Title Understanding Global Politics

M11005/M11155/M11012 (10/15/20 credits)

Level 1

Taught Autumn Semester

Module Convenor: Dr Sabine Carey

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Office Hours: Tue 11am-12pm & Wed 1-2pm
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**Summary of Content:**

This module introduced global politics through the major theoretical, historical and empirical ways of seeing international relations. Different claims, about, for example, human nature, power, war, peace, the state, society, law and politics are offered by thinkers who exercise a major influence on our contemporary understanding. These claims contribute to different approaches to politics in a global context.

**Educational Aims:**

By the end of the module you will:

- Be able to appreciate the nature and complexity of global politics
- Have been introduced to the theoretical underpinnings of the major approaches to global politics
- Have a good working knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the major approaches to global politics
- Be familiar with the core concepts and controversies in analysing global politics

**Learning Outcomes:**

These will be:

i) **Knowledge and understanding:**
knowledge of foundations of the definition and explanations of global politics

ii) **Intellectual skills:**
ability to critically read primary and secondary material and use it selectively in essays and in examinations

iii) **Professional/Practical skills:**
ability to give oral presentations and to contribute to discussions and debates in tutorial groups

iv) **Transferable & Key skills:**
ability to critically read primary and secondary material and use it selectively in essays and in examinations

v) **IT skills:**
Module Evaluation:

Evaluation and feedback are crucial to the success of any module. The School wants students to have their say on Politics modules. Therefore modules are formally evaluated on a biennial basis, so please use this opportunity to have your say. If you have any other comments or queries regarding this module, please contact the Module Convenor.

Lecture Titles:

The weekly lecture titles are as follows:

Week 1: NO LECTURE

Week 2: Introduction: the Study of Global Politics
(Lecture given by Dr Sabine Carey)

Essential Reading:


Supplementary Reading:
Baylis, John and Steve Smith (2008), The globalization of world politics: an introduction to international relations, Chapters 1-4

Burchill, Scott (2005) Theories of international relations, chapter 1.


Jackson, Robert and Georg Sørensen (2003) Introduction to international relations: theories and approaches, chapters one and two.

Week 3: Realism I
(Lecture given by Dr Xiaoke Zhang)

Essential Reading:

**Week 4: Realism II**
(Lecture given by Dr Xiaoke Zhang)

**Essential Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


For current academic debates and papers on Realism and Sovereignty, see http://www.said-workshop.org/

**On Realism and the End of the Cold War:**

'Special issue: Ideas, International Relations and the End of the Cold War', *Journal of Cold War Studies* 7, no. 2 (Spring 2005).


**Weeks 5 & 6: Liberalism I & II**

(Lectures given by Dr Xiaoke Zhang)

**Essential Reading:**


Supplementary Reading:

Burchill, Scott (2005) *Theories of international relations*, chapter three.


On economic interdependence, war and peace:

Do democracies fight each other?


On international institutions:


http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people4/Keohane/keohane-con0.html
Week 7: Social Constructivism
(Lecture given by Dr Vanessa Pupavac)

Essential Reading:


Supplementary Reading:

Baylis, John and Steve Smith (2008) *The globalization of world politics: an introduction to international relations*, Chapter 9


**Week 8: Marxist Theories of IR**
(Lecture given by Dr Vanessa Pupavac)

**Essential Reading:**
Baylis and Smith (2008) *The Globalisation of World Politics*, Chapter 8


**Supplementary Reading:**


A close reading of the text of Karl Marx's Capital Volume I in 13 video lectures by David Harvey http://davidharvey.org/

Counter-theories e.g. W.W. Rostow’s The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto.

**Week 9: Ethics and IR**

(Lecture given by Dr Vanessa Pupavac)

**Essential Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


Baylis and Smith (2008) The Globalization of World Politics, Chapter 11


**Week 10: Feminist IR**
(Lecture given by Dr Vanessa Pupavac)

**Essential Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Special journal issues**

* e.g. *Alternatives* (1993) Special Issue: Feminists Write International Relations, 18:1.
Week 11: International History
(Lecture given by Dr Vanessa Pupavac)

Essential Reading:

The following articles from the 'Special Issue' on International History/International Relations, in International Security - available 'online' vol. 22 Summer 1997:

Stephen H Haber, David M Kennedy, Stephen Krasner, 'Brothers under the Skin. Diplomatic History and International Relations', International Security, 22 (Summer 1997) 34-43

Paul W. Schroeder, 'History and International relations Theory. Not Use or Abuse, but Fit and Misfit', International Security, 22 (Summer 1997) 64-74.


Supplementary Reading:

On the differences (or not) between international history and international relations:


Jeffrey Record, 'The use and abuse of history', Survival 49 (Spring 2007), 163-80.


Ian Clark, 'International Relations: divided by a common language’, Government and Opposition, 37/1 (2002), pp. 271-78. – useful critique of the Elmans’ Bridges & Boundaries collection

On the use of ’theory’ in international history:


**Week 12: Revision: Iraq War and IR Theory**
(Lecture given by Dr Sabine Carey)

**Essential Reading:**


Michael Howard, 'A Long War?', *Survival* 48 (Winter 2006-07), 7-14

**Supplementary Reading:**

Michael J Boyle, 'The War on Terror in American Grand Strategy', *International Affairs* 84 (March 2008), 191-209

Barry Buzan, 'Will the global war on terrorism be the new Cold War?', *International Affairs* 82 (November 2006), 1101-18

Tutorial discussions will be based on readings listed above, please ensure that you have familiarised yourself with the relevant required readings before the tutorials.

