Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Theories of International Relations (K000890)

Course size
(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 6.0
Study time 180 h
Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 1) Dutch UGent guided self-study 1.25 h
on campus lecture 40.0 h
on campus group work 3.75 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Lesage, Dries PS03 lecturer-in-charge
De Keersmaeker, Goedele PS03 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies) 6 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track)) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track)) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in History 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy 5 A
Bachelor of Science in Economics 6 A
Bachelor of Science in Business Economics 6 A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science 6 A
Master of Science in Economics 6 A
Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject International Politics) 6 A
Linking Course Master of Science in EU-Studies 6 A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject International Politics) 6 A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in EU-Studies 6 A

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
international relations - theory creation - war and peace - international cooperation - structural dependency - mental and social constructions.

Position of the course
This educational component belongs to the 3BA study program. It enables students to
fit the previously acquired knowledge about international politics into a theoretical framework. In addition, it is of crucial importance to the drafting of the Bachelor’s paper and the Master’s test (thesis, dissertation). The course has three objectives: 1) to familiarize students with the main theoretical perspectives relevant to the study of international politics, 2) to provide students with insight into the history of international relations theory, and 3) to strengthen students’ methodological competences in the study of international politics.

B.1.1., B.1.2., B.1.6., B.1.7., B.2.1., B.2.2., B.2.3., B.2.4., B.2.5., B.3.1., B.3.2., B.3.3., B.4.1., B.4.2., B.4.3.

Contents

First, the course provides an introduction to theory building with regard to international relations. After an introduction on actors, levels of analysis and power, it thoroughly addresses Realism, Liberalism, English School, Marxism, Neo-Gramscianism, Social Constructivism, Feminism and Foreign Policy Analysis.

Initial competences

- Students are required to possess a general historical perspective and factual knowledge of contemporary international politics.
- Students are supposed to keep a keen eye on international current events throughout the entire academic year, in order to be able to subsequently apply the theoretical insights in an adequate way.
- Students need to keep a sufficiently open mind for theoretical approaches that go beyond the anecdotal and journalistic.

Final competences

1. To have profound knowledge of the main theoretical paradigms regarding international relations, with attention to the historical dimension.
2. To be able to interpret the current world order and important historical and topical events and developments.
3. To be able to analyse the various components of an international problem (among other things, actors, interests, ideas, power resources, power relations, ...).
4. To be able to manage in a critical and -- if relevant -- eclectical manner the main theoretical paradigms regarding international relations in the assessment of international trends and events.
5. To be able to efficiently locate and process/assimilate literature about theory creation.
6. To be able to apply in an independent and creative manner the main theoretical paradigms regarding international relations in the drafting of the Bachelor’s paper and Master’s Test.
7. To be able to critically assess studies about international politics from a theoretical and methodological viewpoint.
8. To be able to go beyond a journalistic and anecdotal approach while observing international trends and events by systematically displaying a theoretical, scientific reflex.
9. To demonstrate progress of final competences by means of a group work in which a given international issue is theorized.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, on campus group work, on campus lecture.

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Students have to submit a group work on a given international issue. They have to link the issue to theories of international relations, among other things, by explaining the observed phenomena through theory.
- Students are invited to formulate questions and engage in discussions. The lecturer will also present students with topics for debate. Lectures are in Dutch.
- In addition, through Minerva support will be provided for guided self-study.

Learning materials and price

- Non-Dutch speaking students enrolled in an exchange program have to study the textbook: Jorgensen, Knud Erik (2010 or 2017), International Relations Theory. Palgrave MacMillan. The students have to purchase the book themselves.

(Approved)
References

Course content-related study coaching
   Following an appointment by email, the lecturers are at the students’ service to answer questions.

Evaluation methods
   end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
   Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
   Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
   Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
   Examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods
   - The exam is in keeping with the targeted learning outcomes and will take place in Dutch. (75% of the marks)
   - Progress in the acquisition of final competences will partly be evaluated on the basis of a group work (25% of the marks)
   - Non-Dutch-speaking students enrolled in an exchange program can participate to the exam and group work in English.

Calculation of the examination mark
   Periodic assessment (75%), non-periodic assessment (25%)

Facilities for Working Students
   Working students are evaluated in the same way as regular students.

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