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# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY I

DEGREE COURSE YEAR:  FIRST  SECOND  THIRD  FOURTH  
SEMESTER:  1º SEMESTER  2º SEMESTER  
CATEGORY:  BASIC  COMPULSORY  OPTIONAL  
NO. OF CREDITS (ECTS):  6  3  
LANGUAGE:  ENGLISH  SPANISH  
FORMAT:

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## I. COURSE DETAILS

This course will provide students a general introduction to the theoretical paradigms which have historically guided research in International Relations. We will investigate the 'grand theories' of international relations, including idealism, classical realism, neo-realism, liberalism, liberal-institutionalism, and constructivism. Throughout the course, we will not only learn these paradigms, but also use them in applied settings to understand contemporary topics such as nuclear proliferation, environmental cooperation, human rights institutions, and international trade. As well, the course will address the distinction between normative and positive research, the development of viable theoretical and empirical arguments. The required textbooks will be available at the IE bookstore:

Readings are a central component of this course. During the semester, there will be 6 reading quizzes which will take place at the beginning of class, and which will ask students to provide multiple choice answers or short responses related to the readings from the previous 4 sessions. As well, each student will write one extended essay (5-7 pages). There will be a choice between writing an essay due in the first half of the class on Classical and Modern Realism or writing an essay due in the second half of the class comparing Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism. Students will not be allowed to submit both essays for a grade. Students will also be graded for their team's performance in the International Conflict Simulation, and will take a final exam. Finally, there will be a participation grade based on class attendance, class behavior and etiquette, and contributions to class discussions.

## II. PROGRAM

-Session 1: Course Introduction

-Sessions 2-3: The History of Idealism in International Relations

-Sessions 4-5: Classical Realism

-Sessions 6-7: Theory and Evidence: the 'Right' way to Study International Relations?

-Sessions 8-9: Neo-Realism: International Structure and the Balance of Power

-Sessions 10-11: Neo-Realism and Strategic Reasoning

-Sessions 12-13: Neo-Realism and Cooperation

-Sessions 14-15: The Neo-Liberal Critique

-Sessions 16-17: Liberalism and International Organizations

-Sessions 18-19: Neo-Liberalism and the Democratic Peace

-Sessions 20-21: Constructivism: a Heterodox Paradigm

-Sessions 22-23: Applied Constructivism: NGO's and International Social Movements

-Sessions 24-25: Assessing the Evidence: Human Rights Prosecutions in International Politics

-Sessions 26-27: Assessing the Evidence: Nuclear Proliferation

-Sessions 28-29: Group Presentations

-Session 30: **FINAL EXAM**

### III. EVALUATION

- Essay (30%)
- Group Presentation (15%)
- Reading Quizzes (15%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Participation (10%)

Any student missing more than 9 sessions will fail the class. Any student found plagiarizing on an assignment will receive a '0' for that assignment and an ethics warning. A second case of plagiarism will lead to the convening of a university ethics committee, and failing the class. All papers will be graded using *turnitin*, which means **don't plagiarize, you will get caught**. Any case of cheating on exams or quizzes will result in failing the class and the convening of a university ethics committee.

Students who fail the class due to poor grades will have the chance to take an extraordinary exam in July. This exam will comprise two essay questions, and will require students to understand the course readings. Students who fail the class due to attendance or ethics violations will not be able to take the July exam. July Exam dates are non-negotiable.