

Module Details	
Module Title	Advanced Study of International Relations
Module Code	PES6028-B
Academic Year	2022/3
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 6

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	11
Tutorials	11
Directed Study	178

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims
<p>The aim of the module is to provide students with a deep understanding of theoretical approaches to the study of international relations. In particular, the module aims provide an advanced knowledge and understanding of the key academic perspectives, theories and debates concerning the nature and development of the contemporary state system and global order; and the capacity to apply such perspectives and theories to develop advanced analyses of specific international relations trends and issue areas.</p> <p>The module should enable students to develop an understanding of key theoretical issues and concepts in international relations to an advanced level, engage with the academic debates on the various paradigms in International Relations as well as acquire a profound understanding of the key characteristic of the contemporary international system and sources of insecurity in the modern world.</p>

## Outline Syllabus

The module analyses essential themes in the study of international relations. These include an advanced study of theories of international relations, in particular, the various schools of realism, liberal institutionalism, constructivism and postmodern and critical theory approaches. The module will focus on the conceptual debates between realism and liberal hegemony and proposals of "restraint" and "offshore balancing" to avoid the problems realists associate with liberal interventionism. The theoretical paradigms are applied to the understanding of the role of international institutions in norms-based international systems, contemporary Great Power relations, and regional security issues in Europe, South Asia and East Asia. The course will also provide an in-depth study of global military capabilities, including nuclear weapons policies, arms control including the efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation, the "responsibility to protect" and military interventions, as well as civil conflict and international terrorism as a source of instability. Finally, it examines the roles and significance of non-state actors, international and regional institutions, and trans-national networks, and their relation to today's international system.

## Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
LO1	Conduct advanced and systematic research and analysis into the nature of the modern system of international relations, using relevant techniques and technologies to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from valid, appropriate sources, and using data and theory in the analysis of relationships, dynamics and impacts within case-studies from the past and present.
LO2	Identify and critically assess at an advanced level the ideas, practices and conditions that influence debates concerning the context and current practice of international relations.
LO3	Collaborate effectively with others in the completion of appropriate academic tasks.
LO4	Generate clear, concise and coherent advanced analysis and communication, whether essay or reflective research report tailored to the appropriate audience.
LO5	Gather and analyze information about the factors shaping the evolution of the international system or contributing to the outcomes of international relations processes; and conduct advanced library research and work independently using advanced academic analysis skills.
LO6	Apply at an advanced level key concepts and theoretical frameworks to the analysis of selected cases in the areas of international relations.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Learning will be based on lectures and seminar discussion. Teaching will be through a combination of lectures, seminars, directed study, coursework and class discussions. There will also be an intensive workshop, in the form of a thematic laboratory day, enabling students to explore and reflect on the roles and significance of a particular theme (e.g. gender) relevant to the study of IR.

Learning will develop through lectures (focusing on key frameworks, developments and threshold concepts); coursework, directed study, discussions in class, and tutor support. The seminar discussion and debates are on selected case studies, including selected international trends and processes and also studies on the major philosophers and political thinkers. Where appropriate, relevant sections of documentaries will be used to broaden the approach to case studies.

Formative assessment will be undertaken through class and individual tutor feedback on planned written work. Summative assessment will be through an essay based on desk research.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Research essay (3800-4000 words) from desk-based research	100%
Formative	Coursework - Written	Formative tutor feedback on an essay plan (up to 750 words)	N/A

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit <a href="https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html">https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html</a>

*Please note:*

*This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.*

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