International Political Theory

Professor Kimberly Hutchings (Course Convenor)
Room CLM 4.07

Dr Peter Wilson
Room CLM 5.10

Course Administrator: Romy Ajodah
Room CLM 6.09

Lectures:
MT: Weds 10.00–11.00, CLM 4.02
LT: Weds 10.00-11.00, CLM 3.02

Surgeries:
MT: Weds 21st November 4-6pm, CON 1.05
LT: Weds 20th February 4-6pm, CON 1.05
ST: Weds 8th May 4-6pm, CON 1.05
Aims and Objectives

The course aims to provide students with a set of conceptual and analytical tools to enable them to acquire a deeper and more nuanced understanding of international relations. It seeks to do this through a survey of the various schools of thought in international political theory. In particular it aims to:

1. Give an account of the evolution of thought in International Relations;
2. Analyse both classical and modern texts in International Relations and place them in their historical context;
3. Highlight the continuities and discontinuities between classical and contemporary ways of understanding and explaining international relations.

The objectives of the course are to promote critical thought about a wide and intellectually demanding range of ideas and theories, and the ability to articulate this thought clearly and concisely in both the written and spoken word. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the ideas of classical and contemporary theorists of international relations;
2. Understand and explain the contextual meaning of key concepts such as: state; anarchy; empire; nation; balance of power; gender; rationality; realism; liberalism.
3. Understand and explain differences and similarities between classical and contemporary international thought;
4. Critically assess competing interpretations of classical texts, thinkers and theories;
5. Critically assess competing interpretations of contemporary texts, thinkers and theories.
6. Develop independent arguments about the strengths and weaknesses of different international theories in relation to real world issues and problems.

Teaching Methods

Lectures: 20 lectures running through the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. The lectures aim to provide an introduction to key texts and thinkers and an overview of the major currents of thought in IPT.

Classes: 20 classes starting in the third week of the Michaelmas Term. Classes provide an arena for the in-depth discussion of particular issues and for the resolution of intellectual problems arising from the course. All students are expected to make at least one, but usually two, 15 minute oral presentation/s and to contribute regularly to discussions.

Surgeries: The course convenor will run one two hour surgery session per term, open to all IR200 students. The purpose of the surgeries is to give students a chance to put questions directly to the course convenor and raise any issues they may have about any aspect of the course content.
Private Study: The most important part of the course. Students are expected to engage in careful and detailed independent study, employing the reading list (below) as a guide.

Written Work: Students are required to write four 1500 word essays, due in the last week of November, January, February and April (precise deadlines to be set by class tutors). Essay questions are best chosen from past examination papers (attached), or from the 'discussion' sections below. Essays must take the form of an answer to a particular question. General reflections on a broad theme are not admissible. Essays will be marked by class tutors. Marks and feedback will normally be provided within 2 weeks of promptly submitted essays.

Course Assessment

Assessment will be via an unseen, three-hour examination in the Summer Term (100%). Several previous IPT examination papers are attached to this course guide for guidance. Please note that the range of theorists covered in the course changes year on year and you will only be asked examination questions on specific thinkers if you have covered them explicitly in the 2012-13 course syllabus. Some additional sample questions to reflect the focus of the course in 2012-13 are given below.

Structure

The course has two parts. The first part deals with ideas, theories, and thinkers existing before IR became a distinct academic discipline with the founding of the first chair in the subject at Aberystwyth in 1919. The second part (from Week 10 onwards) takes the inter-war period as its starting point and follows through the development of modern IPT, from interwar internationalism through to some of the main currents of IPT of the last thirty years.

Pre-Requisites

Although there is no mandatory pre-requisite for this course it is helpful to have taken an introductory course. If a student has no previous background in international relations, the lecture series 'Structure of International Society' (IR100) may be useful.

Textbooks

There is no single textbook for this course. For the first part of the course, probably the most useful book to buy is E. Keene International Political Thought: A Historical Introduction (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005) (JZ1307 K21). For the second part of the course, the two most useful books to buy are C. Brown with K. Ainley Understanding International Relations, 5th Edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2010) (JZ1305 B87); or T. Dunne, M. Kurki & S. Smith International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007) (JZ1305 I61).

The historical focus of the first part of the course is European international thought from the 16th – C19th. There are a variety of textbooks and overview books that will give you an introductory grounding in the history of international political thought from ancient times onwards, there are also a variety of books that contain extracts from classical and contemporary IR thinkers. Any of the books listed below will provide a useful background to
the specific readings for each week of the course, but they should not be used as a substitute for the readings specific to each of the weekly topics on the course outline.

