

Fall 2024
Antalya Bilim University
Global Politics and International Relations MA Program
POLS 701
THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Class time& Place: Thursday 13.00-16.00 MarkAntalya-729

Burak Toygar Halistoprak
Assist. Prof. Dr.
toygar.halistoprak@antalya.edu.tr
(A2-40) (Dosemealti Campus)

ABOUT THIS SYLLABUS

This syllabus is essential for you to follow the requirements of the course. It is your responsibility to follow the requirements, deadlines and assignments of the course, and all of these are specified in this syllabus. Answers to all your class-related questions are in this syllabus. Please make sure that you examined the syllabus about your question, before contacting the instructor about it. Therefore, please do not consider this syllabus something that you see on the first meeting and put somewhere deep in your bookshelf. The syllabus is an essential material for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why do we need theories? Do theories of International Relations (IR) shed light to patterns of actors' behavior in international system? These questions constitute the basis of current debates in IR theories. This course is a master level course that is built upon the general aim of exploring the conceptual explanations brought to the major debates of world politics. The course starts with a general discussion on meta-theoretical debates on epistemology and ontology. Starting from week three, the course focuses on different theoretical schools of IR each week. The course content covers a wide array of IR theories varying from mainstream IR theories (such as Realism, Liberalism) to new theoretical schools (such as Green Theory). The course combines lectures by the instructor and active debates by the graduate students. The course structure relies heavily on students' active participation to in-class debates, therefore, students are expected to read the course material and contribute to the in-class academic exchange.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to equip students with the necessary theoretical tools to grasp the importance of conceptual thinking in the discipline of IR and understand the determinants of actors' behavioral patterns in world politics. To this end, it is aimed to provide students a reading list that would enable

them to understand general debates in IR theories, and acquaint them with different theoretical schools. The course also seeks to increase students' motivation to read and follow current foreign policy issues and analyze them through the lenses of academic literature that they will read throughout the semester.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course relies on the combination of lectures by the instructor on various topics of FPA on a weekly basis and reading-oriented discussions by students.

1) LECTURES: Lectures are not designed in a classical format. Rather, lecture sessions require an active interaction among students and the instructor. Students are required to read the lecture material before coming to lectures and contribute to the discussions during the lecture hours.

2) DISCUSSIONS: Weekly discussion readings are assigned as relevant to that respective week's topic. **All students are responsible from ALL ASSIGNED READINGS.** Each week a group of students will give us brief "comparison presentations". Comparison presentations will compare that week's theoretical school with previous theoretical frameworks.

3) THEORY DEBATE WEEKS: On 7th and 14th weeks, we will have a theory debate week. All students are required to attend these weeks and contribute to the debate.

COURSE POLICIES

- **ANNOUNCEMENT POLICY:** All information regarding the course will either be announced in class or be sent to your ABU e-mail address. Check your e-mail regularly. It is your responsibility to beware the information announced through e-mail.
- **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** This is a graduate level course. Therefore, you are expected to **participate in every class throughout the semester**. You should not forget that the functioning of the classes depend on the participants; thus you have a responsibility against your peers in the class. Attendance will be taken and ABU regulations on attendance will be followed.
- **EMAILING/CORRESPONDENCE POLICY:** Students are expected to preserve the manners and a constructive tone in their correspondence with the instructor. An attentive use of language is welcomed.

- **READINGS:** Coming to classes prepared and ready to discuss topics in an academic manner is a graduate student's responsibility of utmost importance. Students are required to read the course material **before the class**.
- **CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** You are expected to act according to the rules of class conduct and courtesy. Any form of hate speech, discriminatory discourse and disruptive behavior are not welcome and tolerated.
- **MOBILE PHONE POLICY:** Make sure that your mobile phones are switched off during class time. Recording the class is not allowed.
- **MAKE-UP POLICY:** Requests for midterm exam make-ups will be considered only for students with a medical condition. If an emergency arises, student needs to contact me before or immediately after the midterm exam.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

There will be zero-tolerance to any form of academic dishonesty. **Plagiarism, cheating during exams and in assignments and any other attempt of academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action.**

Note that all your assignments will be submitted to Turnitin software for plagiarism check. Please see the Departmental Student Handbook for specific information about academic honesty and plagiarism. Students are responsible for making sure that their assignments do not contain any form of academic dishonesty. Please consult the instructor for situations that you are not certain about your references in your assignments.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the semester, you will submit three written assignments. Two of the written assignments will be **Comparison Papers** and they will be counted as your midterm grade. One written assignment is an **Annotated Bibliography** assignment, which will be your final exam.

