



Debating International Relations (SSPS08011)

Organiser

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Summary

Contemporary debates in International Relations Summer School course will examine concepts and theories in politics and IR. Debates around issues such as power and democracy will be discussed as will Classic IR theories such as Realism and Liberalism. These will be related to real world politics with issues such as Syria, and Brexit in the spotlight.

We will also examine structures and agents as well as variety of internationally focused key issues such as nuclear proliferation, terrorism and humanitarian interventions. To assess these topics, contemporary political events such as the US domestic politics, Russia new nuclear weapon strategy, and the role of non-state actors will be examined.

Researchers and experts in their respective political field will be invited to provide relevant and up-to-date knowledge, such as nuclear proliferation and migration policy. The students will also develop skills in critical analysis and the capacity to express ideas and knowledge both in writing and in group discussion.

Course Description

This course debates the major principles, concepts, actors, and theories of the international system and their application to current issues in world affairs. The course is divided into two parts. Part one examines a number of theoretical approaches drawn from different intellectual traditions in the discipline, including classical and contemporary realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism and radical approaches to International Relations, as well as contemporary debates on power- structures and globalization. The second part discusses a number of current policy issues such as terrorism and security, human rights, governance and global institutions, global trade and finance, the environment and poverty and development.

The course consists of lectures and seminars. Lecture classes will be a combination of lecture, followed by small group activities, and ending with a question and answer session. Seminars will be more informal, with more time spent on conversation, class activities and revision.

It is very important to come to class on time and prepared with the readings completed. Students are expected to participate actively during the course and to bring up questions that they emerge during the course. The course material is cumulative, so each class will build on the information from previous classes.



Course Outline

School & College	College of Humanities and Social Science Centre for Open Learning	Course Availability	Available to all students
SCF Credit Level	SCQF Level 8 (Year 1 Undergraduate)	Subject Areas	Social and Political Science
SCQF Credit Volume			