Please note that registers will be taken in tutorials, **which take place fortnightly unless you take the M11012 (20 credits), in which case the tutorials take place every week**. Should you be unable to attend, please email the Module Convenor.

*The lectures and tutorials will start on time, and it is expected that you will be present for the start of the session.*

**Method and Frequency of Class:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Number of Sessions</th>
<th>Duration of a Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location of Lecture:**

Law & Social Sciences B62

**Day:**

Monday

**Time:**

11am-12pm
Method of Assessment:

The 20 credit module (M11012) will be assessed on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Answering two questions, 1hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework 1</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>2,000 word essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework 2</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>2,000 word essay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 15 credit module (M1155) will be assessed on the following basis:

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Answering two questions, 1hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework 1</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>1,500 word essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework 2</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>1,500 word essay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 10 credit module (M11005) will be assessed on the following basis:

<table>
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<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Answering two questions, 1hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework 1</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1,500 word essay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The deadline for the first essay is **Tuesday, 10th November** at 4pm.  
The deadline for the second essay, where applicable (i.e. for the 20 credit and 15 credit module) is **Friday, 11th December at 4pm**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Students who take this module for 10 credits need to submit only one essay, for which the deadline is 10 November 2009.

You must submit an electronic copy of your essay via the module’s WebCT site, taking note of the individual ID number that will be generated once you have successfully uploaded it. This process is self-explanatory.

After you have done that – and only then - you must submit one hard copy of the essay to the School Office. A submission sheet should be completed and attached to the essay. You are required to enter the WebCT ID number on the cover sheet, as proof that you have already electronically submitted the essay. The submission sheet and the top of page of your essay should then be date stamped, and submitted via the First year filing cabinet situated in the School foyer by the lift. Essays handed in after 4pm will be stamped as late and the usual University penalties will be applied.

Failure to complete either process ie electronic and/or hard copy submission will result in late penalties being applied.

The electronic copies will be scanned to detect plagiarism. It is therefore imperative that you consult the Student Handbook, which outlines what is counted as plagiarism and advises you how to avoid it. Failure to submit an electronic copy even if you submit two hard copies on time will mean that the essay will be counted as having not been submitted.
Any essay handed in after the deadline will have 5% of the original mark deducted per working day, unless an extension has been approved in advance. Applications for extensions will not normally be considered retrospectively. Any student wishing to apply for an extension should collect and complete the necessary forms from the School Office and submit these to the relevant Year Tutor together with any necessary documentary evidence.

**Reading Information:**

General Reading – Books, journals etc

** = Essential text  
*  = Important text


In addition you will benefit from regularly reading recent issues of international relations journals. Examples include *International Affairs*, *International Peacekeeping*, *International Studies Quarterly* and the *Review of International Studies*. Many journals are now available to read electronically such as the *American Political Science Review* and *International Security*. Always check that a journal is available electronically through electronic collections such as JSTOR.

**Coursework Support:**

The Hallward Library and Halls of Residence have a number of networked PCs to facilitate access to information on holdings.

As Module Convenor please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any difficulties with the module or assessed work. I will be available without appointment during my office hours. Appointments to meet at other times can be made via email. My contact details together with office hours are noted at the front of this module outline.

**Guidance to Essay Writing:**

A short guide for students on essay writing skills and an outline of the marking criteria used by staff is available from the School Intranet.
Assessed Essay Titles:

Students taking the **10-credit version** of this module must choose one essay from the following set of titles:

1. How 'realistic' is realism?
2. Discuss the difference between realism and neo-realism by referring to Morgenthau and Waltz respectively.
3. Is international co-operation possible?
4. Explain how feminist theories criticise International Relations for marginalising women and gender.
5. To what extent do Marxist theories of International Relations follow or differ from Realist theories?
6. International Ethics enjoyed renewed attention in the 1990s. To what extent has International Ethics retained significance since the War on Terror?

Students taking the **15-credit version** of this module must choose one essay from Section A and one essay from section B:

Section A
1. How 'realistic' is realism?
2. Discuss the difference between realism and neo-realism by referring to Morgenthau and Waltz respectively.
3. Is international co-operation possible?

Section B
1. Explain how feminist theories criticise International Relations for marginalising women and gender.
2. To what extent do Marxist theories of International Relations follow or differ from Realist theories?
3. International Ethics enjoyed renewed attention in the 1990s. To what extent has International Ethics retained significance since the War on Terror?

Students taking the **20-credit version** of this module must choose one essay from Section A and one essay from section B:

Section A
1. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of either realism or liberalism in explaining the War on terror.
2. Is the practice of international politics realist?
3. Is neo-liberal thinking useful in trying to explain and understand the globalisation process?

Section B
1. How compelling are feminist theories associating women with peace and men with war?
2. Analyse how Marxist theories of International Relations explain international conflict.
3. Could International Relations dispense with the concept of sovereignty?
Exam:

In the exam, you will be given two of the following questions and you will need to answer both of them.

1. How does the neo-realist approach advance our understanding of global politics?
2. In what important respects does neo-liberalism address the weaknesses of liberalism?
3. Is neo-liberal institutionalism a synthesis of neo-realism and liberalism?
4. How do feminist theories challenge traditional security approaches?
5. Assess Marxism’s contribution to International Relations theories.
6. How compelling is the social constructivist critique of a state-based international order?
7. How has International Relations moved away from International History and does it matter?
8. To what extent do International Ethics approaches address the problem of power in International Relations?

Reminder:
Submission date for the first coursework is 4pm on 10 November 2009, for the second coursework, where applicable, the deadline is 4pm on 11 December 2009.