Course Description:
International relations (IR) is a relatively young discipline, which by some accounts, goes back to a mere 100 years. Founded in the UK, it really came onto its own as an “American social science”. Now, it is rapidly expanding around the globe, especially in emerging countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Turkey. Yet, from the very beginning, IR and its theories have been deeply contested. Some of the earlier debates in IR were between paradigms (Idealism-Realism, Positivism-Post Positivism, Rationalism-Constructivism, etc.) while the more recent debates have been about whether the discipline is genuinely inclusive and global. Indeed, the future of the discipline itself and of IR theory in particular, is being debated. The aim of this course is to help students develop a command over the major theoretical perspectives and debates in IR. But it also goes beyond the standard conventions and narratives of the discipline to look at the emerging perspectives and examine the possibility of a global IR.

Learning Outcomes
Through this course students will be able to master basic facts, concepts, and central theoretical debates in the field of international relations. Students will learn to critically engage with theoretical debates and form their own approach to the study of international relations. They should be able to write analytically and critically on important themes in IR theory. The course will also start to prepare students to pass their comprehensive examinations (although it will by no means be sufficient to pass these exams) and be ready to teach an introductory course in IR.

Required Reading (available for Purchase at AU bookstore):
Assignments:

Participation (40%)
As a PhD seminar, this course puts a premium on active student participation. Your participation should demonstrate critical thinking and questioning based on the reading. Your attitude toward the works read and the other members of the seminar (including the instructor) should be challenging but not confrontational.

As part of your participation, each student is responsible for submitting 1-3 questions each week to the instructor and all the other students by 5-7pm on the Monday prior to class. Your questions should address any issues that you find interesting, important, or confusing.

Class Presentations and Discussion Leading (20%)
Each week, two students will lead the class. They will prepare approximately 10-15 minutes presentation each, on the topic of the week, which will provide a critical overview of the themes, arguments, and debates in the readings and suggest leading questions for discussion. The students will then lead the discussion of the topic, with my assistance. The comments should not merely summarize the reading but analyze them:

- Each discussion should: 1) For each article, briefly identify the main argument, the explicit and implicit assumptions made, the mechanism or logic of the argument, and the empirical evidence (if any) presented; 2) present an integrative view of all of the reading for the week and how they relate to each other 3) Present a critical assessment of the articles and the arguments, individually and as a whole. Put more emphasis on #2 and 3, less on #1.
- Each pair of discussants should jointly provide an outline of their discussion (4-5 pages) and bring with them to class 12 copies.

Literature Review (20%)
The students will be given a list of topics and will choose one of them to write a 9-10 pages (font 12 double space) critical review of the literature. The assignment is due on 10/17.
The papers should not summarize the relevant readings but evaluate them and connect them by means of evaluation, comparison, and criticism. Offer your own argument or position on the topic.

**Final Exam (20%)**
This is a take-home exam that will cover all the material of the course and is designed to prepare students for their comprehensive examinations in IR. Exam date will be given out on 30 Nov and is **due on 4rd Dec.**

**Topics and Readings**

**Week 1, Aug 29, The Origins of the Field**

- Miles Kahler, “Inventing International Relations: International Relations Theory after 1945,” in Michael Doyle and G. John Ikenberry (eds.) *New Thinking in International Relations Theory*.
- Michael Banks, “The Inter-Paradigm Debate,” in Margot Light and John R. Groom (eds.) *International Relations: A Handbook of Current Theory* (London: Frances Pinter, 1985): 7-26 (Prof Acharya has copy)

**Recommended**

• Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, “Why is there no Non-Western International Relations Theory? An Introduction” in Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan (eds.), Non-Western International Relations Theory: Perspectives on and Beyond Asia (New York: Routledge, 2010), pp. 1-25.


Week 2, September 5: Realism: Foundations and Classical Realism

• Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 2.


• Edward H. Carr, The Twenty Years’ Crisis, (Perennial: 2001), pp. 11-145 (Chapter 2-8).


Recommended

• Nicollo Machiavelli, The Prince.

• Thomas Hobbs, Leviathan.


Week 3, Sept. 12, Realism II- Neo-Realism and Neo-Classical Realism

- John Mearsheimer, Structural Realism,” in Dunne, Kurki, and Smith (eds) International Relations Theories, pp.77-93

Recommended


**Week 4, Sept 19, Liberalism I- Interdependence, and Institutions**

• Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 3.

