



## COURSE OUTLINE

# INT335 International Relations Theory and Practice

**Course Coordinator:** Shannon Brincat (sbrincat@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast

**ON CAMPUS**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

*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. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>ON CAMPUS</b>			
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – 3 hours workshop	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

**What is International Relations Theory?:** Introduction to theory; ontology and epistemology; positivism and post-positivism; Worldviews and Theories in International Relations; Guide to the Course

**Realism and Utopia (Part 1):** Realism and The Origins of War: The Hobbesian Imaginary and Machiavellian Politics; WWI; the formation of the discipline of IR; war and peace

**Realism and Utopia (Part 2):** Cosmopolitanism and the Possibilities of Perpetual Peace: The World State and Human Community; Kant; The League of Nations; The Inter-War period; the UN

**Power and Institutions: The Neo-Neo-Con Synthesis:** International Institutions; The Inter-Paradigm debate; Neorealism; The Neo-Neo Synthesis; Constructivism and the Normative Turn: Is anarchy what states make of it?

**Order and Justice:** The English School: The Problem of Order and Justice; The Anarchical Society; The expansion of International Society; pluralism & solidarism

**Marxism and World-Systems Theory:** Marxism; World-Systems Theory: Globalisation, Imperialism and Revolution; the problem of change; Justice  
**Critical International Relations Theory (Seminar):** Critical Theory; Frankfurt School; Welsh School; Critical Security Studies; Positivism, Dialogue and Emancipation

**Postmodernism:** Postmodernism and the Other in World Politics; boundaries and borders; diversity, difference and otherness; pluralism and relativism; dissidence

**Feminism and Gender in World Politics:** Confronting Global Patriarchy; gender; human rights and women's rights; private & public; empowerment, opportunity and emancipation

**Postcolonialism and the Subaltern: the Other in IR theory:** Confronting Marginalisation in the Discipline of IR and the Practices of Sovereignty; epistemology and power; race and racism; empire and neo-colonialism

**Green Theory and the Future of World Order:** Global environmental crises and possibilities for the future; environmental crises; climate change; biosphere; ecosystems; resilience, mitigation and adaptation; the future of IR

### 2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study 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?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Critically review, analyse and evaluate theories and philosophies of international relations.	Creative and critical thinker
2 Communicate international relations theory and philosophy through written and oral modes.	Engaged
3 Critique and describe the conflicting ethical issues within various theories of international relation and their application in the practices of world politics	Ethical

### 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. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

#### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

INT235

### 5.4. 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 Grading (GRD)

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

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Portfolio	Individual	30%	150 words per week	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	20%	Paper is 2x 750 word answers (i.e. 1500 words)	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Essay	Individual	50%	2000-2500-word essay	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Portfolio - Preparation and Participation

<b>GOAL:</b>	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.										
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Portfolio										
<b>FORMAT:</b>	<p>Submissions Weeks 1 -12</p> <p>Preparation for each seminar/workshop will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading the required readings for the week;</li> <li>watching the online recording of the lecture;</li> <li>completing written summaries and/or question/answer (150 words) each week and emailing these to the lecturer prior to the workshop/seminar;</li> <li>reflecting about the issues highlighted for discussion in the seminar.</li> </ul> <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>										
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Description/explanation of theory</td> <td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Analysis of international relations theory application</td> <td>1 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Oral contributions to the class and group discussions</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1	Description/explanation of theory	1 2	2	Analysis of international relations theory application	1 3	3	Oral contributions to the class and group discussions	2	<p><b>Learning Outcome assessed</b></p>
1	Description/explanation of theory	1 2									
2	Analysis of international relations theory application	1 3									
3	Oral contributions to the class and group discussions	2									

### All - Assessment Task 2: Written Piece - Short Answer

<b>GOAL:</b>	You will demonstrate your knowledge and application of international relations theory and practice.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Written Piece	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	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).	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Description of theory (ies) of international relations 1 3
	2	Application of theory 1 3
	3	Critical analysis 1 3
	4	Communication 2
	5	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation 2 3
	6	Referencing – ethical use of research and proper conventions 1

### All - Assessment Task 3: Essay

<b>GOAL:</b>	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.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Essay	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Academic format 2000-2500 words 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).	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Critical review of theory/philosophy 1 3
	2	Critical analysis 1 3
	3	Critique and describe conflicting ethical issues 1 3
	4	Communication 2
	5	Referencing – ethical use of research and proper conventions (Harvard) 2

## 7. Directed study hours

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.

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

Please note: 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

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

## 8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training 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

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

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may 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 to negotiate an outcome.

### 10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au).

### 10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226.

### 10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [AccessAbility@usc.edu.au](mailto:AccessAbility@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 2890.

## 10.7. 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>

## 10.8. General Enquiries

### In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **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](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)