



Course information 2011–12

IR1011 Introduction to international relations

This is the level 100 course on which subsequent and more specialised courses in the area of international relations are based.

Prerequisite

None apply.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this course is to:

- explore the nature of the anarchical international society of legally-autonomous, territorially-based, political units called states
- consider a range of principles of organisation of the international system such as imperialism, and the major adaptations of international society in the modern period
- identify the international aspects of the emerging problems of the current era, such as those of the environment, those of promoting economic development, and those concerning the protection of human rights
- evaluate the character and achievements of newer forms of international arrangements, such as the United Nations system and non-governmental organisations
- consider why wars happen between states and how peace can be sustained over time.

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three hour unseen written examination.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should be able to:

- ✓ discuss and evaluate competing approaches to the study of international relations, with their associated concepts and perspectives
- ✓ display this engagement by developing a capacity to write clearly about the issues involved, and to present arguments about International Relations coherently.
- ✓ Undertake critical engagement with sources of data on international affairs, whether literature from the discipline, documents or the media

Essential reading

For full details please refer to the reading list.
Baylis, J. and S. Smith (eds) *The Globalization of World Politics: an Introduction to International Relations*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
Griffiths, M. and T. O'Callaghan *International Relations: The Key Concepts*. (London, Routledge)
Kegley, C. and E. Wittkopf *World Politics*. (Thomson/Wadsworth)
Stern, G. *The Structure of International Society*. (London: Pinter Publishers)

Students should consult the *Programme Regulations for degrees and diplomas in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences* that are reviewed annually. The Prerequisites, Exclusions, and Syllabus are subject to confirmation in the *Regulations*. Notice is also given in the *Regulations* of any courses which are being phased out and students are advised to check course availability.

Syllabus

This is a description of the material to be examined, as published in the *Regulations*. On registration, students will receive a detailed subject guide which provides a framework for covering the topics in the syllabus and directions to the essential reading.

A study of the international society of states which is without common government and binding authority. The historical evolution and expansion of that society to its contemporary form based on the territorial state and the concept of sovereignty; the nature of nationalism and its impact on the pattern and hierarchy of states; power and the military; economic and diplomatic instruments of state policy; the role of

international law and morality; the nature and experience of alliances and non-alignment; disarmament and arms control; international institutions and collective security with reference to the experience of the League of Nations and the United Nations; the role of non-state actors in challenging the primacy of the state; the problems of promoting international order without common government.