

Theories of International Relations

Winter Semester 2021/2022

Room: P205 / online

Lecturers:

Ondřej Ditrych, MPhil. Ph.D.

ditrych@fsv.cuni.cz

office hours: Thursday, 11.00-12.00 (P407)

Jakub Tesař, Ph.D.

jakub.tesar@fsv.cuni.cz

office hours: Tuesday, 13.00-14.30 (P407)

Mgr. Anna Kotvalová

anna.kotvalova@fsv.cuni.cz

office hours: per email request

Michal Parízek, Ph.D.

michal.parizek@fsv.cuni.cz

office hours: Monday, 15.30-17.00 (P202)



Course Description

The course provides students with advanced understanding of key theories and concepts for analysis of international politics. It covers major subjects of international relations, both perennial and of particular concern at the present time, from war and peace to how power and wealth are distributed, cooperation works sometimes (and not at other times), and megatrends such as climate change impact on global politics.

The course is divided into twelve sessions, attendance to which is strongly recommended. Students are expected to have read and familiarised themselves with assigned reading prior to each lecture.

It is envisioned that all lectures will be delivered in person, streamed through Teams and recorded. Please follow the university's current pandemic regulation for any changes.

Course Schedule

1. Course Introduction

October 7, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

In this introductory session, administrative and organisation matters shall be discussed, and main theoretical streams of International Relations showcased on the paradigmatic case of WWI.

Assigned Reading:

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Recommended Reading:

Kennedy, Paul. 1989. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. New York: Vintage (Chapter 5).

Richard Ned Lebow. 2014. What Can International Relations Theory Learn from the Origins of World War I? *International Relations* 28(4): 387-410.

Keir Lieber. 2007. The New History of World War I and What it Means for International Relations Theory. *International Security* 32(2): 155-191.

2. International Relations: The Story

October 14, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

This session will be dedicated to the history of the field. After a short review of the history of international politics and a few remarks on international political thought before the discipline was founded, the story of the field featuring key theoretical streams and the notable protagonists who advanced them will be rehearsed.

Assigned Reading:

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 6).

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 7).

Recommended Reading:

Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss. Eds. 2013. *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. London: Routledge (Chapter 11).

Paul Wilson. 1998. The Myth of the 'First Debate'. *Review of International Studies* 24(1): 1-15.

3. War and Peace: Why People Fight

October 21, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

After a short introduction reviewing main general theories of violence, and of the central political philosophical issue of why men obey and rebel, the session shall be dedicated to war and peace as explained and explored by different theories of international relations.

Assigned Reading:

Jack S. Levy. 1998. The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace. *Annual Review of Political Science* 1: 139-165.

Jack Donnelly. 2000. *Realism and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Chapter 3).

Recommended Reading:

Cynthia Weber. 2010. *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*. Third Edition. London: Routledge (Chapter 2).

Stephen Van Evera. 1998. Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security* 22(4): 5-43.

4. Power Transitions

November 4, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

Are China and the U.S. headed for war? What is Thucydides Trap in international relations? Critically exploring historical analogies and theories of power transitions in international politics, and mobilising some of the field's central concepts such as balance(s) of power, this session will seek to provide a space for reflecting on this central issue of contemporary politics staked out by international relations theories.

Assigned Reading:

Robert Gilpin. 1988. The Theory of Hegemonic War. *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4): 591-613:

Daniel Nexon. 2009. The Balance of Power in the Balance. *World Politics* 61(2): 330-359.

Recommended Reading:

Graham Allison. 2015. The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War? *The Atlantic* (24 Sept.).

Richard Ned Lebow and Daniel Tompkins. 2016. The Thucydides Claptrap. *Washington Monthly* (28 Jun.).

Richard Ned Lebow. 2001. Thucydides the Constructivist. *American Political Science Review* 95(3): 547-560.

5. Power: What It Means

November 11, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

Power is a central concept in International Relations, and this session will explore its different concepts and their implications. It will also look into what happens when (critical) theory fights power, and to what ends.

Assigned Reading:

Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall. 2005. Power in International Politics. *International Organization* 59(1): 39-75.

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 11).

Recommended Reading:

Thomas Diez, Ingvild Bode and Aleksandra Fernandes Da Costa. 2011. *Key Concepts in International Relations*. London: SAGE (pp. 173-177).

Steven Lukes. 2005. *Power: A Radical View*. Second Edition. London: Palgrave (Chapter 1).

Felix Berenskoetter and Michael J. Williams. Eds. 2007. *Power in World Politics*. London: Routledge (Chapter 1).

Stefano Guzzini. 2005. The Concept of Power: A Constructivist Analysis. *Millenium* 33(3): 495-521.

6. Institutions: Why People Work Together

November 18, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

In this session, the core tenets of cooperation theory and of institutional theory will be discussed, as will key contributions to our understanding of why states are able to work together in anarchical world politics.

Assigned Reading:

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2017. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Seventh Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 20).

Volker Rittberger et al. *International Organization*. Third Edition. London: Red Globe Press (Chapter 2).

Recommended Reading:

Cynthia Weber. 2010. *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*. Third Edition. London: Routledge (Chapter 3).

7. Norms and Interests: Who Does What and Why

November 25, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

Who is there in international relations and why they do what they do? This session will review theoretical perspectives on how interests, identities and norms are formed in international relations, and how they matter in shaping international politics.

Assigned Reading:

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 10).

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. International Norm Dynamics and Political Change. *International Organization* 52 (4): 887–917.

Recommended Reading:

Emanuel Adler and Vincent Pouliot. 2011. International Practices. *International Theory* 3 (1): 1-36.

