

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES:

AN INTRODUCTION

Dario Battistella

Professor of Political Science

d.battistella@sciencespobordeaux.fr

www.dariobattistella.fr/

This course is an introduction to international relations theories. It concretely consists in a historical presentation of the discipline and its debates both among general theories and in various subfields. At the end of the semester, each student should be familiar with the main theories and concepts used in the discipline, their strengths and limitations. Theoretical knowledge is not an end in itself: it provides rigorous frameworks likely to contribute to a better, that is, critical understanding of current trends and events in world politics.

The basic bibliographical reference is my – French – handbook '*Théories des relations internationales*', Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 4e édition, 2012. See below for further references.

The lectures will be illustrated by a 'Reading Material' containing representative articles and book excerpts of the various theories analyzed during the classes. **The Reading Material is available on Sciences Po's Moodle intranet site.** Every student is encouraged to have a look at the texts in order to prepare the class and, hopefully, ask questions, make remarks, put forward criticisms.

Please note that the FINAL EXAMINATION will be based on the 'Reading Material': students will have to comment on quotes taken from the texts. The exam will take the form of a written essay for students of Sciences Po, and of an oral interrogation for ERASMUS exchange students.

Syllabus

Part One: Defining International Relations

1. The Meaning of International Relations

Reading Material:

1a. D. Lake, "The State and International Relations", in C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 41-61.

1b. M. Barnett & K. Sikkink, "From International Relations to Global Society", in C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 62-83.

2. The Discipline of International Relations

Reading Material:

2a. S. Hoffmann, "An American Social Science. International Relations" (1977), in J. Der Derian (ed.), *International Theory. Critical Investigations*, London, MacMillan, 1995, p. 212-241.

2b. S. Smith, "The United States and the Discipline of International Relations: Hegemonic Country, Hegemonic Discipline", *International Studies Review*, 4 (2), 2002, p.

Part Two: General Theories

3. Realism

Reading Material:

3a. H. Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations. The Struggle for Power and Peace* (1948), New York, MacGraw-Hill, 7th ed. by K. Thompson & D. Clinton, 2005, Chapter 1: "A Realist Theory of International Politics".

3b. K. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, New York, MacGraw-Hill, 1979, Chapter 5: "Political Structures".

4. Liberalism

Reading Material:

4a. A. Osiander, "Rereading Early Twentieth-Century IR Theory. Idealism Revisited", *International Studies Quarterly*, 42 (3), 1998, p. 409-432.

4b. A. Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously. A Liberal Theory of International Politics", *International Organization*, 51 (4), 1997, p. 513-553.

5. Marxism & Critical Theory

Reading Material:

5a. J. Galtung, "A Structural Theory of Imperialism", *Journal of Peace Research*, 8 (2), 1971, p. 81-117.

5b. R. Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Order" (1981), in R. Keohane (ed.), *Neorealism and Its Critics*, New York (N.Y), Columbia University Press, 1986, p. 204-254.

6. Post-Positivism & Constructivism

Reading Material:

6a. J. A. Tickner, "Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism. A Feminist Reformulation" (1988), in J. Der Derian (ed.), *International Theory. Critical Investigations*, London, MacMillan, 1995, p. 53-71.

6b. A. Wendt, "Anarchy Is what States Make of It. The Social Construction of Power Politics" (1992), in J. Der Derian (ed.), *International Theory. Critical Investigations*, London, MacMillan, 1995, p. 129-177.

Part Three: Some Subfields

7. Foreign Policy

Reading Material:

7a. R. Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception", *World Politics*, 20 (3), 1968, p. 454-479.

7b. G. Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis", *American Political Science Review*, 69 (3), 1969, p. 689-718.

8. Cooperation

Reading Material:

8a. R. Keohane & R. Axelrod, "Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions", *World Politics*, 38 (1), 1985, p. 226-254.

8b. J. Grieco, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Internationalism", *International Organization*, 42 (??), 1988, p. 485-507.

9. Security

Reading Material:

9a. A. Wolfers, "National Security As An Ambiguous Symbol", *Political Science*

Quarterly, 67 (4), 1952, p. 481-502.

9b. J. Baldwin, "The Concept of Security", *Review of International Studies*, 23 (1), 1997, p. 5-26.

10. War and Peace

Reading Material:

10a. M. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics", *American Political Science Review*, 80 (4), 1986, p. 1151-1169.

10b. A. Geis & W. Wagner, "How Far Is It From Königsberg to Kandahar? Democratic Peace and Democratic Violence in International Relations", *Review of International Studies*, 36 (1), 2010, p. 1-23.

Part Four: Assessing International Relations

11. The Usefulness of International Relations

Reading Material:

11a. H. Nau, "Scholarship and Policy-Making: Who Speaks Truth to Whom", in C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 635-647.

11b. J. Nye, "International Relations: The Relevance of Theory to Practice", in C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 648-660.

12. What Have We Learned?

Selected Bibliography

Students are encouraged to have a closer look at one, or two, handbooks, dictionaries, and readers, in order to complement the class notes with presentations of theories and concepts by other scholars.

Handbooks

In English:

Baylis (John), Smith (Steve), & Owens (Patricia), (eds), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 6th ed., 2013.

Burchill (Scott) *et al.*, *Theories of International Relations*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 5th ed., 2013.

Carlsnaes (Walter), Risse (Thomas) & Simmons (Beth), (eds), *The Sage Handbook of International Relations*, London, Sage, 2nd ed., 2012.

Dunne (Tim), Kurki (Milja), & Smith (Steve) (eds.), *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 3rd ed., 2013.

Reus-Smit (Chris) & Snidal (Duncan), (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2008.

In French:

Battistella (Dario), *Théories des relations internationales*, Paris, Sciences Po les Presses, 4th ed., 2012.

McLeod (Alex) & O'Meara (Dan), (eds), *Théories des relations internationales. Contestations et résistances*, Outremont, Athéna, 2nd ed., 2010.

Dictionaries

In English:

Evans (Graham) & Newnham (Jeffrey), *The Penguin Dictionary of International Relations*, London, Penguin, 1998.

Griffiths (Martin) *et al.*, *International Relations: Key Concepts*, London, Routledge, 2nd ed., 2008.

Griffiths (Martin) *et al.*, *Fifty Key Thinkers in International Relations*, London, Routledge, 2nd ed., 2008.

In French:

Battistella (Dario), Petitivelle (Franck), Smouts (Marie-Claude) & Vennesson (Pascal), *Dictionnaire des relations internationales. Approches, Concepts, Doctrines*, Paris, Dalloz, 3rd ed., 2012.

MacLeod (Alex) *et al.*, *Relations internationales. Théories et concepts*, Outremont, Athéna, 3rd ed., 2008.

Readers

Der Derian (James) (ed.), *International Theory: Critical Investigations*, London, MacMillan, 1995.

Linklater (Andrew) (ed.), *International Relations: Critical Concepts in Political Science*. London, Routledge, 2000.

Little (Richard) & Smith (Michael) (eds), *Perspectives on World Politics: A Reader*, London, Routledge, 3rd ed., 2004.

Chan (Stephen) & Moore (Cerwyn) (eds), *Theories of International Relations*, London, Sage, 2006.

Mingst (Karen) & Snyder (Jack) (eds), *Essential Readings in World Politics*, New York, Norton, 4th ed., 2010.