POLS 503: International Relations Theory
Wednesday, 05:00-07:25 pm, BEC C104

Professor Ezzedine Choukri FISHERE
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Office Hours Sunday and Wednesday @ HUSS 2015 10:00-11:30am
(or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Abigail Appleton
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This course offers a critical review of major theories and concepts in international relations, and the relevance of theory to contemporary world politics.

Textbooks

Other readings


**Evaluation**

1. **Attendance**
   - Each session of full attendance accounts for 1%. Partial attendance (late arrival or early departure) accounts for 0.5%.
- If a student misses three sessions, an F grade will automatically apply to his/her overall class grade.
- There is no system of permitted (excused) absences.
- No make-up assignments are accepted.

2. Participation
   - Participation is measured every single class. Each session, students submit a one-pager summary of the readings marked with an asterisk. The summary should identify the author’s argument, the theoretical underpinnings of this argument, and the contribution this argument makes to our understanding of international relations.
   - Each Commentary accounts for 1% of the final grade.

3. Book review
   - Students will review a book in one of the classic three traditions in IR theory (Realism, Pluralism and Marxism—books are marked with a double asterisk).
   - Book Reviews are due 27 March

4. Review sheets
   - Each student will submit a review sheet at the end of every major school of thought in IRT (Realism, Pluralism, Marxism, and Critical Theories). The Sheet, around 1250 words, should sum up the basic argument of this school of thought, its theoretical and epistemological underpinning, as well as assessing its contribution to IRT.
   - Each sheet counts for 8% of the final grade.

5. Final paper
   - The paper will compare two schools of thought in IRT through the analysis of two major works representing these two theories. The paper should also assess the relevance of these two schools of thought and their usefulness in analyzing world politics.
   - The paper should be around 5000 words. It is due on 25 May

The following is the grading scheme in this class

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Starting</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>78%</td>
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Submission of work
- All submissions should be typed, in Times New Roman font, size 12, spaced in 1.5, 1-inch margin each side, on regular A4 sheets. Students should write their name as it appears in the Registrar, the name of the course and instructor and the date on a cover page.
- Students should submit their response via Blackboard. The name of the file attached should include your family name, POLS503 and the nature of submission (ex. Smith.POLS503.Commentary6). All files should be in WORD 2003.
Late submissions are not accepted at all. Late submission of the final paper, though, is accepted, at a cost: each day will reduce the grade by one level (for example: a B+ paper becomes B). Any paper submitted after three days will receive an F. Submission is the student’s responsibility:

No make-up assignments are possible.

**Expectations**

- The AUC has adopted a zero-tolerance policy regarding academic integrity. Students should expect these rules to apply.
- Students are expected to observe general rules of civility (turn off your mobile phone before you come, listen to your colleagues and avoid interrupting them, don’t monopolize the discussion, be considerate of others, etc.).
- Negotiation is a skill that students do not need in this course in any shape or form.

**Communication**

- The instructor is available to answer the students’ questions about the academic content of this course. This could happen during the class time and office hours (see above).
- Students who have difficulties meeting the instructor during these times should make arrangements so that they can. Emails to the instructor should not be perceived as a notification (of absence, delays, or any other change in schedule or course requirements).
- In this course, emails do not substitute direct communication.
- All questions regarding course readings should be directed to the teaching assistant.

**Schedule**

*(30 January) Introduction*
- Kurki and Wight. “International Relations and Social Sciences,” in Dunne, pp. 1-34.

**Week 1 (6 February) The State of IR Theory**

**Week 2 (13 February) Classic Realism**
- Lebow. “Classical Realism,” in Dunne pp. 58-76
Week 3 (20 February) Structural Realism


Week 4 (27 February) Pluralism I: Liberalism

Reminder: Submit the ‘Realism’ review sheet today


Week 5 (6 March) Pluralism II: Foreign Policy Making and Interdependence

Week 6 (13 March) Pluralism III: International Regimes


Week 7 (20 March) Marxism, Imperialism and Dependency

Reminder: Submit the ‘Pluralism’ review sheet today


Wednesday 27 March: The Book review
submit before midnight via BlackBoard (no class)

Week 8 (3 April) Critical Political Economists

- * Lacher, Hannes. *Beyond Globalization: Capitalism, Territoriality and The International Relations of Modernity*, (London: Routledge, 2006), Chapter 3 (pp. 45-60) and Chapter 8 (pp. 147-167).

**Week 10 (10 April) Feminism**

Reminder: Submit the ‘Marxism’ review sheet today

- Tickner and Sjoberg. “Feminism,” in Dunne, pp. 195-211.
- * Tickner. “Man, the State, and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security” and “You Just Don’t Understand: Troubled Engagements between Feminists and IR Theorists” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 60-67 and 120-137.

**Week 11 (17 April) Post-colonialism**

- Grovogui, “Postcolonialism,” in Dunne, pp. 238-256.
- Waller, Nicole. “Not for the Overthrow of Government”? Postcolonialism and Nationhood in an American Studies Perspective,” *Neoheilon* 35, no. 2 (December 1, 2008), pp. 147-160. (available online)

**Week 12 (24 April) Constructivism**

Last Day to Withdraw from Courses

- Fierke, “Constructivism,” in Dunne, pp. 177-194.

**Week 13 (Tuesday 7 May or Wednesday 8 May) Post-Structuralism**


**Week 14 (Wednesday 8 May or Saturday 11 May) Discuss Final Paper Outlines**

Reminder: Submit the ‘Critical theories’ review sheet today

Final Paper due (uploaded on BlackBoard) 25 May 11:59pm