

ANGLO-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
School of International Relations and Diplomacy

IRS200 Introduction to International Relations

Course Description

This course introduces a variety of different theoretical perspectives on international relations developed in the 20th century in order to stimulate critical reflection on a number of important questions: Who are the principal international actors? What is the structure of the international arena? What are its implications for conflict, cooperation, and the roles of power and morality in world politics? What causes war and global inequality? Is durable peace achievable? Is it desirable? What is the relationship between theory and practice of international relations? The course begins with World War I and Wilsonian liberal internationalism as the origins of IR as a modern field of study and subsequently traces the rise of Realism to the position of a dominant school of thought within the field. The second half of the course explores the weaknesses and biases of the Realist tradition and presents alternative ways of explaining and understanding international relations. Throughout the semester students will develop a critical mindset enabling them to approach key international issues and phenomena—war, trade, development, international law, terrorism, environmental protection—from multiple angles of view.

Location and Schedule

This course meets Wednesdays 8-10:45 a.m., room 2.05.

Instructor

Milan Babík (milan.babik@aauni.edu)
Office Hours: Fridays 2-3 p.m. or by appointment

Reading Materials

Required course readings include textbooks, books, articles, and other material. All are available on our NEO/MyLearning course site.

Requirements and Assessment

Your final grade will be based on the following categories:

a) Attendance & Participation (15%)

This refers to your regular attendance, which is mandatory, and to your involvement in discussion, which is expected. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of each class, and absences will only be excused in exceptional circumstances (severe illness, family emergency). You must notify me in advance, secure my permission, and arrange to make up any missed work. See Appendix I for further details.

b) Pop Quizzes (20%)

Several quizzes will be given without prior announcement at the start of select classes. Each quiz will consist of 5 multiple-choice questions on recent lecture material and reading assignments. You will have 5 minutes to complete it.

c) Essay (20%)

This essay is to be 8-10 pages long (A4, double-spaced, 12pt. font Times New Roman, 1" margins) with footnotes and bibliography in the [Chicago documentation style](#). Essay topics will be distributed early in term. You will also receive an Essay Assessment Rubric containing guidelines to help you craft the paper. Your thesis statement and annotated bibliography are due in class on Wednesday, September 30. The essay is due in class on Wednesday, November 11, and the revised draft is due in class on Wednesday, November 25. All submissions must be in hard copy, and the revised draft submission also has to be done electronically via Turnitin/NEO. Late submissions will not be accepted, and plagiarism and/or the use of generative AI are strictly prohibited. See Appendix II for further details.

d) Midterm Examination (20%)

This exam will take place in class on Wednesday, October 21, starting at 8:30 a.m. You will complete it by hand and have 75 minutes available.

e) Final Examination (25%)

This test will cover the entire course and take place in class on Wednesday, December 9, starting at 8:30 a.m. You will complete it by hand and have 2 hours available.

Course Outline

I. Origins of IR as a Modern Discipline

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| <u>Sept. 2</u> | <u>Welcome and Introduction to IR Theory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chris Brown and Kirsten Ainley, <i>Understanding International Relations</i>, 3rd ed. (Palgrave, 2005), chap. 1. |
| <u>Sept. 9</u> | <u>World War I and the Birth of the Discipline</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Eric J. Hobsbawm, <i>The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991</i> (Vintage, 1996), chap. 1.○ Michael Howard, <i>The First World War</i> (Oxford University Press, 2002), chap. 2.○ Winston S. Churchill, <i>The World Crisis</i>, vol. 1 (Scribner's, 1923), chap. 1.○ Brown and Ainley, <i>Understanding International Relations</i>, 19-23. |
| <u>Sept. 16</u> | <u>The Rise and Fall of Liberal Internationalism</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points" (1918), in Arthur S. Link et al., eds., <i>The Papers of Woodrow Wilson</i>, vol. 45 (1984), 536.○ Covenant of the League of Nations (1919)○ Norman Angell, <i>The Great Illusion</i>, 4th ed. (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1913), Part 1, chaps. 1-3.○ Brown and Ainley, <i>Understanding International Relations</i>, 24-28. |

II. The Rise of Realism

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| <u>Sept. 23</u> | <u>E.H. Carr's Critique of Utopianism</u> |
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- E.H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939* (Palgrave, 2016 [1939]), vii-101.

Sept. 30 Classical Realism in the United States

- Brown and Ainley, *Understanding International Relations*, 28-31.
- Michal Joseph Smith, *Realist Thought from Weber to Kissinger* (Louisiana State University Press, 1986), chap. 5.
- Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, 5th ed. (Knopf, 1973), chap. 1.
- Essay thesis statement and annotated bibliography due at the beginning of class.

Oct. 7 From Realism to Neorealism

- Peter Wilson, "Radicalism for a Conservative Purpose: The Peculiar Realism of E.H. Carr," *Millennium* 30, no. 1 (2001), 123-136.
- Hans J. Morgenthau, "The Political Science of E.H. Carr," *World Politics* 1, no. 1 (1948), 127-134.
- Christoph Frei, *Hans J. Morgenthau: An Intellectual Biography* (Louisiana State University Press, 2001), chaps. 1-2.

Oct. 14 Anarchy as the Cause of War

- Brown and Ainley, *Understanding International Relations*, 40-45.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (Columbia University Press, 1959), chaps. 1-2.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Addison-Wesley, 1979), chaps. 4-5.