- **Comparison Papers:** Each student will submit two comparison papers, one before the 8th week and one before 14th week. A comparison paper is a short essay that compares a specific theoretical school with another theoretical framework. Students are expected to compare and contrast the major arguments, assumptions and pillars of a given theory with another theory's founding arguments within a short essay format. Each student will be assigned to a topic by the instructor. List of topics and submission dates are provided below:

Paper Topic	Submission Date
First Comparison Paper	
Comparison of Liberalism(s) with Realism(s)	31.10.2024
Comparison of the English School with Realism and Liberalism	
Comparison of Social Constructivism with Realism and Liberalism	
Second Comparison Paper	
Comparison of Critical Theory with mainstream IR Theories	24.12.2024
Comparison of Marxist IR Theory with Liberalism	
Comparison of Postcolonial IR Theories with mainstream IR Theories	
Comparison of Gender Theories with mainstream IR Theories	

- b. Annotated Bibliography:** Annotated bibliography is a form of written study that provides a comprehensive and annotated list of readings in a specific field. In this assignment, each student will compose an annotated list of sources in the literature of a given theoretical school. It is expected to provide at least 30 different sources and their explanations. This assignment is due to **January 5, 2025**. A guide will be provided to students later.
- c. Term Paper:** Students can also select to submit a term paper as their final assignment. Term paper should be a study of 4000 words that discusses a theoretical framework's literature. This assignment is due to **January 5, 2025**.

THEORY DEBATE WEEKS

There will be two theory debate weeks (Week 7 and Week 14), reserved only for a comprehensive debate on theoretical arguments of the schools covered thus far. Each student will be assigned a role of presenting and defending the arguments of a different theory than his/her comparison paper topic.

READING MATERIAL

In addition to a textbook, there are further assigned articles for each week. All articles are available on the LMS module of the course. The textbook is also available both in library and bookstore. You can see the articles for each week below.

Text Book: Dunne, T., Kurki, M. and Smith, S., 2013. International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity. Oxford University Press: London

Assessment Criteria:

- 1) **Midterm (35%):** Students will submit two Comparison Papers (first 17%, second 18%) as their midterm assignments.
- 2) **Final exam (45%):** Students will submit an Annotated Bibliography as their final exam assignment.
- 3) **Participation (20%):** Participation grade will be based on your performance in in-class discussions and your discussion questions.

*The instructor reserves the right of assigning new tasks or removing existing tasks from the course content, if necessary.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (2.10.2023): Course Registration Term

Week 2 (3.10.2024): Discipline of IR and its Theories/Why we need them?

Lecture Reading: Syllabus, Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 1, Ch. 2.

Discussion Reading:

- Jackson, Patrick T., Nexon, Daniel H. 2012. I can Has IR Theory? *Duck of Minerva Working Paper Series*.
-

Week 3 (10.10.2024): Realism(s)/Classical Realism, Neo/Structural Realism

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 3, Ch. 4.

Discussion Reading:

- Mearsheimer, J.J., 2007. Structural realism. *International relations theories: Discipline and diversity*, 83, pp.77-94.
 - Waltz, K.N., 2000. Structural realism after the Cold War. *International security*, 25(1), pp.5-41.
-

Week 4 (17.10.2024): Liberalism(s)/Neo-Liberal Institutionalism

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 5, Ch. 6.

Discussion Reading:

- Doyle, M.W., 1986. Liberalism and world politics. *American political science review*, 80(4), pp.1151-1169.
 - Stein, A.A., 2008. Neoliberal institutionalism. *The Oxford handbook of international relations*, pp.201-221.
-

Week 5 (24.10.2024): The English School/International Society Approach

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 7.

Discussion Reading:

- Buzan, B., 2001. The English School: an underexploited resource in IR. *Review of international studies*, 27(3), pp.471-488.
-

Week 6 (31.10.2024): Social Constructivism

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 10

Discussion Reading:

- Wendt, A., 1992. Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics. *International organization*, 46(2), pp.391-425.
-

Week 7 (7.11.2024): Theory Debate Week-I

Week 8 (14.11.2024): Midterm Week

Week 9 (21.11.2024): Critical Theory

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 9.

Discussion Reading:

- Moolakkattu, J.S., 2009. Robert W. Cox and critical theory of international relations. *International Studies*, 46(4), pp.439-456.
-

Week 10 (28.11.2024): Marxist IR Theories

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 8.

Discussion Reading:

- Davenport, A., 2013. Marxism in IR: Condemned to a realist fate?. *European Journal of International Relations*, 19(1), pp.27-48.
-

Week 11 (5.12.2024): Postcolonial IR Theory

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 12, Ch. 13.

Discussion Reading:

- Hobson, J.M., 2007. Is critical theory always for the white West and for Western imperialism? Beyond Westphalian towards a post-racist critical IR. *Review of International Studies*, 33(S1), pp.91-116.
-

Week 12 (12.12.2024): Gender, Feminism and Queering IR

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 11

Discussion Reading:

- Tickner, J.A. and True, J., 2018. A Century of International Relations Feminism: From World War I Women's Peace Pragmatism to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. *International Studies Quarterly*, 62(2), pp.221-233.

Week 13 (19.12.2024): Green Theory and Environmental Theories in IR

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 14.

Week 14 (26.12.2024) Theory Debate Week-II

Lecture Reading: Dunne et. al. 2013, Ch. 16.

Week 15 (2.1.2025): Semester Wrap-up