

## Introduction to International Relations

**Course code:** IRS 200

**Semester and year:** Fall 2021

**Day and time:** Tuesday 11:30 – 14:15

**Instructor:** G. Hays II

**Instructor contact:** george.hays@aauni.edu

**Consultation hours:** Immediately before or after class or by appointment in Microsoft Teams (Hays Office Hours) or in room 402

<b>Credits US/ECTS</b>	3/6	<b>Level</b>	Intermediate
<b>Length</b>	15 weeks	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	HIS 104, POS 101
<b>Contact hours</b>	42 hours	<b>Course type</b>	Bachelor Required

### 1. Course Description

This course introduces the student to the history, theories, and practical side of International Relations. Though the term “International Relations” is often the term of preference to describe these three component areas, it is a misnomer, as the field covers and is concerned with sub-state, sub-national, supra-state, supra-national, and non-traditional political actors. These aspects shall also be covered in the course.

### 2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the history of the development of the field of International Relations
- Understand the differences and relationships between the most prominent schools of thought in International Relations
- Understand and be able to use various theories of International Relations to analyze and debate real world events, both past and present
- Develop academic writing skills, use proper citations for research papers.
- Lead and engage in discussion with peers

### 3. Reading Material

#### **Required Materials (Available in the Library or to Download)**

- Baylis, John et al., *The Globalization of World Politics*. Fifth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. **(If you are not studying in Prague, contact the lecturer immediately about the text).**
- Handouts and other materials distributed at class meetings

#### **Recommended Materials (Available in the Library or via Interlibrary Loan)**

- Goldstein, Joshua et al., *International Relations*. Ninth Edition. White Plains: Pearson, 2011.

#### 4. Teaching methodology

The course combines lectures, readings, news articles, presentations, and discussions.

#### 5. Course Schedule

Date	Class Agenda
1 8/31	<b>Topic: Introduction and course preparation</b> <b>Description:</b> In this first class, we will go over the syllabus, discuss the topic of the course, discuss in detail the midterm paper and presentations/debates, discuss expectations of the course (both mine and yours), and any questions you may have. <b>Reading:</b> <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b>
2 9/7	<b>Topic: The History of IR</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 2, 3, 4 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b>
3 9/14	<b>Topic: Realism and Liberalism</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 5, 6 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Presentation issue areas chosen
4 9/21	<b>Topic: Term Paper Proposal Presentations</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Term Paper Proposals <u>&amp;</u> Term Paper Proposal Presentations
5 10/5	<b>Topic: Game Theory, Neo-Realism, and Neo-Liberalism</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Ch. 7 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b>
6 10/12	<b>Topic: Marxism and International Political Economy</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 8, 15 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Topics and Outline of Chosen Theories for Analysis Presentations for classes 9 and 10
7 10/19	<b>Topic: Constructivism and Poststructuralism</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 9, 10 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Topics and Outline of Chosen Theories for Analysis Presentations for classes 11, 12, and 13
	<b>Midterm Break</b>
8 11/2	<b>Topic: Gender, Peace, and Ethics Studies</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 11, 16 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b>
9 11/9	<b>Topic: Issue: War and Terrorism</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 13, 14, 22 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Event Analysis Presentations and discussion
10 11/16	<b>Topic: Issue: International Organizations and International Law</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 17, 18, 19, 20 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Event Analysis Presentations and discussion
11	<b>Topic: Issue: The Environment</b>

11/23	<b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Ch. 21 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Event Analysis Presentations and discussion
12 11/30	<b>Topic: Issue: Identity</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Ch. 24, 25, 26 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Event Analysis Presentations and discussion
13 12/7	<b>Topic: Issue: Non-State International Actors and Post-Westphalia</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> Baylis: Chs. 31, 32, 33 <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Event Analysis Presentations and discussion
14 12/14	<b>Topic: Final Exam</b> <b>Description:</b> <b>Reading:</b> <b>Assignments/deadlines:</b> Final Exam Term Paper due via NEO

### 6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average )	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
One 1 page proposal for the Term Paper	5 hours	5%	Ability to outline and defend a research question and route to answering that question, presentation skills, ability to explain the studied topic to peers, identify key issues, subject knowledge	
Term Paper	50 hours	30%	Use knowledge of theory and apply it to an actual event or world issue, writing skills, analytical skills	Critical Thinking
Event Analysis Presentations	25 hours	20%	Presentation skills, ability to explain the studied topic to peers, identify key issues, form an argument, analyze and find the strengths and weaknesses in theories	
Final Exam	40 hours	30%	Overall understanding of theory, the relationships between different theories, real world application/analysis	
Participation	30 hours	15%	Development of ability with understanding and using the theories covered	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>		

### 7. Detailed description of the assignments

- Event Analysis Presentations

Each student will analyze a current international event (in the news during the semester) that relates to one of the scheduled issue areas from two different IR theoretical perspectives and present their analysis in class. The presentation should be 8-10 minutes long. There are 4 presentation slots per issue.

