

## POP88061 — International Politics A

| Module Information |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Module Code        | POP88061                     |
| Module Title       | International Politics A     |
| Department         | Political Science            |
| Module Personnel   | Dr Sotirios Karampampas      |
| Academic Year      | 2026 – 27                    |
| Credit Weighting   | 10 credits                   |
| Semester           | Semester 1                   |
| Contact Hours      | One 2-hours lecture per week |

| Module Content       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Module Description   | <p>This module introduces students to foundational theoretical approaches and key issue-areas in the study of international relations. The first half of the module surveys core paradigms—realism, liberalism, Marxism, constructivism, and hierarchical approaches—alongside debates on anarchy, order, class, and identity. The second half turns to substantive issues of contemporary relevance, including security and conflict, foreign policy decision-making, global governance, environmental politics, and migration. The module emphasises recent research in the field and familiarises students with key debates and evolving methodological approaches in contemporary IR research. Students will critically engage with both canonical texts and cutting-edge scholarship, gaining the tools to analyse international politics and explore original research questions across both theoretical and empirical dimensions of the field.</p> |
| Module Learning Aims | <p>The module aims to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce students to the main theoretical paradigms in international relations and their foundational assumptions.</li> <li>- Explore key themes and debates in contemporary international politics, including security, governance, and global challenges.</li> <li>- Familiarise students with recent research and methodological developments in the field of IR.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Module Content

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|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage critical engagement with both canonical and contemporary texts.</li> <li>- Support students in developing the analytical and conceptual tools necessary for independent research.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>              | <p>Upon successful completion of the module, students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate a critical understanding of core IR theories and their application to global politics.</li> <li>- Evaluate key debates on topics such as anarchy, hierarchy, cooperation, conflict, and migration.</li> <li>- Assess and interpret recent scholarly contributions and methodological approaches in IR research.</li> <li>- Apply theoretical frameworks to analyse real-world international political phenomena.</li> <li>- Formulate well-structured research questions informed by theoretical and empirical insight.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Indicative Reading / Resources</b> | <p>Baylis, J., Smith, S., &amp; Owens, P. (eds.). (2023). The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press (multiple editions).</p> <p>Frieden, J. A. et al. (2021). World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions. 5th edition. WW Norton &amp; Company (multiple editions).</p> <p>Mingst, K. A., &amp; McKibben, H. E. (2021). Essentials of International Relations. 9th edition. WW Norton &amp; Company. (multiple editions).</p> <p>Sørensen, G., Møller, J., &amp; Jackson, R. H. (2022). Introduction to international relations: Theories and Approaches. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Weber, C. (2014). International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction. 2nd edition. Routledge.</p> |

## Assessment

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| <b>Assessment Components</b> | Class Participation 10%, Reaction Papers 20%, Article Review 20%, Final Exam 50% |
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### Additional Information

**Prerequisites**

None

**Co-requisites**

None