**Part One: Background Texts**

**Books that contain extracts from classical thinkers and useful introductory essays:**


**Books that provide introductory accounts of a variety of classical thinkers in international political thought:**


**Part Two: Background Texts**

**Books that contain extracts/ essays from modern IR theorists and contain useful introductory essays:**


**Books that give overview accounts of modern international theorists and theories:**


History

International Political Theory is not a history course. However, those studying it will need sufficient knowledge of history to make sense of its core concepts. Debates over the significance of historical events and processes, such as the 1648 'Peace of Westphalia', the 1789 French Revolution, the 1919 Versailles Settlement or post WW2 decolonisation, are bound up with theoretical perspectives in IR.


General Note on Lectures and Reading for Seminars

The scope of the course is considerable. The approach taken in the lectures will be to contextualise key ideas in the intellectual and historical circumstances in which they were produced and explore the ways in which particular thinkers formulated and articulated their concepts and theories. The variety of topics and readings is very wide, however, students should bear in mind that the course has been designed to provide them with the opportunity to specialise. Students are encouraged to concentrate on, say, five or six topics which most interest them. But they are also encouraged to view these topics as a part of a wider whole, a feel for this whole being the surest route to IPT success. For this reason all students are expected to read the primary readings specified for each week in preparation for seminar discussion. All those readings are easily accessible via the course Moodle site. Further readings are available either through electronic links on Moodle or in the library.

Moodle

Moodle is the LSE’s virtual learning environment – a website bringing together a range of resources and tools to support the IR200 course. It is available anytime and from any place via the Internet. Features include: course information and reading lists; access to electronic readings, discussion and presentation boards, lecture notes. Moodle is accessed from the LSE home page.

Moodle Registration for undergraduate and general course students. You should not need to self-register on Moodle as it will be done automatically through LSEforYou. There may be a slight delay (1 or 2 days) between registering for a course and being able to access Moodle. After this you will be able to login to Moodle using your LSE network username and password.
The Manager of the IR200 Moodle Site is Romy Ajodah (CLM 6.09). Please contact her if you encounter any problems with using the site, or any of the links are not working (R.Ajodah@lse.ac.uk).

Useful Web Links

The amount of material relevant to IPT available on the web grows apace. Useful sites include:

http://conversations.berkeley.edu/
http://www.econlib.org/index.html
http://www.marxists.org/archive/
http://oll.libertyfund.org/
http://www.polis.leeds.ac.uk/research/international-relations-security/english-school/
http://www.duckofminerva.blogspot.co.uk/

LECTURES 2012-13

Part One

1. International Political Theory: Approaches and Methods (KH)
2. Languages of International Political Thought: 1492-1789 (KH)
3. Sovereignty, property and the laws of war: Grotius (KH)
4. The State and the State of Nature: Hobbes (KH)
5. From Balance of Power to Perpetual Peace: Kant (KH)
6. Languages of International Political Thought: 1789-1914 (KH)
7. Liberalism, National Self-Determination and Civilization: Mill (KH)
8. Revolution and World History: Marx and Engels (KH)
9. Imperialism: Hobson and Lenin (PCW)

Part Two

10. Inter-War Liberal Internationalism (PCW)
11. Classical Realism: Carr and Morgenthau (PCW)
12. The English School of International Relations (PCW)
13. The Behavioural Revolution: From Classical to Scientific IR (KH)
14. Neo-Realism: Structures and Science (KH)
15. Neo-Liberalism: Institutions and Hegemony (KH)
16. Post-Marxism: Class, Social Forces and Emancipation (PCW)
17. Feminism: Gendering IPT (KH)
18. Postcolonialism: Eurocentrism in IPT (KH)
19. Constructivism: The social construction of interests (KH)
20. Poststructuralism: Discourse and Power (KH)
1. International Political Theory: Approaches and Methods

Primary reading:


Secondary reading:


2. Languages of International Political Thought: 1492-1789

Primary Reading

Muldoon, J. ‘Conclusion: Empire and State’ in Empire and Order: the concept of empire 800-1800.
Tuck, R. ‘Humanism’, Chapter 1 of The Rights of War and Peace: political thought and the international order from Grotius to Kant

Secondary Reading

Discussion

1. What did the ideas of 'reason of state' and 'natural law' mean in C17th European thought?
2. What did 'balance of power' mean to enlightenment thinkers?
3. How does 'history' start to matter in C18th international thought?

