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M1 + Exchange students

# THE CRITICAL APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## COURSE PRESENTATION

This 18 jour course explores the critical approaches to international relations. Several labels or adjectives have been proposed in order to describe this constellation of works: post-positivist, feminist, post-colonial, neo-marxist, radical... In spite of their differences, these approaches share a critical stance on the positivist pretention to produce value-free scholarship, and the hope that new perspectives may help to disclose the current relations of domination that structure world politics. The course does not purport to exhaust the numerous varieties of critical international relations theories. Such an ambition would appear all the more overweening as critical thinking on international relations has not only emerged in the field of international relations but also found some stimulating formulations in other disciplines such as history, law, anthropology, linguistics, and philosophy... Rather, this course introduces to some works produced in these fields with a particular focus on four critical approaches to international relations: the (neo)-marxist, the postcolonial, the feminist, and the theories of “intersectionality” (the approaches which pretend to bridge the gap between the three others). The course entails six sessions of three hours.

## MOODLE

The PowerPoints presentations are downloadable on Moodle (cours d’ouverture)

Code: CAIR

## PROGRAMME

Session 1/ The Critical Turn in International Relations

- Booth, K., S. Smith, et al. (1996). *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Latour, B. (2002). *War of the Worlds: What about Peace?* Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press.

Session 2/ The Neo-Marxist Approaches to International Relations

- James, P. (1997). Postdependency. *At the Edge of International Relations. Postcolonialism, Gender and Dependency*. Darby, Philip. London, New York, Pinter, 61-85.
- Tilly, C. (2002). International Securities, Secure or Otherwise. *Security Communities*. Adler, Emmanuel and Michael Barnett, 397-412.

#### Session 3/ The Post-Colonial Approaches to International Relations

- Asad, T. (2007). *On Suicide Bombing*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Chowdry, G. and S. Nair (2002). *Power, Postcolonialism and International Relations*. Londres: Routledge.

#### Session 4/ The Feminist Approaches to International Relations

- Butler, J. (2010). *Frames of War. When is Life Grievable?* London, Brooklyn: Verso.
- Tickner, A. (2001). *Gendering World Politics: Issues and Approaches in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: Columbia University.

#### Session 5/ The Intersectionality Theories and International Relations

- Agathangelou, A. M. (2004). 'Sexing' Globalization in International Relations. *Power, Postcolonialism and International Relations*. Chowdry, Geeta and Sheila Nair. New York, London, Routledge, 142-169.
- Spivak, G. C. (1999). *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason. Toward a History of Vanishing Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### Session 6/ Criticizing the Critical Approaches to International Relations

- Bayart, J.-F. (2010). *Les études postcoloniales. Un carnaval académique*. Paris: Karthala.
- Hobson, J. M. (2007). Is critical theory always for the white West and for Western imperialism? Beyond Westphalian towards a post-racist critical IR. *Critical International Relations Theory. 25 Years After*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 91-116.

## EXAMINATION

All: 30 minute oral examination.

Exchange students willing to double their credits will write a review of a book on the critical approaches to international relations (10 pages max). The choice of the book has to be agreed upon with the teacher. It can (but does not have to) be a book of the course bibliography. Deadline: December 31 (m.delori@sciencespobordeaux.fr)

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- Bayart, J.-F. (2010). *Les études postcoloniales. Un carnaval académique*. Paris: Karthala.
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- Blanchard, E. (2003). 'Gender, International Relations, and the Development of Feminist Security Theory.' *Signs* 8-4: 1289-1312.
- Bonelli, L., T. Deltombe, et al. (2008). *Au nom du 11 septembre... Les démocraties à l'épreuve de l'antiterrorisme*. Paris: La Decouverte.
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