

Course Outline

Code: INT335

Title: International Relations Theory and Practice

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2020
Course Coordinator: Dr Shannon Brincat - sbrincat@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Phillip Ablett

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Description

Theory is crucial to how we understand and make meaning of global politics. In this course you will be exposed to the evolution of theories and philosophies concerning international relations and how they apply to and explain a range of practices in world politics. This strong critical underpinning will allow you to actively transform and better navigate the future of world politics.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

300 level Graduate - Independent application of graduate knowledge and skills. Meets AQF and professional requirements. May require pre-requisites and developing level knowledge/skills. Normally taken in the 3rd or 4th year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes	Assessment tasks	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Critically review, analyse and evaluate theories and philosophies of international relations.	1, 2, 3	Creative and critical thinkers

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Communicate international relations theory and philosophy through written and oral modes.	1,2,3	Engaged
Critique and describe the conflicting ethical issues within various theories of international relation and their application in the practices of world politics	3	Ethics

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Nil

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

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5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

It is assumed students have basic knowledge of international relations as demonstrated by successful completion of any one INT subject.

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Early feedback is provided in Assessment 1 Preparation and Participation Portfolio. Students will be given direct oral and written feedback on their preparation and participation in the seminar/workshop related to readings and lecture content in workshop/seminar each week.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Portfolio	Individual	30	Weeks 1-12	In each seminar/ workshop Week 1-12	To Supervisor
2	Written Piece	Individual	20	Paper is 2x 750 word answers (i.e. 1500 Words)	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
3	Essay	Individual	50	2000-word essay	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
			100%			

Assessment 1: Portfolio – Preparation and Participation

Goal:	You will complete a written portfolio documenting your engagement with readings and lecture materials. You will also prepare and participate in seminar/workshop discussions and activities and constructively respond to course content questions, theories, concepts, and practices.
Product:	Portfolio
Format:	<p>Preparation for each seminar/workshop will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading the required readings for the week; - watching the online recording of the lecture; - completing written summaries and/or question/answer (200 words) each week and emailing these to the lecturer <i>prior</i> to the workshop/seminar; - reflecting about the issues highlighted for discussion in the seminar. <p>Discussions will take place in the seminar/workshop which will give you the opportunity to be heard and participate in a range of learning activities. The mark is based on active and informed participation.</p>
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description/explanation of theory • Analysis of international relations theory application • Oral contributions to the class and group discussions

Assessment Task 2: Written Piece – Short Answer

Goal:	You will demonstrate your knowledge and application of international relations theory and practice.
Product:	Written Piece

Format:	The short answer paper will consist of responses to two questions (750 words each for a total of 1500 words). You will have a choice of topics that will be listed on Blackboard. The paper will be written as a formal academic paper and will apply the Harvard style of referencing with a List of References (LOR).
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of theory (ies) of international relations • Application of theory • Critical analysis • Communication • Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation • Referencing – ethical use of research and proper conventions

Assessment Task 3: Essay

Goal:	You will undertake research and write an essay that explores a specific topic regarding international relations theory and practice. In particular, you will critique and describe the conflicting ethical issues within various theories of international relation and their application in the practices of world politics.
Product:	Essay
Format:	<p>Academic format 2000 words</p> <p>Remember, an essay is an argumentative piece of writing. Particular attention will be focused on the inclusion of theoretical concepts to support points and arguments made, integration of arguments with theories of international relations, and, critical analysis and synthesis of materials in the essay. The essay should apply the Harvard style of referencing with a List of References (LOR).</p>
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical review of theory/philosophy • Critical analysis • Critique and describe conflicting ethical issues • Communication • Referencing – ethical use of research and proper conventions (Harvard)

7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. A 12 unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Location: Specific Campus(es) or online:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	Workshop: 3 hours per week

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Information regarding prescribed texts or other associated resources will be made available on the BlackBoard site prior to commencement of study

8.2 Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au

For new course approvals only

Appendix 1 Course content

Week # / Module #	What key concepts/content will I learn?
Topic 1	What is International Relations Theory?
Topic 2	Realism and Utopia (Part 1): Realism and the origins of war
Topic 3	Realism and Utopia (Part 1): Cosmopolitanism and the possibilities of 'Perpetual peace'
Topic 4	Power and Institutions: The 'New-Neo-Con' Synthesis
Topic 5	The English School: The Problem of Order and Justice
Topic 6	Marxism and World-Systems Theory
Topic 7	Critical International Relations Theory
Topic 8	Postmodernism
Topic 9	Feminism and Gender in World Politics
Topic 10	Postcolonialism and the Subaltern: the Other in IR theory
Topic 11	Green Theory and the Future of World Order