalism and Neo-Functionalism among others...). It analyzes the history, epistemology, ontology and the normativity of each theory, and tests the validity of the theory through its application in international relations. It aims not only at providing a thorough understanding of the main theories of international relations, but also to develop students' theoretical and analytical skills so that they can analyze the phenomena of international relations using these theories. On the other hand, it presents an introduction to key interactions and international dynamics and an overview of contemporary issues.

**Course Goals:**

- Become aware of the modern theories of international relations
- Comprehend and analyze the domestic and international factors affecting international political and economic relations.

**Description :**

This course offers students an introduction to the discipline of International Relations, presented through its classical and recent mainstream and doctrines (Ex: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Functionalism and Neo-Functionalism among others...). It analyzes the history, epistemology, ontology and the normativity of each theory, and tests the validity of the theory through its application in international relations. It aims not only at providing a thorough understanding of the main theories of international relations, but also to develop students' theoretical and analytical skills so that they can analyze the phenomena of international relations using these theories. On the other hand, it presents an introduction to key interactions and international dynamics and an overview of contemporary issues.

**Course outcomes :**

**a.Knowledge and Understanding: :**

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1 - | Define the contemporary IR theories and the historical factors which gave rise to them, such as realism, liberalism and others. |
| 2 - | Recognize current international events and relate them to the theories.   |
| 3 - | Identify the importance and structures of international organizations.  |

**b.Intellectual Skills: :**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Deepen the knowledge of international relations and interactions of states.  |
| 2 - | Emphasize on understanding the challenges faced by the international community in the political and economic fields. |

**c. Professional and Practical Skills: :**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Relate the historical events and IR theories to contemporary international issues such as the Great Power Competition, or the current events in the Middle East. |
| 2 - | Employ the gained knowledge in the analysis of a variety of case studies.  |
| 3 - | Illustrate the art of research and use of methodologies in essay writing.  |

**d. General and Transferable Skills: :**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Construct logical arguments about IR theories and events, with evidence to support the argument. |
| 2 - | Evaluate the sources of international news and their credibility.                                |

**Course Topic And Contents :**

| Topic  | No. of hours | Lecture | Tutorial / Practical |
|--|--------------|---------|----------------------|
| Introductory Lecture and Course Outline  | 3            | 1       |                      |
| Realist theories - part 1  | 3            | 1       |                      |
| Realist theories - part 2  | 3            | 1       |                      |
| Realist theories - part 3 + Liberal Theories Part 1  | 6            | 2       |                      |
| Liberal Theories Part 2  | 3            | 1       |                      |
| Midterm Exam   |              | 1       |                      |
| Social theories - part 1   | 6            | 2       |                      |
| Social theories - part 2   | 3            | 1       |                      |
| International conflict – part 1  | 3            | 1       |                      |
| International conflict – part 2 + International law, organizations and human rights – part 1 | 6            | 2       |                      |
| International law, organizations and human rights – part 2                                   | 3            | 1       |                      |
| Final Exam   |              | 1       |                      |

**Teaching And Learning Methodologies :**

|                      |
|----------------------|
| Demonstration videos |
| Presentation         |
| Simulations          |
| Debates              |
| Group discussion     |
| Research Paper       |

**Course Assessment :**

| Methods of assessment  | Relative weight % | Week No | Assess What   |
|--|-------------------|---------|---|
| Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper...) | 30.00             |         | To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills. |
| Final Exam   | 40.00             | 15      | To assess knowledge and intellectual skills   |
| Midterm Exam(s)  | 30.00             | 7       | To assess professional skills   |

**Periodicals :**

John Bew, The Real Origins of Realpolitik, The National Interest, March/April 2014, (40-52).