

Theories of International Relations (K000890)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0 **Study time** 180 h **Contact hrs** 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2022-2023

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture	40.0 h
			guided self-study	1.25 h

Lecturers in academic year 2022-2023

Lesage, Dries	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
De Keersmaecker, Goedele	PS03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2022-2023

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject International Politics)	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in EU-Studies	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject International Politics)	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in EU-Studies	6	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

international relations – theory building – war and peace – international cooperation – structural dependency - postcolonialism

Position of the course

This educational component belongs to the 3BA study program. It enables students to fit the previously acquired knowledge about international politics into a theoretical framework. In addition, it is of crucial importance to the drafting of the Bachelor's paper and of the Master's test (thesis, dissertation). The course has two objectives: 1) to familiarize students with the main theoretical perspectives relevant to the study of international politics, 2) to apply these theories.

Contents

First, the course provides an introduction to theory building with regard to international relations. After an introduction on actors, levels of analysis and power, it thoroughly addresses

realism, liberalism, English School, Marxism, Neo-Gramscianism, social constructivism, feminism, postcolonialism and foreign policy analysis.

Initial competences

- Students are required to possess a general historical perspective and factual knowledge of contemporary international politics.
- Students are supposed to keep a keen eye on international current events throughout the entire academic year, in order to be able to subsequently apply the theoretical insights in an adequate way.
- Students need to keep a sufficiently open mind for theoretical approaches that go beyond the anecdotal and journalistic.

Final competences

- 1 To have profound knowledge of the main theoretical paradigms regarding international relations, with attention to the historical dimension.
- 2 To be able to interpret the current world order and important historical and topical events and developments.
- 3 To be able to analyse the various components of an international problem (among other things, actors, interests, ideas, power resources, power relations, ...).
- 4 To be able to manage in a critical and -- if relevant -- eclectic manner the main theoretical paradigms regarding international relations in the assessment of international trends and events.

- 5 To be able to efficiently locate and process/assimilate literature about theory creation.
- 6 To be able to apply in an independent and creative manner the main theoretical paradigms regarding international relations in the drafting of the Bachelor's paper and Master's Test.
- 7 To be able to critically assess studies about international politics from a theoretical and methodological viewpoint.

- 8 To be able to go beyond a journalistic and anecdotal approach while observing international trends and events by systematically displaying a theoretical, scientific reflex.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Non-Dutch speaking students are advised to follow the course International Relations Theory instead.

Learning materials and price

- Non-Dutch speaking students are advised to follow the course International Relations Theory instead.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Following an appointment by email, the lecturers are at the students' service to answer questions.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The exam is in keeping with the targeted learning outcomes and will take place in Dutch.
(100% of the marks)

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic assessment (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

Working students are evaluated in the same way as regular students.