3. Sovereignty, Property and the Laws of War: Grotius

Primary reading:

Grotius, H., *The Free Sea* (Mare Liberum, 1609), David Armitage (ed), Online Library of Liberty (http://oll.libertyfund.org/index)

Discussion

1. What are Grotius’s main claims in The Free Sea?
2. Is Keene right to see Grotius as justifying 2 forms of international order: a society of states in Europe and a colonial order beyond?
3. What are the key similarities and differences between Grotius’s view of justice in war and contemporary just war arguments?

4. The State and the State of Nature: Hobbes

Primary reading:


Secondary reading:


Discussion

1. Is Hobbes’s ‘state of nature’ a model of international politics in an inter-state system?
2. How different is Hobbes’s account of natural law from that of Grotius?

5. From Balance of Power to Perpetual Peace: Kant

Primary reading:


See Moodle for direct links to online version of Kant’s text.

Hurrell, A., ‘Kant and the Kantian Paradigm in International Relations’, Review of International Studies 16, 3 (July 1990) MC JX1

Secondary reading:

Brown, Garrett Wallace., Grounding cosmopolitanism: from Kant to the idea of a cosmopolitan constitution, (Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, 2009) JZ1308 B87
Cavallar, G., Kant and the Theory and Practice of International Right (Cardiff, University of Wales Press, 1999) MC B2799.L3 C37
Cavallar, G., ‘Kantian Perspectives on Democratic Peace’, Review of International Studies, 27 2, 2001 JX1
Cavallar, G., The Rights of Strangers: theories of international hospitality, the global community, and political justice since Vitoria Chs 5 6 (Aldershot, Ashgate, 2002) KZ1256 C37
Covell, C., Kant and the Law of Peace: a study of the philosophy of international law and international relations (Basingstoke, Macmillan Press, 1998) KZ2322 C87
Gallie, W.B., Philosophers of Peace and War, ch. on Kant. CC JX1963 G16
Discussion

1. How does Kant’s theory differ from the earlier ideas about the law of nations of the ‘sorry comforters’, including Grotius?
2. What role does nature play in Kant’s account?
3. What role is played by philosophical history in Kant’s argument about perpetual peace?


Primary Reading


Secondary reading:


Holbraad, C., *The Concert of Europe in German and British International Theory* (London: 1970) **MC JX1315**


Discussion

1. How does the concept of the ‘balance of power’ change in the nineteenth century?
2. What is the relation between liberalism, eurocentrism and imperialism in nineteenth century international thought?
3. Is the principle of nationality revolutionary or conservative in the context of nineteenth century international politics?

7. Liberalism, National Self-Determination and Civilization: Mill

Primary reading:


See Moodle for access to online versions of Mill’s texts
Secondary reading:

Bell, D. ‘John Stuart Mill on Colonies’, Political Theory, 38 (1) 2010: 34-64.

Discussion

1. What is the relationship between ‘civilization’ and ‘self-determination’ in Mill’s thought?
2. Is Mill’s thought eurocentric rather than racist or imperialist?
3. Can you see a relationship between Mill’s liberalism and contemporary liberal arguments in international politics?

8. Revolution and World History: Marx and Engels

Primary reading:


See Moodle for online access to versions of Marx’s and Engels’s texts.

Secondary reading:

Discussion

1. What are the key features of Marx’s and Engels’s revolutionary internationalism?
2. Examine similarities and differences between Mill’s account of human development and that of Marx and Engels.
3. What is the meaning and significance of the concepts of ‘class’ and ‘nation’ in revolutionary traditions of nineteenth century thought?

9. Imperialism: Hobson and Lenin

Primary reading:


Secondary reading:

Discussion

1. Is imperialism a progressive or a reactionary doctrine?
2. What is the connection between imperialism and war?
3. Is imperialism a thing of the past?

10. Inter-war Liberal internationalism

Primary reading:

Angell, N., 'The International Anarchy', in L. Woolf (ed.), The Intelligent Man's Way to Prevent War (London: Gollancz, 1933) CC JX1953 W91


Secondary reading:

Angell, N., 'Who are the Utopians? And who the Realists?', Headway, Jan 1940.


Ashworth, L., 'Where are the idealists in interwar IR?', Review of international Studies, 32 (2), 2006: 291-308. JX1


Markwell, D. J., 'Sir Alfred Zimmern Revisited: Fifty Years' On', Review of International Studies, 12, 3 (1986). MC JX1

**Discussion**

1. In what ways did inter-war liberals believe that international anarchy could be tamed?
2. Whose illusion was the ‘great illusion’?
3. Were the ideas of inter-war liberals utopian?

