

Module Details	
Module Title	Contemporary International Relations
Module Code	PES5020-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	11
Seminars	11
Directed Study	178

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

Module Aims
<p>This module builds on the introduction to core International Relations theories provided in the Level 4 module, Understanding the International System. This module therefore aims to provide a refined and sophisticated understanding of the concepts and theoretical approaches to international relations, and how they are applied in academic literature and policy debates on key contemporary international challenges.</p>

Outline Syllabus
<p>Examination of how major foundational and post-foundational theories of international relations (including realist traditions, liberalism and neo-liberal institutionalism, constructivism and critical theory) have been debated and developed in recent academic literature. The module also introduces and examines additional theoretical approaches and how they can be applied, including rationalist theories of international relations, normative approaches and cognitive theories, theories of Strategic Interaction, domestic politics and International Relations. These theories are then critically examined in relation to their relative strengths and weaknesses, and their application by academics and policy communities to selected contemporary international challenges.</p>

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	Apply and combine at a refined level key concepts, theories and methods from international relations and global studies.
02	Apply relevant concepts, theories and methods to the analysis of international relations, demonstrating a refined understanding of the complexity in these challenges and critical engagement with relevant international policy debates.
03	Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations to analyse the development, implementation and effectiveness of the normative, legal and institutional frameworks in international politics.
04	Present complex concepts and theories in a concise, confident and accurate manner.
05	Systematically review academic debates, clearly distinguishing and explaining the main contending theoretical perspectives, showing awareness of key differences in reasoning.
06	Exercise critical judgement, through distinguishing strengths and limitations in academic theories and research evidence.
07	Recognise and discuss relationships between knowledge practices and the forms and operations of power.
08	Use concepts and theories to analyse case studies that amplify relevant issues and debates pertinent to the study of international relations.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
<p>The classes for the module will follow a blended learning strategy. It will contain different types of activities including lectures, discussion sessions, and group work.</p> <p>The aim of the assessment strategy is to promote and review the progressive achievement of learning outcomes. This is achieved through the following:</p> <p>Formative work includes presentation on the academic literature relating to specific topics based on written notes.</p> <p>For summative assessment, you will submit an essay at the end of the semester.</p> <p>Weekly tasks are designed to allow and encourage you to demonstrate your achievement of the learning outcomes in different formats, thus broadening your skills and fostering a more inclusive curriculum.</p>

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay (3800 - 4000 words)	100%

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

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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