

Advanced Theories on International Relations

Master's Degree in International Relations

UNIVERSIDAD NEBRIJA

TEACHING GUIDE

Course: Advanced Theories on International Relations

Title: Master's Degree in International Relations

Academic Year: 2025-2026

Type: Compulsory

Language: English

Modality: Classroom attendance

ECTS: 5

Semester: 1st.

Teacher: Dr. Marcos Reguera Mateo

1. COMPETENCES AND LEARNING RESULTS

1.1. Competences

Basic competences

CB1. Students must possess and understand the knowledge in an area of study that builds on the foundation of general secondary education and is typically at a level that, while supported by advanced textbooks, also includes some aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.

CB2. Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the skills typically demonstrated through the development and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.

CB3. Students must be able to communicate their conclusions—and the knowledge and ultimate reasons that support them—to specialized and non-specialized audiences in a clear and unambiguous manner.

CB4. Students must possess the learning skills that enable them to continue their learning in a manner that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.

General competences

CG1. The student must acquire up-to-date knowledge of international political, economic, and social relations.

CG2. The student must be able to systematically understand complex concepts, relevant information, its context, and how to apply it to specific situations, taking into account how it affects the different actors and agents in each situation.

CG3. The student must master advanced techniques that will allow them to obtain and analyze information, evaluate its relevance and validity, synthesize it, and adapt it to the context.

CG4. The student must be able to understand and deal with complex situations and arguments systematically and creatively, with critical judgment, with incomplete information, taking risks, making decisions, and communicating them to any type of audience.

CG5. The student must be able to communicate correctly both orally and in writing, both in Spanish and in a second language, using the most up-to-date technology.

CG6. The student must be able to act autonomously in evaluating sociopolitical events as well as foresee possible scenarios for the development of events.

CG7. The student must be able to perform different roles within a team.

CG8. The student must be able to recognize the need for change and must have the necessary skills to manage it.

CG9. The student must be able to act autonomously within a framework of responsible freedom.

CG10. The student must be able to add value to the organization through their creativity and participation.

CG12. Ability to integrate equality policies, especially between women and men and attention to disability, into organizations and at work.

Specific Competences

CE1. Ability to critically analyze, evaluate, and synthesize new and complex ideas derived from different advanced theoretical approaches in the field of International Relations, integrating acquired knowledge and considering social responsibility and respect for a strict professional code of ethics.

CE7. Ability to apply acquired knowledge to solve problems in new and dynamic environments, such as changes in international, regional, or state political systems.

CE11. Ability to contribute, from an academic perspective, to the advancement of the analysis of international politics through the lens of a knowledge- and communication-based society.

CE13. Knowledge of the characteristics of the stages of the research process.

CE17. Ability to conduct research in the field of international relations.

CE18. Ability to design sociopolitical research.

CE 23. Ability to make decisions from a strategic perspective based on the formal and analytical models of the most recent and advanced theories in international relations.

CE24. Ability to design sociopolitical research using qualitative and quantitative research techniques and develop applied sociopolitical research projects using ICTs.

CE29. Ability to develop strategic negotiation processes based on an advanced analysis of the specific distributive interests of international actors and organizations.

CE32. Ability to develop innovative leadership and communication skills within multinational companies, international organizations, and agencies.

2. CONTENTS

2.1. Requisites

None.

2.2. Description of contents

In the last years, International Relations theory has undergone significant evolution, driven by major global events that have changed the foundations of relations between nations. All of this has led International Relations theory to rethink its objectives, methods, and also its relationship with other disciplines, incorporating advanced tools of rational choice, game theory, and so on, which will be presented to students. Students will also become familiar with models originating in economics but applied to the advanced study of international politics (Coase's and North's theories of transaction costs, collective action, Ostrom's theories of common property, and so on).

The specialized study of International Relations today presents a complex panorama of trends and schools (neorealism, neoliberalism, social constructivism, etc.). Understanding their positions, motivations, and methodological and epistemological affiliations will be a basic tool for interpreting current International Relations from both a theoretical and methodological perspective.

2.3. Detailed contents

1. Introduction
IR as a subjected matter. Traditional knowledge/classical approach.
Kunk´s concept on paradigm and its implementation in IR
“The Great Debates” in IR Theory. Different approaches
2. Realism
Classical realism and neo-realism
Structural realism
Offensive/defensive elements and perceptions
3. Liberalism The
idealism.
Neo-liberalism: similarities and differences concerning neo- realism. The
interdependence
Liberal neo-institutionalism. International Regimens and Institutions
Discussions on absolute and relative gains
4. English School
5. Beyond Western domination in the field of IR: Postcoloniality and decoloniality
6. Critics against rational approaches
Constructivism
Social Critical Theory
Post-modernism
Feminism
Historical Sociology
Green Theories

2.4. Educational activities

Theory: Lectures and seminars. Contemporary theories in the study and analysis of International Relations, their concepts, foundations, and methodological tools, as well as the main trends in interpretation and the most influential schools of thought, will be explained.

Practical Work: Case study-based learning.

Individual Work: Student group work.
The student will create and present an original group project for the course that shows an example of advanced application of the methods and techniques developed in the course.

3. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

3.1. Grading procedure

Final grades will be expressed numerically the following way:

0 - 4,9 Fail (Suspenso) (SS)
5,0 - 6,9 Pass (Aprobado) (AP)
7,0 - 8,9 Notable (NT)
9,0 - 10 Excelent (Sobresaliente) (SB)

'Honours' mention can be granted to students with grades equal or superior to 9,0.

3.2. Evaluation criteria

Ordinary call

Activity	Rate
Attendance, participation, daily work	20%
Individual or collective assignments	30%
Final exam	50%

Extraordinary call

Activity	Porcentaje
Individual or collective assignments delivered at the ordinary call	30%
Final exam	70%

It is up to the teacher to receive and assess again the assignments in case these were not delivered originally or the students wants to improve the grade obtained at the ordinary call.

3.3. Restrictions

Minimal grade at the exam

In order to be weighed with the other grades, it is necessary to tet at least 5 at the final exam.

Attendance

Any student missing over 25% of the clases with no justification could be deprived of the right to take the exam at the ordinary call

Quality of writing

Special attention will be paid to both presentation and content in written assignments and projects, as well as exams, particularly to grammar and spelling. Failure to meet the minimum acceptable standards may result in points being deducted from the assignment.

3.4. Warning about plagiarism

Antonio de Nebrija University does not tolerate plagiarism or copying under any circumstances. Plagiarism is considered the reproduction of paragraphs from texts other than the student's own work (from the Internet, books, articles, fellow students' work, etc.), when the original source is not cited. The use of quotations cannot be indiscriminate. Plagiarism is a crime.

If this type of practice is detected, it will be considered a Serious Offense and the sanction provided for in the Student Regulations may be applied.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic bibliography:

S. Burchill and A. Linklater (2005), *Theories of International Relations*, NYC: Palgrave MacMillan.

M. Griffith and S. Roach (1999), *Fifity Key Thinkers of International Relations*, London: Routledge.

Recommended bibliography:

Kepel, Gilles (1994), *The Revenge of God. The Resurgence of Islam, Christianity andJudaism in the Modern World*, London: Polity Press Recommended

HUNTINGTON, Samuel P. (1998), *The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order*, London: Touchstone.

DOYLE, Michael W. and IKENBERRY, John G. (1997), *New Thinking in International Relations theory*, Boulder: Westview Press.

RAPOPORT, David C. (2003), *Generations and Waves: The Keys to Understanding Rebel Terror Movements*, paper presented at the Ronald W. Burkle Center for International Studies.

WHITE, B., LITTLE, R. and SMITH, M. (2005), *Issues in World Politics*, Third Edition, London: MacMillan.

ARENAL, C. *Etnocentrismo y teoría de las Relaciones Internacionales: Una visión crítica*, Madrid, Tecnos, 2014.

ART, R. J. Y JERVIS, R. *International Politics: enduring concepts and contemporary issues*, London, Pearson, 2007.

BARBÉ, E. *Relaciones Internacionales*. Madrid, Tecnos, 2007.

BOUCHER, D *Political Theories of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1998.

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GARCÍA PICAZO, P. *Las Relaciones Internacionales en el siglo XX: la contienda teórica*, Madrid, UNED, 1998.

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MESA, R. *Teoría y práctica de las relaciones internacionales*, Madrid, Taurus, 1980.

KEOHANE, R. O. and NYE, J *Power and Interdependence*, Nueva York Harper Collins, 1989.

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ROSENAU, J. N. *Turbulence in World politics*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1990.

SHILLIAM, Robbie (ed.), *International Relations and Non-Western Thought* Abingdon:Routledge, 2011.

SODUPE, KEPA *La teoría de las Relaciones Internacionales a comienzos del siglo XXI*, Bilbao, Universidad del País Vasco, 2003.

TICKNER, A. and BLANEY, D. (eds.), *Thinking International Relations Differently*, Abindong, Oxon, Routledge, 2012 .

TRUYOL Y SERRA, A. *La sociedad internacional,* Madrid, Alianza Universidad, 1998

VASQUEZ, J. A. *Relaciones Internacionales: El pensamiento de los clásicos*, Barcelona, Limusa, 1994.

VIOTTI, P and KAUPPI, P. *International Relations Theory*, New York; London, 2012 (5th Edition)

WALT, S., *The Origins of Alliances*, Ithaca, Cornell, 1987

WALTZ, K. *Theory of international politics*. Reading- MA, Addison-Wesley, 1979

WENDT, Alexander *Social Theory of International Politics*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Additional reading will be handed in or upload to the Virtual Campus
Another sources of information

It is advisable the handing of scientific journals. In particularly the following:

Foreign Policy
International Organization
International Security
International Studies Quarterly
Journal of Common Market Studies
Journal of International Political Theory
Política Exterior
Review of International Studies
Revista CIDOB d'Affers Internacionals
Revista de Estudios Políticos
Revista Española de Derecho Internacional
Survival
The British Journal of Politics and IR
UNISCI Journal

Likewise, it is recommendable to access and read international media like:
EUobserver
Le Monde Diplomatique
Newsweek
The Economist
The Guardian
Times