**Antalya Bilim University**

**Department of Political Science and International Relations, POLS 301/351**

**International Relations Theory**

**Fall 2023**

Lecturer: Gözde Turan

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Class hours: Monday 14:00-16:50 in A2-04/05

Office hours: Thursday 10:00-12:00; or by appointment

**Course description**

This course focuses on theory in the study of International Relations, and provides a comprehensive survey of current theoretical perspectives within the discipline. At the end of the course, students are expected to appreciate the importance of theory in international studies, possess substantive knowledge of a wide variety of theoretical perspectives (Liberalism, Realism, Marxism, Critical Theory, the English School, Constructivism, Poststructuralism), and be able to apply or draw on theory in order to understand and/or engage critically with world politics.

**Course objectives**

Beyond contributing to the general development of students’ intellectual maturity and abilities, the more specific objectives of the course include developing students’

* knowledge of different theoretical approaches in the study of International Relations;
* ability to compare, contrast, analyse and critically assess theoretical approaches in the study of International Relations;
* ability to think theoretically and apply theories to real-world cases;
* ability to communicate about theory both verbally in discussions and in written essays.

**Course organization**

The course consists of a combination of conventional lectures and class discussions.

**Attendance**

While not an absolute course requirement, students should note that attendance is important for both their obtainment of course-related knowledge/skills, and the assessment of class participation (see below).

**Course grading (assessment methods)**

Mid-term examination: 30% of final grade.

Final examination: 40% of final grade.

Other assignments: 30% of final grade.

- in-class assignments: 5 x 5% of final grade.

- class *and* discussion participation: 5% of final grade.

**Course schedule**

Week 1: Course introduction

Week 2: What is IR theory?

Week 3: Realism

Week 4: Realism (continue) + Liberalism

Week 5: Liberalism (continue)

Week 6: English School

Week 7: Review

Week 8: *Mid-term examination*  
Week 9: Marxism

Week 10: Critical Theory  
Week 11: Critical Theory (continue)

Week 12: Constructivism

Week 13: Poststructuralism

Week 14: Course review

**Readings**

***Main textbook:***

Dunne, Tim et al. (eds) (2013), *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, 4th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

***Supplementary textbook:***

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

**Weekly course schedule with readings**

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: What is IR theory?

- compulsory: Dunne (Introduction & ch. 1)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 1)

Week 3: Classical Realism

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 3)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 2)

Week 4: Structural Realism + Liberalism

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 4 & 5)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 2)

Week 5: Neoliberalism

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 6)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 3)

Week 6: English School

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 7)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 4)

Week 7: Review

Week 8: Midterm exam

Week 9: Marxism

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 8)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 5)

Week 10: Critical theory

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 9)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 7)

Week 11: Critical theory

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 9)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 7)

Week 12: Constructivism

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 10)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 9)

Week 13: Poststructuralism

- compulsory: Dunne (ch. 12)

- recommended: Burchill (ch. 8)

**Important pieces of information:**

***Student preparation*** in the form of reading the assigned literature before each lecture and class discussion is a course requirement.

***Improper student behaviour*** during class will not be tolerated, and disciplinary action will be taken if necessary. With regard to examinations, specific rules will be distributed in due time.

***Make-ups*** will be arranged for students who are ill at the time of an examination. In order to qualify for a make-up, students must provide a medical report for the day of the examination. The report must be submitted to the faculty in accordance with formal procedures. Note that make-ups will be arranged as soon as possible after the time of the original examination.

***E-mail*** will be used for the purpose of communicating important information concerning the course, and it is the responsibility of students to check their university e-mail accounts on a regular basis.

**About examinations and assignments**

***In-class assignments (5 x 5%)***

Students will write short reflection papers related to the theories covered in particular weeks, ***Mid-term examination (30%)***

The mid-term examination will consist of 4-5 essay questions, and you will provide as complete and concise answers as possible to all of them within the allotted time.

***Final examination (40%)***

The final examination will consist of 4-5 essay questions, and you will provide as complete and concise answers as possible to all of them within the allotted time.