

POP88071 — International Relations B

Module Information	
Module Code	POP88071
Module Title	International Relations B
Department	Political Science
Module Personnel	William Phelan
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	2 Hour Seminar

Module Content	
Module Description	This course is a survey of International Relations scholarship, introducing students to fundamental concepts and important writing in the field.
Module Learning Aims	Much scholarship in international politics naturally addresses important but specific questions relating to particular international conflicts or particular international regimes: explanations of wars between particular state pairs ('dyads') in particular years, explanations of the amount of aid granted by the IMF to different countries in particular years, or explanations for why states pursue disputes against other states in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Scholarship on these particular questions is often driven by more fundamental scholarship addressing offering theoretical explanations for the causes of war, or reasons for decisions by international institutions, or for international cooperation between states in costly issue-areas. This course provides an overview of some of the fundamental readings in many different issue-areas in international politics, as well as discussion of, or references to, related examples of recent scholarship. The approach of this course to studying international politics is <u>positive</u> and <u>generalisable</u>. By positive is meant that the research discussed in this course attempts to <u>explain outcomes</u> in international politics, rather than to address

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	normative questions of justice or morality, or to offer advice to policy-makers. By generalisable is meant that the research discussed in this course attempts to find causal explanations that work across time and space, rather than idiosyncratic explanations for particular events.
Learning Outcomes	• Student will be able to elaborate, critique and discuss international relations scholarship, and engage broadly with a wide range of alternative perspectives. • Students will be able to demonstrate mastery over a range of topics and concepts in international relations scholarship. • Students will obtain a scholarly background to support future research projects in international politics.

Assessment

Assessment Components	20% Class Participation 30% Response Papers 50% Final Examination (in Person)
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Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	n/a