Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Theory of International Relations
Course Code	27160
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-02/A
Language	English
Degree Course	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Roberto Farneti, Roberto.Farneti@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/17315
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	2/3
CP	6
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	The course engages with the main theories and discourses in the study of International Relations: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism will be explained by illustrating the debates and2/3 discussions that animate the discipline. Globalization is the backdrop where international actors engage in a system of relations ranging from cooperation to conflict. The course will illustrate a number of dyads, like East-West and North-South, that structure IRs, and will expand on such issues as national security, international and transnational institutions and global governance
Course Topics	The historical (and pre-historical) background; theories of world

	politics; structures and processes; international issues, globalization, and current challenges. The course begins by commenting on excerpts from Yuval Harari's book Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind expanding on the origins of "early human institutions" and follows the development of IRs up to the emergence of sophisticated forms of political accountability in the international politics of the XXI c. One block of lectures engages with the main theories and discourses in the study of IRs. Globalization is the backdrop where international actors engage in a spectrum of relations ranging from cooperation to conflict. The course will expand on such issues as national security, national self-determination, international and transnational institutions and NGOs, and global governance.
Keywords	THEORIES: Realism – power politics, anarchy, state interests. Liberalism – cooperation, institutions, interdependence. Social constructivism – norms, identity, social construction of world politics. CONCEPTS: Sovereignty – the state as the main actor in international relations. Power – both hard (military, economic) and soft (norms, ideas). Globalization – interconnectedness, transnational challenges, erosion of state-centric models.
Recommended Prerequisites	None
Propaedeutic Courses	None
Teaching Format	18 two-hour lectures, normally offered twice a week. Instructor uses PowerPoint.
Mandatory Attendance	Recommended, but not mandatory
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes) ILO 1 Knowledge and understanding ILO 1.1 fundamentals of political science and understanding of the articulations of the discipline; ILO 1.2 globalisation and the logic (and actors) of the international system. ILO 2 Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

	ILO 2.1 ability to understand, analyse and identify political decision-making processes; ILO 2.2 ability to understand the political logic of globalisation processes; this allows for the integration of strictly political knowledge with that learned in adjacent areas such as law and economics, which investigate the same processes from other perspectives; ILO 2.3 ability to analyse a technical text using appropriate theoretical tools; ILO 2.4 ability to produce a reasoned text on a political science topic ILO 3 Making judgements ILO 3.1 Acquisition of the capacity for judgement and methodological tools useful for the critical analysis of data, sources, assumptions and implications of scientific practice, and of the political, ethical and legal context within which economic phenomena are set and with which they interact ILO 4 Communication skills ILO 4.1 Proficiency (oral and written) in Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages. Intercultural competence. Conceptual awareness, synthesis and written expression, particularly in the drafting of scientific or science-based documents ILO 5 Learning skills ILO 5.1 Promotion of critical thinking and analytical skills to focus on complex problems in their long-term dynamics and the variety of their implications, including ethical ones
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	1. Participation. Depending on how many students will be attending, format and participation will be discussed and agreed upon in week one. Attendance is not compulsory but in-class

	discussion of case studies by registered students will be appreciated [ILO4; ILO5]. 2. Midterm: A mid-term is scheduled at the beginning of May (maximum 2 extra points). Only students who attend regularly (e.g., 80% of classes) can enroll in the mid-term [ILO1; ILO2; ILO3; ILO5]. 3. 70-minute final exam: this is an in-class written exam combining multiple choice + short essay (max 350 words); further details about the structure of the exam and the composition of the grade will be given in a separate doc, made available in the 'file' folder of the course's Teams within week 5 [ILO1; ILO2; ILO3; ILO5]. Note: non-attending students will be invited to meet with the instructor during office hours in order to learn how to cultivate the communication and learning skills (ILO4 & ILO5) that are normally acquired through consistent participation in the course.
Evaluation Criteria	See 'assessment' (instructor will circulate by week 3 of the course an extended, 4-page syllabus detailing the evaluation criteria)
Required Readings	John Baylis. Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics*. 8th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. Y.N. Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (Penguin 2014) S. Rosato, "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory." *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 4. (2003), pp. 585-602 W. Callahan, *Sensible Politics: Visualizing International Relations* (Oxford UP, 2020)
Supplementary Readings	
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Gender equality, Peace, justice and strong institutions, Reduced inequalities