**Students who are unable to attend “live”** will record an 8-10 minute video presenting the topic and analyzing the event from two different IR theoretical perspectives. **The video must be uploaded to the dedicated Microsoft Teams channel by the end of the Sunday (Prague time) before the issue is to be discussed.**

The student’s grade is based on the degree of understanding of their chosen theories, their ability to utilize this knowledge in an argument, their ability to answer questions and defend against attack, the relevance of the application of the theory to the topic, and the substance and the quality of the student’s contribution to the discussions when it is not their week to present.

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
Technical: 1. Outline approval 2. Presenting/Uploading video on time 3. Presentation/Video being clear and understandable 4. being within time/structure limits 5. Contributing to the class discussion	50%
Substantive: 1. demonstrating knowledge of chosen theories 2. ability to utilize this knowledge in a clear, concise, well-structured analysis 3. ability to field questions and defend analysis 4. Quality and relevance to the contribution of the discussion	50%

- Term Paper Proposal and Presentation

The term paper proposal should be one page long and briefly outline the topic the student will write on, why/how it is relevant to the course, a few points of the argument the student plans to give, and at least 5 quality sources the student plans to use. The proposal will be presented in class. The presentation will be brief (approximately 5 minutes) and cover the information in the proposal.

**The Term Paper Proposal must be printed out and submitted to the lecturer upon entering class the day it is due.**

**Students studying online must submit the proposal to the lecturer via email before class the day it is due.**

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
Technical: 1. being present 2. being prepared (having main points/problems ready to discuss)	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. using proper citations (citing all the information which should be cited as well as properly using footnotes)</li> <li>4. providing a proper bibliography</li> <li>5. following the page/word limit and other technical guidelines/instructions, etc.</li> <li>6. having a well-structured paper writing on the topic stated in the title</li> <li>7. submitting the paper on time and in the required medium (digital/paper)</li> <li>8. putting your name on your work</li> </ol>	50%
<p>Substantive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. quickly and clearly presenting the basic information of the work</li> <li>2. the quality of the accounts/arguments in your paper (logical flow, connections between parts, staying on topic, etc)</li> <li>3. the quality of the sources used in your paper</li> <li>4. your ability to integrate the sources with your own ideas (not just repeating others' work)</li> <li>5. the degree to which you convey an accurate understanding of the materials/sources you are using and how they impact your topic</li> </ol>	50%

- Term Paper

The Term paper is 2500-3000 words long. The topic will be chosen by the student from the list of weekly topics (this means a paper on one or more of the theories covered or the application of one or more theories to one of the issue areas), or the student may write on a topic of their choice as long as it is connected to the course. All topics must be approved by the lecturer. Regardless of the topic, the paper must contain an argument. The paper and event analysis topics/theories must be different.

Students must use Chicago writing style, footnotes, and bibliography. See the following link for examples:

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

The student's grade is based on their understanding and use of the theory/ies, the relevance of the application of the theory to another theory or event, the quality of the argument, the quality of the sources used as well as proper essay structure (including citations, bibliography, writing structure, etc).

The term paper **must be submitted** to the lecturer **via NEO** by the end of the day (Prague time) it is due.

**Plagiarism in any amount, in any form, will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes their work, they will receive an automatic failure for the**

**assignment. The case will be forwarded to the Disciplinary committee. For details, please consult the Student Handbook.**

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
Technical: 1. using proper citations (citing all the information which should be cited as well as properly using footnotes) 2. providing a proper bibliography 3. following the page/word limit and other technical guidelines/instructions, etc. 4. having a well-structured paper with an introduction, body, and conclusion (this does not mean that you need to actually label within your paper "introduction," etc.) 5. writing on the topic stated in the title 6. submitting the paper on time and in the required medium 7. putting your name on your work	50%
Substantive: 1. the quality of the accounts/arguments in your paper (logical flow, connections between parts, staying on topic, etc) 2. the quality of the sources used in your paper 3. your ability to integrate the sources with your own ideas (not just repeating others' work) 4. the degree to which you convey an accurate understanding of the materials/sources you are using and how they impact your topic	50%

- Final Exam

The final exam will be several short-answer essay questions based on information from the course readings, lectures, and event analyses. The exam will be taken on NEO within a 24 hour window (Prague time) on the appointed date. Students will have three hours total to take the exam. The exam is closed book, no resources allowed, and no files/documents are allowed to be uploaded as answers.