• Bruce Russett, “Liberalism,” in Dunne, Kurki, and Smith (eds) *International Relations Theories*, pp. 94-113


**Recommended**

• John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*.


Stephen Haggard and Beth Simmons, "Theories of International Regimes," *IO* 41 (Summer 1987).


**Week 5, Sept 26, Liberalism II- Domestic Politics and Democratic Peace**


**Recommended**

• Emanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace*.
• Michael Brown et al. (eds.), *Debating the Democratic Peace* (MIT Press, 1996).

**Week 6, Oct 3, Marxism, Dependency, and World Systems Theory**

• Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 4.

**Recommended**
- Gitta Chowdhry and Sheila Nair (eds.), *Power, Postcolonialism and International Relations: Reading Race, Gender, and Class* (New York: Routledge, 2002).

**Week 7, Oct 10, The English School**
- Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 5.

**Recommended**

**Week 8, Oct 17, Constructivism I: Overview**

- Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 6.

**Recommended**


**Week 9, Oct 24, Constructivism II: Norms and Identity**


**Recommended**

• Amitav Acharya, *Constructing a Security Community in Southeast Asia: ASEAN and the Problem of Regional Order*, 3rd edition (New York: Routledge, 2014), Chapter 1 ("Constructing Security Communities").
• Charlotte Epstein, ed., Against International Relations Norms: Postcolonial Perspectives (New York: Routledge, 2017),

Week 10, Oct 31, Critical Theories: Post-Modernism, and Feminism

• Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 7 and 8
• David Campbell, “Poststructuralism,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith (eds), International Relations Theories, 223-246.
• J. Ann Tickner and Laura Sjoberg, “Feminism,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith (eds), International Relations Theories, pp. 205-222.

Recommended

• Jim George, Discourses of Global Politics (1994), chap. 1.
• Richard Devetak, his chapters "Critical Theory" and "Postmodernism" in Scott Burchill and Andrew Linklater, eds., Theories of International Relations (St. Martin’s, 1996).


**Week 11, Nov 7, Post-Colonialism and Non-Western IR Theory**

• Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan (eds.), *Non-Western International Relations Theory: Perspectives on and Beyond Asia* (New York: Routledge, 2010), Introduction and Conclusion. https://t.co/45w3bBMQES

• Amitav Acharya, *Rethinking Power, Institutions and Ideas in World Politics: Whose IR?* (London: Routledge, 2013), Ch.1


• Siba Grovogui, “Postcolonialism,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith, eds., *International Relations Theories*, 247-265.


Recommended


Week 12, Nov. 14, International Relations Scholarship Around the World

• Yaqing Qin, “Why is there no Chinese International Relations Theory?” in Acharya and Buzan, ed., Non-Western International Relations Theory: Perspectives on and Beyond Asia. https://t.co/45w3bBMQES
• Tingyang Zhao, “Redefining the Concept of Politics via “tainxia”: The Problems, Conditions and Methodology,” World Economics and Politics (Beijing), No.6 (2015): 4-22. (Prof Acharya has copy)

Recommended
• Tingyang Zhao, “A Political World Philosophy in Terms of All-Under-Heaven (Tian-Xia), Diogenes, 221 (2009): 5-18 (Prof Acharya has copy)


**Week 13, Nov 21, Thanksgiving. No Class**

**Week 14, Nov 28, Theories of Regions and Regionalisms**


Recommended
- Joseph S. Nye, Peace in Parts (Boston: Little, Brown, 1971), Chapter 1
- Peter J., Katzenstein, A World of Regions: Asia and Europe in the American Imperium (Cornell University Press, 2005).
• Amitav Acharya, Constructing a Security Community in Southeast Asia, 3rd edn (London and New York: Routledge, 2014), Chapter 1 (“Constructing Security Communities”)

Week 14, Dec 5, Conclusions and Directions: Is a Global IR Possible?
• Ole Waever, “Still A Discipline After All These Debates,” in Dunne, Kurki, and Smith (eds). International Relations Theories, 306-327.
• Tim Dunne and Chris Reus-Smit (eds.), The Globalization of International Society (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2017), Chapter 1,2 and 22.

Recommended:
• Amitav Acharya, Rethinking Power, Institutions and Ideas in World Politics, Introduction and Conclusion.