

IRL 102

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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 Department of Politics and International Studies

1. CONTACTS

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 CLASS TIMES: Tue 13:15-15:00 and Thu 13:15-15:00 (via ZOOM)
 OFFICE: ERBII-230
 OFFICE HOURS: Tue, 3PM-5PM or by appointment
 ASSISTANT: Ms. Azmina KARIM (g246726m@icu.ac.jp)

2. INSTRUCTOR

QUALIFICATIONS: B.A. in Law (Trento, Italy)
 Ph.D. in International Law (Auckland, New Zealand)
 M.Phil. in International Relations (Oxford, UK)
 Ph.D. in International Politics (Aberystwyth, UK)

EXPERTISE: International Relations, International Law, International History
 International Organization (especially the UN), Diplomacy

PROFILE: *I am an Associate Professor of International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Studies, having joined ICU in September 2018.*
I was educated at the Universities of Trento (Italy), Auckland (New Zealand), Oxford (UK) and Aberystwyth (UK), and I hold two doctoral degrees, one in International Law and the other in International Relations.
Prior to joining ICU, I was an Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at the Asian University for Women (AUW), a liberal arts college that promotes gender equality and draws students from Asia and the Middle East. I was also a researcher at Sciences-Po in Paris and at Temple University Japan (TUJ) in Tokyo; an officer at the Icelandic Human Rights Centre in Reykjavik, Iceland; and an Associate with the UN Under-Secretary-General's Office in New York City.
I teach and publish in the areas of international politics, international law, global institutions (especially the UN) and human rights. I have written a number of academic articles and three single-authored monographs, most recently 'Dangerous Diplomacy', which was published by Oxford University Press in 2017.
In addition to my role at ICU, I am also the Deputy Director of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), Tokyo Office; the Deputy Secretary-General of the Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan (GPAJ); and a Senior Adviser to the Centre for Advanced Studies on South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal.
For more info, see www.hermansalton.net

3. ZOOM CREDENTIALS

As the university has designated this course as “online”, it will be offered via Zoom:

Tuesday Class (13:15-15:00)

Link: <https://icu.zoom.us/j/93111633013>

ID: 931 1163 3013

Passcode: 480415

Thursday Class (13:15-15:00)

Link: <https://icu.zoom.us/j/94988826900>

ID: 949 8882 6900

Passcode: 308515

For guest lectures (marked with an asterisk), separate Zoom info may be provided.

4. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to key issues underlying the interaction of states and transnational actors in the international system, particularly the problems of international peace and cooperation, regionalism, democratization, nationalism and cultural conflict.

Unlike conventional foundation courses in International Relations, the textbook used for the second part of this course is structured around student questions. One question was posed in this very class and led to the former instructor being invited to contribute a response to the textbook. Therefore, the approach taken is interactive, and students are very much encouraged to ask and answer questions on selected topics.

The course will begin with an introduction to the main theories of International Relations, before exposing students to critical perspectives on IR. After some presentations designed to examine students' understanding of the theories covered, we will discuss several empirical case studies and global issues.

The goal is to integrate theory and practice by presenting theoretical ideas in conjunction with a range of historical and contemporary case studies.

5. LEARNING GOALS

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Provide a basic background in the main explanatory theories of International Relations (Realism, Liberalism and Marxism).
2. Offer an introduction to critical and constitutive theories of International Relations (Critical Theory, Poststructuralism and Postcolonialism).
3. Review the application of theories to empirical case studies and global issues.
4. Connect IR history and theory
5. Connect IR theory with ‘real-life’ events.

6. CONTENTS

PART 1: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW

CL1 (8 Dec) Introductions: Teacher, Students, Course

*CL2 (13 Dec) Guest Lecture: Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa & Others (ICU)

WEEK 2: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CL1 (15 Dec) What is Theory & Why IR Theory?

CL2 (20 Dec) Class Debate

WEEK 3: EXPLANATORY THEORIES

CL1 (10 Jan) Realism, Liberalism and Marxism

CL2 (12 Jan) Class Debate

WEEK 4: CONSTITUTIVE THEORIES

CL1 (17 Jan) Critical Theory, Post-Structuralism, Post-Colonialism

CL2 (19 Jan) Class Debate

WEEK 5: MID-TERM REVISIONS

CL1 (24 Jan) Revisions

CL2 (26 Jan) Class Debate

PART 2 ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WEEK 6: THE NATION-STATE

CL1 (31 Jan) Does the Nation-State Work?

CL2 (2 Feb) Class Debate

WEEK 7: POVERTY

CL1 (7 Feb) How Can We End Poverty?

CL2 (9 Feb) Class Debate

WEEK 8: COLONIALISM

CL1 (14 Feb) Why Do Some People Think They Know What is Good for Others?

CL2 (16 Feb) Class Debate

WEEK 9: RIGHTS

CL1 (21 Feb) Who Has Rights?

CL2 (28 Feb) Final Essays

7. LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Lectures:	English
Readings/Materials:	English (materials in other languages can be supplied)
Tests/Quizzes/Assignments:	English

Discussions/Presentations: English
 Communication with Instructor: English/French/Spanish/Italian

8. GRADING POLICY

Attendance/Participation: 20%
 Presentations/Mid-Term: 30%
 Final Essays: 50%

Grades matter and you should strive to obtain the best possible grade. However, *the way* you study and approach the subject is even more important. In this course, factual knowledge is essential but insufficient; critical thinking is what will make the difference in terms of grades and – far more important – in terms of your development.

Consequently, the mere memorization of facts will not take you far – only the critical assessment of them will. What I am interested in is your own approach to a certain theme. However, you will only be able to acquire this analytical capacity if you do the readings before coming to class and if you participate in the discussion. Analytical reasoning without facts is impossible, but facts without an analytical framework are useless! Both are needed.

9. INDEPENDENT STUDY

Study time depends on the student's attitude and abilities. The best performers will have done the readings carefully, performed well in presentations, participated actively in class discussions, and prepared their final paper well before the deadline.

10. COURSE FORMAT

The course involves a mixture of lectures, discussions and presentations. All classes will be interactive: in my view, the role of the teacher is not to offer correct answers but to raise questions, especially in a course such as this that deals with a wide range of topics. As a result, it will not be enough to come to class: you will need to be proactive and participate in the discussion. Naturally some of you will be shyer than others, which is fine (the best students are not the most talkative!) But you need to interact with myself and your peers.

11. READING LIST

Materials for this course will be uploaded on Moodle. Books used include:

Edkins, Jenny and Maja Zahfuss
Global Politics: A New Introduction, London: Routledge, 2014

Dunne, Tim et Al.
International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity, Oxford University Press, 2013

In addition, students are encouraged to regularly consult the following website:

<http://www.e-ir.info/>