# International Relations

## Prof. Enrico Fassi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the tools to interpret the dynamics of the current international political system, starting from its constituent elements, key players, the classical themes of international relations - peace, war and change - up to the issues currently at the top of the international political agenda: terrorism, the environment, migration, democratisation. The syllabus is divided into three parts: after an introduction to the evolution of the international political system, the central part of the course will be devoted to studying the academic discipline of International Relations. In particular, the main theoretical contributions that have characterised its evolution will be analysed, and - in the third part - these approaches will be applied to the study of topical cases.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* know the most important theories in the field of International Relations
* understand how the International Political System works and interacts with the economic and the institutional systems
* analyse the choices made by other states in terms of foreign policy
* define the role of non-state actors

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* identify and orient themselves among the fundamental questions at the basis of this subject
* assess which analytical level offers the best perspective to study a specific issue, and the best way to proceed at every level, proceeding case by case
* combine their historical, economic, and political knowledge with the theories of International Relations
* find connections between theory and practice, past and present, expectations and the reality around them
* develop their critical skills to orient themselves among different theoretical approaches

***COURSE CONTENT***

1) Scenarios

* The origin and evolution of the international political system.
* The international system between the two World Wars.
* Bipolarism and the Cold War.
* The post-'89 international system.

2) Approaches: The discipline and its evolution

* Realism and neorealism.
* Liberalism.
* Constructivism.
* Critical theory and postmodern theories.
* Feminism
* International Political Economy.

3) players and challenges

* The foreign policies of the key players: United States, European Union, BRICS.
* Peace and war in the international arena: the new wars.
* Current challenges: terrorism, the environment, migrations.
* Different visions of the future international order.

***READING LIST***

For *students attending lectures*:

1. Lecture notes and materials indicated/made available during the course.

2. J. Grieco - G. J. Ikenberry - M. Mastanduno (Eds.), *Introduzione alle Relazioni Internazionali,* Utet, Turin 2017 [selected chapters]

3. E. Diodato (edited by), *Relazioni Internazionali. Dalle tradizioni alle sfide,* Carocci, Rome 2021 ( new edition). [selected chapters]

For *students not attending lectures*:

1. J. Grieco - G. J. Ikenberry - M. Mastanduno (Eds.),J. Grieco - G. J. Ikenberry - M. Mastanduno, *Introduzione alle Relazioni Internazionali,* Utet, Turin 2017 [all chapters]

2. E. Diodato (edited by), *Relazioni Internazionali. Dalle tradizioni alle sfide,* Carocci, Rome 2021 ( new edition). [all chapters]

For both attending and non-attending students, *recommended reading:*

1. V.E. Parsi, *Titanic: Naufragio o cambio di rotta per l’ordine liberale*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2022.
2. H. Bull, *La società anarchica. Uno studio dell’ordine nella politica mondiale,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2004.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Most of the course will be conducted in the form of frontal lectures with the use of Power Point and videos. Some parts of the syllabus may be arranged in modular form, including the use of topic-driven seminars and testimonies from experts. The third part of the course envisages student active involvement in the analysis of case studies: students will be expected to regularly monitor and study current international political events, in addition to the reference texts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is written, by computer, and is divided into two parts to be carried out together in a 75-minute test. The first part includes a series of (15) close-ended questions and (3) short-answer/schematic questions, aimed at verifying students’ detailed knowledge of the topics, authors and theories indicated in the course programme. The second part consists of (2) open-ended questions on topics studied in the course. The answers will be assessed on the basis of the students’ ability to: identify the specific issues raised by the questions; express the acquired concepts in a coherent and reasoned way; use vocabulary and concepts rigorously. Each type of questions will be assigned a specific value expressed in thirtieths (respectively: 1,2,5, points), the sum of which will determine the overall mark. Attending students will also be given the opportunity to carry out an interim test and to participate in a series of presentations aimed at applying different theories studied in the class to current international issues.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.