

Subject card

Subject name and code	International Relations Theory, PG_00182511						
Field of study	Political Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Division of International Relations -> Institute of Political Science -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Wojciech Grabowski				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		0.0		45.0	75
Subject objectives	To familiarize students with the theoretical assumptions and practical dimensions of the main theories of international relations and the works of their creators. Creating a reflection on the usefulness of the theories of international relations and their application						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[POLL3_W14] Has advanced knowledge of the political organization of societies, states, and other political actors, the processes of their transformation, as well as relationships and networks at the local, regional, national, and international levels, within the framework of the selected module (specialization).	Has the ability to analyze various ways of describing contemporary international relations and critically assess them, based on observations and interpretations of social phenomena	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[POLL3_W07] Has advanced knowledge about democracy, civil society, political culture and the essence of public discourse in historical and contemporary terms.	Has the ability to analyze various ways of describing contemporary international relations and critically assess them, based on observations and interpretations of social phenomena	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[POLL3_W06] Has knowledge in the field of comparative politics and is able to analyze and compare political processes, institutions, and the actions of states and organizations, including international ones, across different regions of the world.	Is able to apply acquired knowledge and skills in practice and is prepared to perform roles in public institutions and political organizations at the national and international levels.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[POLL3_W03] Has knowledge of the role and importance of political and social participation of an individual in the functioning of political entities.	Is cautious/critical in expressing opinions, discusses problems of international relations, is oriented towards combining theoretical assumptions with the practical dimension	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[POLL3_U08] Uses an axionormative system and specific rules and norms. He is also able to use the indications of socio-political doctrines and various concepts of politics to learn and assess political reality.	Can identify and discuss the fundamental values of a democratic state, participate in public debate while respecting the rules of discourse, and can formulate his/her own arguments based on theoretical knowledge.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[POLL3_U06] Can explain and describe the principles and values of a democratic state and actively participate in public discourse.	Can identify and discuss the fundamental values of a democratic state, participate in public debate while respecting the rules of discourse, and can formulate his/her own arguments based on theoretical knowledge.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[POLL3_K05] Has a need to supplement, expand and improve acquired knowledge and skills.	Articulates the need for further expansion of knowledge in the field of the subject.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[POLL3_K03] Is prepared to work in public organisations and institutions, including public administration bodies, political parties and other national and international organisations.	Is able to apply acquired knowledge and skills in practice and is prepared to perform roles in public institutions and political organizations at the national and international levels.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Theoretical Approach to International Relations a) International relations as a scientific discipline
b) Theoretical categories
c) Functions of theory
d) Classification of international relations theories

Realism

a) Traditions of realism
b) Contemporary realism
c) Debate between realism and idealism
d) Geopolitics
e) Behavioralism

Liberalism

a) Traditions
b) Interwar and postwar idealism
c) Traditional theories of integration
d) Rational choice theories
e) Democratic peace theory
f) Collective security theory

Neorealism

a) Structural realism
b) Polarity and stability of the international system
c) Defensive realism and offensive realism
d) Dependent realism
e) Neoclassical realism

Neoliberalism

a) Complex interdependence
b) Game theory and international cooperation
c) International organizations
d) Regime theory

English School

a) Traditions
b) The category of international society
c) The trialectics of the English School
d) Constructivism within the English School
e) Currents within the English School

Constructivism

a) Traditions
b) Constructivism vs. rationalism
c) Currents within constructivism
d) The social origin of reality
e) The normative structure of international society
f) Sovereignty as a social construct

Theories of European Integration

a) Realism and European integration
b) Intergovernmental liberalism
c) Classification of integration theories
d) New institutionalism

Globalism in International Relations

a) Definitions and dimensions of globalization
b) Theoretical approaches to globalization
c) Globalization and state sovereignty
d) Economic aspects of globalization
e) Culture and identity in a globalizing world
f) Globalization and international security
g) Global institutions and international governance

Critical Theories in International Relations, Part 1

a) Origins and definition
b) Assumptions of critical theories
c) The Frankfurt School
d) Max Horkheimer, Jürgen Habermas, Karl Marx, Antonio Gramsci, Michel Foucault

	e) Critical theories in international relations Critical Theories in International Relations, Part 2 - Postcolonialism a) Theoretical foundations of postcolonialism b) Colonialism and its legacy in international relations c) Critique of Eurocentrism in international relations theories d) Identity and power in the postcolonial context e) Postcolonialism and globalization f) Postcolonialism and foreign policy g) Violence and conflict in the postcolonial world h) Literature and art as tools of postcolonial critique Feminist Theories in International Relations a) Emergence and development of feminist theory in international relations b) Gender analysis in international relations c) Liberal, Marxist, and postcolonial feminism d) The role of women in armed conflicts and peace processes e) Critique of traditional international relations theories from a feminist perspective Ecological Approaches in International Relations a) Development and significance of ecological theories in international relations b) Environmental policy in a global context c) Climate change as an international challenge d) The role of international organizations in managing natural resources e) Ecological security and its impact on international relations Contemporary Theories and the Future of International Relations a) Posthumanist theories in international relations b) Development of network theory and analysis of international relations c) Technology, cyberspace, and their impact on international relations d) The future of international relations theory: new directions and challenges e) Scenarios for the development of the international system		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	activity in classes	51.0%	10.0%
	kolokwium x2	51.0%	90.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	A. Literatura wymagana do ostatecznego zaliczenia zajęć (zdania egzaminu): A.1. wykorzystywana podczas zajęć Czaputowicz J., Teorie stosunków międzynarodowych. Krytyka i systematyzacja, PWN, Warszawa 2008 Schreiber H., Wojciuk A. (red.), Stosunki międzynarodowe. Antologia tekstów źródłowych. Tom 1: Korzenie dyscypliny do 1989 rok, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2018 A.2. studiowana samodzielnie przez studenta Czaputowicz J., Teorie stosunków międzynarodowych. Krytyka i systematyzacja, PWN, Warszawa 2008 Schreiber H., Wojciuk A. (red.), Stosunki międzynarodowe. Antologia tekstów źródłowych. Tom 1: Korzenie dyscypliny do 1989 rok, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2018	

	Supplementary literature	B. Literatura uzupełniającaGalganek A., Historia teorii stosunków międzynarodowych, Warszawa 2009;Haliżak E., Czaputowicz J. (red.), Teoria realizmu w nauce o stosunkach międzynarodowych. Założenia i zastosowania badawcze, Warszawa 2014;Zięba R., Bieliń S., Zajac J. (red), Teorie i podejścia badawcze w nauce o stosunkach międzynarodowych, Warszawa 2015.Cziomer E., Zyblukiewicz L., Zarys współczesnych stosunków międzynarodowych, PWN, 2002;Jackson R., Sørensen G., Wprowadzenie do stosunków międzynarodowych. Teorie i kierunki badawcze, Warszawa, 2006 /lub /2012;
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. What are 4 functions of international relations theories 2. What is the state of nature of Thomas Hobbes 3. Who coined the term the animus dominandi and what does it mean?	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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