

PO219-30 Theories of International Relations

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

James Brassett

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

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 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

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

TBC

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

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (50%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour (50%)
Total	36 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.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group C2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
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Assessment component			
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3,000 word essay	50%	Yes (extension)
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Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component		
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Centrally-timetabled examination (Online)	50%	No
1.5 hour examination		

~Platforms - AEP

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

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

[Past exam papers for PO219](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)

This module is Optional for:

- UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
 - Year 2 of L100 Economics
 - Year 2 of L116 Economics and Industrial Organization
- Year 2 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 2 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 2 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
- Year 2 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V5L2 Undergraduate Philosophy and Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 2 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 2 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 3 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
- UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 2 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 3 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
- UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
 - Year 2 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
 - Year 3 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 2 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 3 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law