**11. Classical Realism: Carr and Morgenthau**

**Primary reading:**


**Secondary reading:**

Molloy, Sean The Hidden History of Realism (New York: Palgrave, 2006) JN1310 M72, chs. 3, 4, 5.
Smith, M. J., Realist Thought from Weber to Kissinger (Baton Rouge: Louisiana University Press, 1986). MC JX1291 S65
Wilson, P., 'The Twenty Years' Crisis and the Category of 'Idealism' in International Relations', in Long and Wilson, Thinkers of the Twenty Years' Crisis (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995).

Discussion

1. What is realistic about realism?
2. Were classical realists amoral?
3. ‘Carr used Realism, but at heart he was a Revolutionist’. Do you agree?

12. The English School of International Relations

Primary reading:


Secondary reading

Dunne, T., ‘The English School’ in Dunne, Kurki & Smith (eds.) International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity. JZ1305 I61
Hall, I. The International Thought of Martin Wight (New York: Palgrave, 2006) JZ1305 H17
James, A., 'Sovereignty: Ground Rule or Gibberish?', Review of International Studies, 10, 1 (1984). MC JX1

Discussion

1. Is there still a case for closing the English School?
2. Is international society a real society?
3. What distinguishes the English School from its predecessors?

13. The Behavioural Revolution: From Classical to Scientific IR

Primary reading:


Secondary reading:

Holsti, K. J., The Dividing Discipline: Hegemony and Diversity in International Theory (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1987). CC JX1291 H75
Kurki, M & Wight, C. 'International Relations and Social Science' in Dunne, Kurki & Smith (eds) International Relations Theories: discipline and diversity. JZ1305 I61,
Russett, B. M., 'The Young Science of International Politics', World Politics, 22, 1 (1969) MC JX1
Discussion

1. Is the scientific study of international relations an appropriate goal?
2. How revolutionary was the 'behavioural revolution'?
3. Does it matter if the science of IR cannot be value-free?

14. Neo-Realism: Structures and Science

Primary reading:

Waltz, K., Theory of International Politics (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1979), Chapter 4. CC/MC JX1305 W24

Waltz, Kenneth N. "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities." The American Political Science Review 84, no. 3 (1990): 731-45. (and the replies in subsequent editions)

Secondary reading:


Discussion

1. What's new about neo-realism?
2. Is the weight given by realists to the concept of anarchy valid?
3. Can there be stability without hegemony?

15. Neo-Liberalism: Institutions and Hegemony

Primary reading:


Secondary reading:


Discussion

1. Does interdependence refute realism?
2. What’s new about neo-liberalism?
3. Would the world be more or less peaceful without the multi-lateral institutions of the capitalist global economy?

16. Post-Marxism: Class, Social Forces and Emancipation

Primary reading:

Secondary reading:

Skocpol, T., ‘Wallerstein’s World Capitalist System: A Theoretical and Historical Critique’, American Journal of Sociology, 82, 5 (1977) MC HM1

Discussion

1. ‘Capitalism not anarchy is the key fact of the international system’. Discuss.
2. Is the concept of imperialism applicable to contemporary international politics?
3. Is class still the most important cause of social exclusion in world politics?

17. Feminism: Gendering IPT

Primary reading:


Secondary reading:


Shepherd, L. Gender Matters in Global Politics (London: Routledge, 2010).


Whitworth, S., 'Gender and the Inter-Paradigm Debate', Millennium: Journal of International Studies, 18, 2 (1989). MC JX1
Whitworth, S., Feminism and International Relations (London: Macmillan, 1994). CC HQ1154 W62

Discussion

1. In what ways does feminism wish to change the discipline of international relations?
2. Is there a coherent feminist theory of international relations?
3. Is war a masculinist practice?

18. Post-colonialism: Eurocentrism in International Political Theory

Primary Reading


Secondary Reading

Bilgin, P. ‘Looking for ‘the International’ beyond the West’, Third World Quarterly 31 (5) 2010: 817-828
Chowdry, G. and Nair, S. (eds.) Power, Postcolonialism and International Relations: Reading Race, Gender and Class (London and New York, Routledge, 2002) JV51 P88
Doty, R. Imperial Encounters (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996). CC X1395 D72
Edkins, J & Vaughan Williams, N. Critical Theorists and International Relations, Chapters 13, 28 and 30 (New York: Routledge, 2009). MC J21242 C93
Fanon, F. The Wretched of the Earth, (New York, Grove Weidenfeld, 1991) CC DT33 F21
Discussion

1. Does it matter if international political theory is Eurocentric?
2. What does it mean to look at international political from a ‘subaltern’ point of view?
3. Do ‘standards of civilization’ still operate in international society?