The student's grade will be based on how well they utilize the course information to answer the questions, the relevance of examples used, and the quality of their argumentation.

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
Technical:	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. answering all questions completely and thoroughly</li> <li>2. following the guidelines/instructions, etc.</li> <li>3. answering the stated question</li> <li>4. putting your name on your work</li> </ol>	50%
<p>Substantive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the quality of the accounts/arguments given (logical flow, connections between parts, staying on topic, etc)</li> <li>2. your ability to integrate the course information with your own ideas (not just repeating others' work)</li> <li>3. the degree to which you convey an accurate understanding of the materials/sources/concepts you are using</li> </ol>	50%

- Participation

Attending and participating in class is one of the best ways to gain an understanding of the course topic and material. Participation is premised on having read the assignments for that particular day and actively engaging in the class discussion. Participation does not mean speaking for the sake of speaking, asking questions that are off-topic, criticizing another person for not understanding something, carrying on a private conversation with another student. Participation does mean contributing thoughtfully to the conversation or debate, asking questions if something is not understood, honestly attempting to answer a question even if you are not sure you are correct.

**Students who are unable to attend "live" are required to arrange at least three one-on-one Microsoft Teams meetings with the lecturer to discuss the content of the course.** These meetings must be spread out throughout the semester. The first must take place during the week of class 4 (which will take the place of the term paper presentation), the second between weeks 6-9, and the final between weeks 10-13.

The student's grade will be based on the quantity and quality of participation.

Assessment Breakdown Assessed area	Percentage
<p>Technical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. being present</li> </ol>	0%
<p>Substantive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. engaging in the class discussion</li> <li>2. attempting to answer questions</li> <li>3. asking questions when something is not understood</li> <li>4. refraining from talking off topic</li> <li>5. refraining from talking with individual students outside the bounds of the class discussion</li> </ol>	100%

6. refraining from using phones 7. refraining from using computers for non-class purposes	
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## **8. General Requirements and School Policies**

### ***General requirements***

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

### ***Electronic communication and submission***

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors take place in NEO LMS.

Each e-mail sent to an instructor that is about a new topic (meaning not a reply to an original email) shall have a new and clearly stated subject and shall have the course code in the subject, for example: "COM101-1 Mid-term Exam. Question".

All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

### ***Attendance***

Attendance, i.e., presence in class in real-time, is expected and encouraged. However, the requirement that students miss not more than 35% of real-time classes is temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Absence excuse and make-up options***

Should a student be absent from classes for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he must submit to the Dean of Students an Absence Excuse Request Form supplemented with documents providing reasons for the absence. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of the absence. If possible, it is recommended the instructor be informed of the absence in advance. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if s/he submits an Absence Excuse Request Form along with the finalized add/drop form.

Assignments missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up which may result in a decreased or failing grade as specified in the syllabus.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean of Students are entitled to make up assignments and exams provided their nature allows for a make-up. Students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week of the date the absence was excused to arrange for make-up options.

***Late work:*** No late submissions will be accepted – please follow the deadlines.

### ***Electronic devices***

Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones are forbidden from being used in class. Use of any of these devices in class will result in the student losing all participation points for the day. Repeated use will result in failure of the participation component for the semester. No electronic devices may be used during tests or exams.

***Eating*** is not allowed during classes.

### ***Cheating and disruptive behavior***

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to



withdraw from the room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

### ***Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center***

Plagiarism is "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin's White Paper 'The Plagiarism Spectrum' (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one's own previous work without citation; To self-plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The "Aggregator" includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at:

<http://atc.simplybook.me/scheduler/manage/event/1/>.

### ***Students with disabilities***

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

## 9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95 – 100	<b>Excellent performance.</b> The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	<b>Good performance.</b> The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	<b>Fair performance.</b> The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C-	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	<b>Poor.</b> The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 – 59	<b>Fail.</b> The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

\* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Prepared by and when:**

**Approved by and when:**