IR 335
International Relations Theory
Fall 2010
Bilkent University

Lectures: M - 10:40 - 12:30, Th - 08:40 - 10:30
Lecture Room: M GZ09, TH GZ10

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of some of the primary perspectives and analytical approaches for studying international relations. We will survey the classics and the contemporary literature with special emphasis on theory, methodology, and real world cases. Our main objective is to understand IR theories, assess their usefulness and apply them to particular world events. Participation and discussion are the only ways this course will be relevant to the real world. Following current news is also very necessary for implementation and relevance of theories. Thus, attendance is of utmost importance for the course.

Requirements

Final grades will be assigned according to the student’s performance on the following items:

1) Midterm  30%
2) Final  40%
3) Presentation & Homeworks & Participation  30%

Both the final and the midterm will be in-class; essay and short definition questions will be asked. The final will be cumulative. Any necessary course announcement will be emailed to the students in a timely manner. Moodle is also used. Check your Bilkent email and Moodle page everyday, especially the night before the class.

There is formal attendance requirement for this course and active participation through team discussions and short homeworks will be held weekly. Students who have not attended one third of the classes will automatically receive an F in the course no matter what their grades are in the midterm and the final exams (for example; if you have 16 hours un-excused absences out of a total of 45 hours, you get an F even if you have scored an A from both exams).

Make-up Policy

No make-up examinations will be granted without a university-approved excuse to miss a scheduled exam or quiz. In cases of severe illness or deaths in the family, I require proof (e.g. a signed doctor’s note and an explanation on the doctor’s letterhead describing why you cannot take the exam; obituaries; e-mails from your academic adviser explaining the specific situation). Make-up exams will be possible only if you contact me in advance by e-mail and provide me with the appropriate document. There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Also, I usually require a research paper as a replacement of a make-up exam.
Classroom Etiquette

I expect you to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct to provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all:

1. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers. No calls, incoming or outgoing, or text messaging are allowed.

2. Please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class;

3. Please come to class on time and do not leave early; if you must do so, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive. Unpunctuality will result in a lower participation grade.

4. Please do not read newspapers or any other publications in the classroom. Also, please do not play games or surf on the web when you use a laptop computer.

Policy on Academic Honesty

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the Bilkent Website: [http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/AcademicHonesty.htm](http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/AcademicHonesty.htm)

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of examinations, unauthorized changing of grades. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

Required Readings

There is no textbook for this course. All of the course materials collected as a Reader can be found at the Copy Center in our building.

Your presentations will be from the following book:
This book is available at the Bilkent Library Reserve.

Some additional articles to the Reader will be uploaded to Moodle.
Course Outline

Lecture One

What is a theory? What is a hypothesis? Theoretical Study of International Relations

Lecture Two

Grand Theories of International Relations 1: Realism and Liberalism

Lecture Three

Grand Theories of International Relations 2: Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism
- Jackson and Sorensen 2003: Chapter 3 “Realism” pp. 84-104 and Chapter 4 “Liberalism” pp. 124-137.

Lecture Four

Grand Theories of International Relations 3: The English School, Marxism and Critical Theory
  “Uluslararası İlişkilerde İngiliz Okulu Kuramı: Kökenleri, Kavramları ve Tartışmaları”, Özgür Özdamar ve Balkan Devlen, Uluslararası İlişkiler, Cilt 7, Sayı 25 (Bahar 2010), s. 43-68.

Lecture Five

Grand Theories of International Relations 4: Critical Theory, Postmodernism/Post Structuralism
| Lecture Six | Grand Theories of International Relations 5: Constructivism and the Methodological Debate  
| Lecture Seven | Middle Range Theories in IR: Power Transition Theory  
| Lecture Eight | Power Cycle Theories and the Theory of Complex Interdependence  
| Lecture Nine | MIDTERM EXAM |
| Lecture Ten | Theories of Conflict 1: Domestic Influences – Democratic Peace & Diverisonary Theory of War  
| Lecture Eleven | Theories of Conflict 2: Deterrence and War  
| Lecture Twelve | Theories of International Cooperation  
| Lecture Thirteen | International Regime Theory  
| Lecture Fourteen | Current Theory and Policy Challenges & Final Exam Review  

**FINAL EXAM**