

PS006. International Relations: Evolution & Theory

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title	International Relations: Evolution and Theory
Unit code	PS006
Credit rating	15
Level	MA
Contact hours	21
Pre-requisite units	
Co-requisite units	Advanced Policy Analysis, International History & Geography, all elective course units
School responsible	Moscow School of Social & Economic Science (Faculty of Social Sciences)
Member of staff responsible	Dr. Peter Lawler, Dr. Vasily Zharkov, Dr. Mark Simon, Stanislav Kozheurov

AIMS

In accordance with the chief aim of the course unit has for its object to educate students in an environment that emphasizes advanced knowledge, scientific approach and critical thinking that give an idea of an essence of International relations, its combined multiple character, background immanence, theoretical foundations and evolutionary potential. In the area of the chosen subject the following goals being placed on an agenda are supposed to be reached:

- to introduce existing concepts of International relations and its interpretations by world's leading schools of thought from the perspective of political science;
- to create a coherent image of systems of International relations since its recognition as a dominating mode of interaction and interplay between relevant subjects, including governments, economic systems, labour and multinational corporations acting on the international scene;
- to define the role and place of think-tanks and lobbying groups in decision-making process including their contribution to the development of an agenda and international discourse;
- to set forth theoretical foundations of International relations and its regional projects of geospatial restructuring as it is being done in the new generation of foreign policy doctrines.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

Content

1. Diversity & Disciplinarity in International Relations Theory.
2. Normative IR Theory.
3. Realism.
 - a) Classical Realism.
 - b) Structural Realism.
 4. Liberalism & Neoliberalism.
 5. The English School.
 6. Marxism & Critical Theory.
 7. Constructivism & Poststructuralism.

8. International Relations. Theory & Globalisation

Core Reading

- Dunne, T. & Kurki, M. & Smith, S. (2010) (ed.), *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*. Second Edition, Oxford University Press.
- de Almeda, J.M. (2003), 'Challenging Realism by Returning to History: The British Committee's Contribution to IR Forty Years On', *International Relations*, 17/3, 273-302.
- Baylis, J. & Smith, S. & Owens, P. (2007), *The Globalisation of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford University Press.
- Donnely, J. (2000), *Realism & International Relations*, Cambridge University Press
- Griffiths, M. & O'Callaghan, T. & Roach, S.C. (2007), *International Relations: The Key Concepts (Routledge Key Guides)*, London – NY, Routledge.
- van de Haar, E. (2010), *Classical Liberalism and International Relations Theory: Hume, Smith, Howard, W. (1996), International relations and the limits of political theory*, London, Macmillan.
- Mises, and Hayek (Palgrave MacMillan History of International Thought), Palgrave Macmillan.
- Linklater, A. & Suganami, H. (2006), *The English School of International Relations: A Contemporary Reassessment (Cambridge Studies in International Relations)*, Cambridge University Press.
- Nicholson, M. (1998), *International Relations: A Concise Introduction*; London, Macmillan, 1998.
- Snow, D. (2000), *International Relations: The Changing Contours of Power*, NY, Longman.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	<i>Students should be able to:</i>
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learn basic concepts of International relations – know main postulates of leading modern schools of International relations, basic theoretical, scientific and analytical approaches to International relations from historical and political perspectives, - understand role and place of think-tanks in decision-making process and of foreign policy lobbyism in International relations; - understand characteristic features of evolution of International relations; - understand practical meaning of geospatial projects in foreign policy;
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop the capacity of describing and analyzing International relations' systems on the basis of existing theoretical methods; - develop the ability to understand a mechanism of decision-making process in International relations; - determine role and place of main actors in International relations to produce its coherent vision;
Practical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - resolve problems: identify the features of problem, including aspects of risk and select approaches and solutions; - identify desired communication outcomes; enhance understanding and engagement by academic and professional audiences; - research independently, by identifying and managing library and information resources including online, correctly citing, acknowledging and referencing sources; - undertake effectively independent and self-managed learning;

Transferable skills and personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effective written and oral communication; - read, write and communicate in English on academic topics; - reflect and write analytically; - engage in scientific discussion and deliver creative and original thought; - find information and use information technology (including e-library resources) - exercise self-reliance skills and develop independent learning ability; - manage time and work to deadlines.

LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

- Contact hours: lectures (70%) and tutorials (30%).
- Private assignment preparation
- Directed reading (paper and electronic texts)
- Essay writing

ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit (if relevant)
Essay	3500 words	80%
Written Exam	1000 words	20%

Date of current version	21 Mar., 2010
Approved by Deans' meeting	05 Apr., 2011