

PO219-15 Theories of International Relations

20/21

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Dominic Kelly

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Although a 'common sense' view of world politics is often presented as fact in non-academic contexts, there is little agreement about what International Relations is, and how we should think about the discipline. This module helps students critically examine conventional wisdom. The module emphasises that 'the truth' about International Relations is disputed and reflects on how we can use theory to study global politics.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module will:

- Introduce, explore and compare the key theoretical approaches in International Relations;
- Use examples to examine how different schools of thought help us understand past and current global affairs;
- Encourage students to develop critical analytical and evaluative skills.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

TBC

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Describe the key assumptions which distinguish contemporary theories of international relations from each other
- Analyze the purpose, coherence, and contradictions of contemporary theories of international relations and evaluate their contribution
- Deploy theories of international relations to study aspects of global politics

Indicative reading list

Term 1: <https://rl.talis.com/3/warwick/lists/B826003B-6698-FCC0-34C9-587429382E23.html>

Term 2: <https://rl.talis.com/3/warwick/lists/06B1D7CB-9708-74A9-C840-0F491E30783A.html>

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Interdisciplinary

History, Sociology, Philosophy, Gender Studies

International

Global Affairs

Subject specific skills

Communication skills

- Lateral thinking skills
- Skills in the distillation and application of complex information and ideas
- Critical thinking
- Analytical skills
- Independent research skills
- Problem solving
- Skills in academic practice
- Awareness of, and sensitivity to, diversity

Transferable skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following key skills:

- Communication skills
 - Lateral thinking skills
 - Skills in the distillation and application of complex information and ideas
 - Critical thinking
 - Analytical skills
 - Independent research skills
 - Problem solving
 - Time management
 - Information Technology
 - Skills in academic practice
 - Awareness of, and sensitivity to, diversity
 - Decision making
 - Educational self-awareness skills
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

TBC

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
3000 Word Essay	100%		Yes (extension)

Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

2,500 word essay

Feedback on assessment

Exams and essays are marked according to criteria set out in the Undergraduate Handbook.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics