

POU22021 — International Relations A

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>POU22021</i>
Module Title	<i>International Relations A</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Fresh</i>
Module Personnel	<i>William Phelan</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 1</i>
Contact Hours	<i>22 hours of lectures, 5 hours of tutorials</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	This course is an introduction to the positive, descriptive study of international relations. Why do states make war? What are the conditions for the growth of cross-border trade and finance? What is the impact of international organisations on relations between states? This course considers these questions by looking at differing theoretical approaches to international relations and a selection of topics in historical and contemporary politics.
Module Learning Aims	To introduce students to theoretical approaches to studying international relations, including scholarly debates old and new.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course students will be able to: • Understand the basic casual mechanisms underlying approaches to explaining state behaviour in international politics. • Assess the explanatory power of leading theoretical approaches to international relations, including as relates to particular historical examples. • Understand the different collective action problems associated with different issue-areas in international politics.

Module Content

	• Contribute, on the basis of theory and knowledge of a range of issue-areas, to contemporary debates in international relations scholarship about the relative influence of power, international institutions, domestic interests and international norms in state behaviour.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Stephen Brooks and William Wolforth. <i>World Out of Balance: International Relations and the Challenge of American Primacy</i> (Princeton UP, 2008). Keohane, Robert O. <i>After Hegemony</i> (Princeton UP, 1984).

Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>In-person Final Examination 75%</i> <i>Mid-term essay 15%</i> <i>Tutorials 10%</i>
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	POU11011 & POU11012 or POU11033 & POU11034
Co-requisites	
Any other information	