Primary reading:


Secondary Reading

Fierke, K., 'Constructivism' in Dunne, Kurki and Smith International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity. JZ1305 I61
Guzzini, S., 'A Reconstruction of Constructivism in International Relations' European Journal of International Relations (6), 2000: 147-182 JX1

Discussion

1. Are ideas as important as material factors in explaining international politics?
2. What kinds of identity matter in international relations?
3. How do constructivists understand power in international politics?

20. Poststructuralism: Discourse and Power

Primary Reading


Secondary Reading

Campbell, D. Writing Security (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1992) CC E840 C18
Doty, R. Imperial Encounters (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996). CC X1395 D72
Zehfuss, M., Constructivism in International Relations: The Politics of Reality (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2002). JZ1242 Z41

Discussion

1. Do international theories construct the world of international politics?
2. Are theories the same as ‘narratives’?
3. What’s the difference in the meaning of ‘power’ or ‘sovereignty’ for poststructuralist as opposed to realist theorists of international politics?
Time allowed: 3 hours.

Answer FOUR of the following TWELVE questions. All questions will be given equal weight (25%).

1. "The concept of international society is outmoded." Do you agree?


3. Critically assess ONE of the following inter-war "utopian" ideas: international government; collective security; an international police force.

4. "Democratic peace theory is merely an up-dating of the thought of Immanuel Kant." Discuss.

5. "A value-free, scientific theory of international political behaviour remains the ultimate prize of the field of IR." Do you agree?

6. Examine the relationship between domestic and international politics in the thought of ONE of the following: Francisco de Vitoria; Adam Smith; J.A. Hobson; John Burton; Johan Galtung; A.G. Frank; I Wallerstein.

7. "An undescribed, indescribable, incomprehensible nothing" (Richard Cobden). Assess this indictment of the balance of power.

8. Do you agree with Andrew Linklater that the task of international political theory is to expand the boundaries of political community?

9. In what respects does neo-realism represent an advance on older forms?

10. In what ways do gendered social relations contribute to the phenomenon of war?

11. "International order without justice is ultimately unstable." Discuss with reference to the thought of at least ONE of the following: Charles Beitz; Hedley Bull; E.H. Carr; R.J. Vincent.

12. Critically examine the relevance of any ONE of the following for thinking about international relations today: Thucydides; Machiavelli; Hegel; Burke; Marx.
IR200 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL THEORY 2004

Time allowed: 3 hours.

Answer FOUR of the following TWELVE questions. All questions will be given equal weight (25%).

1. What is the relevance of Thucydides for thinking about international relations today?

2. Do you agree that the balance of power is what states make of it?

3. What scope is there within international society for the achievement of justice. Discuss with reference to ONE of the following: de Vitoria; Grotius; Bull; Beitz.

4. Critically compare the republican international theories of Kant and Rousseau.

5. 'Man is only the enemy of Man through the medium of a false system of government.' (Thomas Paine). Do you agree?

6. On what grounds did so many liberals and socialists at the turn of the twentieth century believe that imperialism was a progressive doctrine?

7. Assess the proposition that ‘in certain respects the approach to world politics of E.H.Carr was as utopian as the utopians he criticised’.

8. How useful is the realist injunction ‘always follow the national interest’?

9. Has the quest to develop a scientific theory of international relations been fruitful?

10. ‘Liberal theories of international relations from the 1960s to the 1980s did not undermine realism, they merely modified it.’ Discuss.

11. ‘Gender has nothing to do with international relations.’ Discuss.

12. Critically assess the impact of EITHER critical theory OR postmodernism on the study of international relations.
1. Of what value is international political theory?

2. Assess the contribution to international political theory of ONE of the following: Machiavelli; Grotius; Vitoria; Hobbes; Rousseau; Burke; J.S. Mill.

3. EITHER a) Assess Kant’s account of the conditions for perpetual peace between states; OR b) Critically compare the progressive philosophies of world history in the work of Kant and Marx.

4. How convincing is Cobden’s critique of the doctrine of the balance of power?

5. Is the principle of national self-determination a stabilizing norm within the international system?

6. Assess the ideas on the sources of violent conflict and war of ONE of the following: Paine; Freud; Weber; Galtung; Burton.