Alexander Wendt. 1992. Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics. *International Organization* 46 (2): 391-425.

Saskia Sassen. 1996. Cities and Communities in the Global Economy: Rethinking Our Concepts. *American Behavioral Scientist* 39 (5): 629-39.

Simon Curtis and Michele Acuto. Eds. 2013. *Reassembling International Theory: Assemblage Thinking and International Relations*. London: Palgrave.

8. Climate Change: Who Can Cope with Global Environmental Challenges

December 2, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

Since the 1960s, environmental issues, and most prominently the climate change, have scaled up to the global level and influence world politics. Are current actors of international politics able to face this challenge or more fundamental shift of how we understand our role on planet Earth is needed?

Assigned Reading:

Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss. Eds. 2014. *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. London: Routledge (Chapter 3).

The Ecologist. 1994. Whose Common Future: Reclaiming the Commons. *Environment and Urbanization* 6(1): 106-30.

Recommended Reading:

Steven Bernstein. 2002. Liberal Environmentalism and Global Environmental Governance. *Global Environmental Politics* 2(3): 1-16.

Robyn Eckersley. 2004. *The Green State: Rethinking Democracy and Sovereignty*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Anthony Burke, Stefanie Fishel, Audra Mitchell, Simon Dalby, and Daniel J. Levine. 2016. Planet Politics: A Manifesto from the End of IR. *Millennium* 44 (3): 499-523.

David Chandler, Erika Cudworth, and Stephen Hobden. 2018. Anthropocene, Capitalocene and Liberal Cosmopolitan IR: A Response to Burke et al.'s Planet Politics. *Millennium* 46(2): 190-208.

9. Political Economy: Who Has What and Why

December 9, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

This session will explore how is the world organised economically and how this shapes international politics.

Assigned Reading:

Robert Gilpin. 1987. *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (Chapter 2).

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 9).

Recommended Reading:

Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss. Eds. 2013. *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. London: Routledge (Chapter 17).

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 16).

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2017. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Seventh Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 16).

Cynthia Weber. 2010. *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*. Third Edition. London: Routledge (Chapter 7).

10. Global Social Justice and Feminism

December 16, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

Thinking beyond wealth, how it is distributed and to what ends, in this session the issue of how gender and race shape international politics will be addressed, together with the broader exploration of power and knowledge interactions and the role of more privileged and marginalised perspectives on the global.

Assigned Reading:

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 17).

Swati Parashar, Anne Tickner and Jacqui True. 2018. *Revisiting Gendered States: Feminist Imaginings of the State in International Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 3).

Recommended Reading:

Laura J. Shepherd. 2015. *Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations*. London and New York: Routledge.

Alison Howell and Melanie Richter-Montpetit. 2019. Is Securitization Theory Racist? Civilizationism, Methodological Whiteness and Antiracist Thought in the Copenhagen School. *Security Dialogue* 51(1): 3-22.

Ole Waever and Barry Buzan. 2020. Racism and Responsibility: The Critical Limits of Deepfake Methodology in Security Studies. *Security Dialogue* 51(4): 386-394.

Lene Hansen. 2020. Are 'Core' Feminist Critiques of Securitization Theory Racist? *Security Dialogue* 51(4): 378-385

Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss. Eds. 2013. *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. London: Routledge (Chapter 27).

11. Integration: How People and States Get Together

January 6, 2021 (09.30-10.50)

In this session the issues of how people and their communities get close to each other and how can security be thought at different scales than that of the nation state will be explored.

Assigned Reading:

Felix Berenskoetter. Ed. 2016. *Concepts in World Politics*. London: SAGE (Chapter 17).

Emanuel Adler and Michael Barnett. Eds. *Security Communities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Chapter 1).

Recommended Reading:

Antje Wiener and Thomas Diez. Eds. 2009. *European Integration Theory*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 1).

John Gerard Ruggie. 1993. Territoriality and Beyond: Problematizing Modernity in International Relations. *International Organization* 47(1): 139-174.

Rebecca Adler-Nissen, Charlotte Galpin and Ben Rosamond. 2017. Performing Brexit. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 19(3): 573-591.

12. The Final Case: COVID-19 and International Relations

January 6, 2021 (11.00-12.20)

How can the theories of international relations inform our thought about a current global phenomenon that is the COVID-19 pandemic? From both theoretical and historical perspectives, what impact can one expect regarding the fabric of international politics?

Assigned Reading:

Daniel Drezner. 2020. The Song Remains the Same: International Relations after COVID-19. *International Organization* Suppl.: 1-18.

Alison Bashford. 2006. Global Biopolitics and the History of World Health. *History of Human Sciences* 19(1): 67-88.

Recommended Reading:

Kathleen McNamara and Abraham Newman. 2020. The Big Reveal: COVID-19 and Globalization's Great Transformations. *International Organization* Suppl.: 1-19.

Daniele Lorenzini. 2020. Biopolitics in the Time of Coronavirus. *Critical Inquiry* 47(S2).

Edoardo Campanella. 2020. The Bubonic Plague Killed Feudalism, COVID-19 Will Entrench It. *Foreign Policy* (20 Aug.).

Requirements and Assessment

There will be a midterm and a final test scheduled for all students. Both are open book tests, taken at distance using Moodle. The midterm test, constituting 30 % of the grade, will take place in the second half of November. The final test (70%) will be scheduled for the exam period. Both tests shall cover the content of the lectures and the assigned (*not* recommended) reading.

In line with *Opatření děkanky* 17/2018, the following grading scale is used:

91% and more	A
81-90%	B
71-80%	C
61-70%	D
51-60%	E
0-50%	F

Repetitions are allowed only upon receiving lower than passing grade.