

# 733A41: International Relations Theory, 7,5 ECTS Credits

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Fall semester 2018

## Course coordinator

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## Link to Student's Examination Guide

<http://www.student.liu.se/tenta/regler?l=en>

## Aim

On completion of the course, the student should

- be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of important theoretical and methodological developments within the discipline of International Relations, with special focus on the impact of the end of the Cold War,
- display ability to critically analyze international practices according to the various theoretical perspectives introduced,
- adhere to academic criteria such as writing style, reference and citation styles, and objectivity,
- critically analyze problems and to present coherent analyses.

## Requirements

Students are expected to participate in all activities (lectures as well as obligatory seminars and workshops) and to show command of each week's readings.

The course is examined through active participation and fulfillment of assignments in workshops and seminars, and by completion of an individual course paper.

The workshops and seminars are obligatory. You are expected to be well prepared and to have completed assigned preparations for seminars. If you cannot attend a workshop or seminar you will be given an extended written assignment to be handed in on a fixed date.

The individual course paper consists in

- choosing a phenomenon in international relations (an event, a process, an institution, etc.), contemporary or in history and analyzing it from at least three theoretical perspectives which have been suggested by the course.
- The paper should comprise **no less than 2.000 and no more than 3.000 words**. Indicate the number of words on the last page of your paper!
- In preparing your paper you should take particular care to discuss *the problem at hand*: *Why* is this phenomenon puzzling; *what* is there to know about this? It is also important that your paper indicates *different or alternative understandings*, made possible by modern theories of international relations.
- Relevant parts of the course literature must be utilized and referred to.
- All sources must be properly indicated (notes and references in the text, bibliography at the end of the paper).

Papers are due on **Friday, October 26, 12.00**. Your paper must be submitted in Lisam.

## Seminars

*Seminar 1 (Sept. 28): IR as science*

- Can IR be a scientific pursuit?
- Reflect on the basis of the literature and what has been discussed in class.
- Explain your standpoint! (No less than 1 full page of text; no more than 2 pages, upload in Submissions)
- Be prepared to present and discuss your ideas!

*Seminar 2 (Oct. 12): Marxism, Historical Sociology, Critical Theory*

- Each seminar group (A, B & C) is divided into two subgroups (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2), see list of names at the end of this document.
- At the seminar each subgroup will present one of the indicated theoretical perspectives as a “mini-lecture”, in which all participants are expected to be active, along with a handout paper (2 pages) that summarizes the main features of the theory (upload in Collaborative workspace).
- Prepare for the seminar in the preceding workshops!

- You decide within the A, B and C groups which theory (chapter in Burchill et.al.) each subgroup is to present. Note that these have to be different theories/chapters – A1 and A2 cannot both be presenting Marxism to each other!

*Seminar 3 (Oct. 19): Post-structuralism, Feminism, Green Politics*

- Instructions as for Seminar 2 above!

## Literature

### Books:

Burchill, Scott et.al., (2013), *Theories of International Relations*, Houndmills: Palgrave. 5th ed.

Malchow, Howard LeRoy (2016), *History and International Relations: From the Ancient World to the 21st Century* (London: Bloomsbury).

### Articles (accessible at the library and on the Internet):

Ashley, R. K., “The Poverty of Neorealism”, *International Organization*, Vol. 38, (1984), pp. 225-286.

Bull, Hedley, “International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach”, *World Politics*, Vol. 18, No. 3, (Apr., 1966), pp. 361-377.

Buzan, Barry, “The English School: an underexploited resource in IR”, *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 27:3, (2001), pp. 471-488.

Fukuyama, Francis, “The End of History?”, *The National Interest*, No. 16 (Summer 1989), pp. 3-18.

Hopf, Ted, ”The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory”, *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Summer 1998), pp. 171-200.

Little, Richard, “The English School’s Contribution to the Study of International Relations”, *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 6, No. 3, (2000), pp. 395-422.

Mearsheimer, John J., “The false promise of international institutions”, *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 3, (1995), pp. 5-49, 1995

Waltz, Kenneth N., “Structural Realism after the Cold War”, *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1, (Summer, 2000), pp. 5-41.

Wendt, Alexander, “Anarchy is what States make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics”, *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2, (Spring, 1992), pp. 391-425.

## Schedule

For rooms and time, see *TimeEdit!*

### W. 39

Mon 24/9 Lecture: *Introduction: The nature and purpose of theory*  
(Burchill, chps. 1 & 12; LeRoy Malchow, chps. 1-3; Bull, “International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach”)

Wed 26/9 Lecture: *The History of International Relations*  
(LeRoy Malchow, chps. 4-10)

Fri 28/9 Seminar 1: *IR as Science*  
(First week’s readings, see above)

### W. 40

Mon 1/10 Lecture: *The Realist Tradition*  
(Burchill, chp. 2; Waltz, “Structural Realism after the Cold War”; Ashley, “The poverty of neorealism”)

Tue 2/10 – Fri 5/10 Prepare for w. 41 lectures and seminar.

### W. 41

Mon 8/10 Lecture: *Liberalism & The English School*,  
(Burchill, chps. 3-4; Fukuyama, “The End of History?”; Buzan, “The English School: an underexploited resource in IR”; Little, “The English School’s Contribution to the Study of International Relations”)

Wed 10/10 Workshops: Marxism; Historical sociology; Critical theory

Fri 12/10 Seminar 2: Marxism; Historical sociology; Critical theory

### W. 42

Mon 15/10 Lecture: *Constructivism*  
(Burchill, chp. 9; Wendt, “Anarchy is what States make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics”; Hopf, “The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory”)

Wed 17/10 Workshops: Post-structuralism; Feminism; Green politics

Fri 19/10 Seminar 3: Post-structuralism; Feminism; Green politics

### W. 43

Mon 22/10 Lecture: *Summary and conclusions*

Fri 26/10 **Deadline for individual course papers 12.00**



## Seminar groups

### **Group A1**

Adadzewa Otu  
Akter  
Ghimire  
Hossain  
Nordin  
Oreland  
Al Mohammad

### **Group A2**

Al-Mamun  
Imam  
Islam  
Oskarsson  
Osmangoni  
Alauddin  
Ali

### **Group B1**

Appiah Ekuful  
Aydemir  
Islam  
Kanetaka  
Petersen  
Qazi  
Bappy

### **Group B2**

Bjurhult  
Khan  
Kiis  
Rahman  
Rashed  
Chowdhury  
Das

### **Group C1**

Miah  
Müller  
Tronde  
Vanhanen  
Diochet  
Fahjen  
Mustafayev

**Group C2**

Naheer

Wallgren

Zalatnai

Nemalhabib

Nigar

Zivkovic