Oct. 21 Midterm Exam (in-class, 8:30 a.m. start)

Oct. 28 No Class – Midterm Break

III. The Rationalist "Neo-Neo" Consensus

Nov. 4 Democratic Peace and the Liberal End of History

- Michael W. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *American Political Science Review* 80, no. 4 (1986), 1151-1169.
- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *National Interest* 16 (1989), 3-18.
- [George H.W. Bush, Address to the United Nations General Assembly \(Oct. 1, 1990\)](#)

Nov. 11 Pluralism, Complex Interdependence, and Neoliberal Institutionalism

- Brown and Ainley, *Understanding International Relations*, 35-40.
- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, *Power and Interdependence*, 4th ed. (Longman, 2012), chaps. 1-2.
- Joseph S. Nye, "Soft Power," *Foreign Policy*, no. 80 (Autumn 1990), 153-171.
- [Joseph S. Nye, "The Future of American Soft Power," *Project Syndicate* \(May 16, 2025\)](#)
- Essay due at the beginning of class (hard copy).

IV. Alternative Perspectives on World Affairs

Nov. 18 Dependency Theory, Hegemony, and Critical International Theory

- Brown and Ainley, *Understanding International Relations*, chap. 8.
- Robert W. Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory," *Millennium* 10, no. 2 (1981), 126-130.
- Mark Hoffman, "Critical Theory and the Inter-Paradigm Debate," *Millennium* 16, no. 2 (1987), 231-249.

Nov. 25 Constructivism: Anarchy and Sovereignty as Social Structures

- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization* 46, no. 2 (1992), 391-425.
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, revised ed. (Verso, 1991), chaps. 1 and 10.
- Essay (revised) due at the beginning of class (hard copy and Turnitin).

Dec. 2 Gender, Feminism, and Postmodernism

- J. Ann Tickner, "Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformulation," *Millennium* 17, no. 3 (1988), 429-440.
- Brown and Ainley, *Understanding International Relations*, 52-62.
- Roland Bleiker, "The Aesthetic Turn in International Political Theory," *Millennium* 30, no. 3 (2001), 509-533.

Dec. 9 Final Exam (in-class, 8:30 a.m. start)

Other Notes and Comments

Smartphones or other electronic devices including laptops and tablets are not allowed in the classroom. Please turn them off and stow them away before entering.

Appendix I: Attendance Policy

General

In-person class attendance is mandatory at AAU, and you must attend at least two thirds of sessions in this course. If you do not meet this condition and most of your absences are excused, you will be administratively withdrawn from the course. If you do not meet this condition and most of your absences are unexcused, you will receive a grade of “FW” (Failure to Withdraw).

Late Arrivals/Early Departures

Arriving in class late or leaving class early shall be considered an absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of each class. It is your responsibility to place your name and signature on the attendance sheet.

Excusing an Absence

Absence can only be excused for valid reasons (severe illness, family emergency, etc.). Should these cause you to miss a class and you would like to be excused, please submit an Absence Excuse Request Form to the Dean of Students within one week of the absence. Do not forget to supplement the form with documents providing reasons for the absence. Whenever possible, inform me of your absence in advance.

Should you miss a class session during the Add/Drop period due to a change in Registration, the absence will be excused if you submit an Absence Excuse Request Form along with the finalized Add/Drop form.

Make-up Options

If your absence has been excused by the Dean of Students, you are entitled to make up missed exams and assignments provided their nature allows it. Coursework missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up and will be penalized according to the assessment guidelines specified in the syllabus.

You are responsible for contacting me within one week of the date your absence was excused to arrange make-up options.

Appendix II: Policy on AI and Plagiarism

General

Plagiarism obscures the authorship of a work or the degree of its originality. You are expected to create and submit works of which you are the author. Among other things, this means that you are strictly prohibited from using generative AI such as ChatGPT in any part of this course.

Examples

Plagiarism can apply to all works of authorship: textual, verbal, visual, audiovisual, and more. Here are some examples:

- *Verbatim plagiarism*: verbatim use of another's work, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgement of the source and designation as a verbatim quotation
- *Paraphrasing plagiarism*: paraphrasing someone else's work, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgement of the source
- *Data plagiarism*: use of other people's data without proper acknowledgement of the source
- *False quotation*: publishing a text that is not a verbatim quotation as a verbatim quotation
- *Fictitious citation*: quoting, paraphrasing, or referring to an incorrect or a non-existent work
- *Inaccurate citation*: citing sources in such a way that they cannot be found and verified
- *Ghostwriting*: commissioning work from others and passing it off as one's own
- *Patchwriting*: using someone else's work or works (albeit with proper acknowledgement of sources and proper attribution) to such an extent that the output contains almost no original contribution
- *Self-plagiarism*: unacknowledged reuse of one's own work (or part of it) that has been produced or submitted as part of another course of study or that has been published in the past
- *Collaborative plagiarism*: delivering the result of collective collaboration as one's own individual output

Penalties and Disciplinary Procedures

The minimum penalty for plagiarism is a failing grade for the assignment and a report to your Dean. In instances of small-scale plagiarism, novice students may receive the benefit of the doubt if it is reasonable to assume that the offence resulted from ignorance rather than intent.

Acts intended to make plagiarism more difficult to detect constitute an aggravating circumstance. Such conduct includes, for example, the additional modification of individual words or phrases, creation of typos, use of machine translation tools, creation of synonymous text, and more.

Depending on the type and degree of offence, the Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Intentional or repeated plagiarism automatically entails a disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.