

International Relations Theory

Single subject and programme course

7 credits

Teorier om internationella relationer

733A10

Valid from:

Determined by

The Quality Board at the Faculty of Arts
and Sciences

Date determined

2008-09-10

Main field of study

Political Science

Course level

Second cycle

Advancement level

A1X

Entry requirements

Documented knowledge of English equivalent to "Engelska B"; i.e. English as native language or an internationally recognized test, e.g. TOEFL (minimum scores: Paperbased 550 + TWE-score 4.0, computerbased 213 and internetbased 79), IELTS, academic (minimum score: Overall band 6.0 and no band under 5.0), or equivalent. In-depth study of at least 90 ECTS credits (3 semesters of full-time study) in the major subject is required, including a paper corresponding to approximately 10 weeks of study (15 ECTS). The programme provides advanced level studies for students of political science, economics, history, sociology, and other social sciences as well as for students with other disciplinary backgrounds who can demonstrate an ability to develop their potential in the topic.

Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student should be able to

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of important theoretical and methodological developments within the contemporary discipline of International Relations;
- comprehend how these developments are related to the history and practice of international relations;
- critically analyze international practices according to the various theoretical perspectives introduced.

Course content

The central themes of the course are:

- main disciplinary trends and controversies since c. 1980: neo-realism and neo-liberalism as dominant modes of analysis;
- advent of post-positivism in International Relations; significance of the end of the Cold War;
- new theoretical and methodological approaches with special emphasis on constructivism;
- contemporary critical perspectives, e.g. post-structuralism and the feminist agenda;
- epistemological concerns, meaning the conditions for knowledge about international relations.

Teaching and working methods

The course offers lectures which introduce and develop the content of the course. Lectures are complementary to the literature. Seminars and workshops are important aspects of the learning process and provide opportunities for mutual, critical discussions which develop attitudes and skills. Students are expected to be well prepared for lectures and to have completed assigned preparations for seminars. Students are expected to read and take in the literature independently and/or in self-organized reading groups. Language of instruction is English.

Activities which constitute elements of examination are mandatory.

Examination

The course is examined through a combination of seminar papers, presentations, and home writing tasks.

Grades

ECTS, EC

Other information

Planning and implementation of a course must take its starting point in the wording of the syllabus. The course evaluation included in each course must therefore take up the question how well the course agrees with the syllabus. The course is carried out in such a way that both men's and women's experience and knowledge is made visible and developed.

Department

Institutionen för ekonomisk och industriell utveckling