7. Can imperialism ever be right?

8. “None are worth reading now except for the light they throw on the preoccupations and presuppositions of their age” (Hedley Bull, 1969). Discuss with reference to at least ONE of the following inter-war thinkers: Norman Angell; David Davies; Leonard Woolf; E.H. Carr.

9. How persuasive is the English School’s case for the existence of an international society?

10. In what ways does neo-realism represent an advance on classical realism?

11. Assess the impact of ONE of the following on the study of international relations: critical theory; postmodernism; feminism.

12. Should international society permit a right of humanitarian intervention?
IR200 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL THEORY 2006

Time allowed: 3 hours.

Answer FOUR of the following TWELVE questions. All questions will be given equal weight (25%).

1. Assess the importance within the realist tradition of ONE of the following: Thucydides; Machiavelli; Hobbes; Rousseau; Weber; Carr; Morgenthau; Waltz.

2. ‘If universal peace is ever to be the happy lot of Man, it cannot be accomplished but by a revolution in the nature of governments’ (Paine, 1791). Discuss.

3. How valuable is EITHER Kant OR Rousseau for thinking about International Relations today?

4. ‘Those who have criticised the concept of the balance of power have done so for utopian not scientific reasons.’ Do you agree?

5. How much room is there in world politics for individual rights? Answer with reference to at least ONE of the following: Grotius; Vitoria; Burke; J. S. Mill; Bull; Beitz; Vincent.

6. Is national self-determination a progressive or regressive doctrine?

7. How persuaded are you by the arguments of liberal internationalists?

8. Why has the quest for a scientific theory of International Relations proved so elusive?

9. How convincing is the English School’s case for an international society?

10. How persuasive is the feminist critique of orthodox International Relations theory?

11. Evaluate the contribution to international political theory of EITHER critical theory OR postmodernism.

12. ‘The relevance of Marxism died with the end of the Cold War.’ Do you agree?
Answer FOUR of the following TWELVE questions. All questions will be given equal weight (25%).

1. Does it matter if theories of international politics are Western in origin?

2. Assess the relevance of ONE of the following thinkers for understanding contemporary international politics: Thucydides; Machiavelli; Grotius; Kant; Weber.

3. EITHER Can the study of international politics be value-free?
   OR Evaluate postmodernist critiques of positivist approaches to international politics.

4. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of liberal theories of interdependence.

5. ‘The concept of interest defined as power imposes intellectual discipline upon the observer, infuses rational order into the subject matter of politics, and thus makes theoretical understanding of politics possible.’ (Morgenthau) Do you agree?

6. Assess the value of ONE of the following concepts for understanding international politics: balance of power; gender; hegemony; human nature.

7. EITHER ‘Our main difficulty is that we have made of national sovereignty a god.’ (Angell) Is he right?
   OR Assess liberal arguments for national self-determination as a major principle of international order.

8. Does capitalism generate imperialism?

9. Evaluate Burke’s critique of the effect of the doctrine of ‘rights of man’ on European international society.

10. Compare and contrast Cobden’s and Marx’s arguments for the possibility of progress in international politics.

11. Which term best captures the dynamics of international politics, ‘system’ or ‘society’?

12. ‘Realism versus idealism’: is this the ‘timeless truth’ of all debates in international political theory?
IR200 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL THEORY 2008

Time allowed: 3 hours.

Answer FOUR of the following TWELVE questions. All questions will be given equal weight (25%).

1. Is the English School an unscientific version of liberal institutionalism?
2. Is anarchy what states make of it?
3. Canonic thinkers in international political theory are irrelevant to understanding post Cold War international politics. Discuss with reference to at least TWO of the following thinkers: Thucydides; Grotius; Rousseau; Kant; Weber.
4. EITHER Evaluate Burke’s account of European international society.

OR Assess Cobden’s critique of the idea of a ‘balance of power’.
5. Assess the view that international politics resembles a Hobbesian state of nature.
6. How relevant is the concept of imperialism to contemporary international politics?
7. Assess the post-colonial critique of International Relations theory.
8. Is a focus on gender useful in explaining contemporary international relations?
9. What role has revolution played in the development of the modern international order?
10. ‘—but barbarians have no rights as a nation, except a right to such treatment as may, at the earliest possible period, fit them for becoming one’. Assess J. S. Mill’s theory of national self-determination in light of this assertion.
11. ‘War is in every way a costly and intolerable nuisance’ (George Bernard Shaw). Do you agree?
12. How convincing is E. H. Carr’s critique of utopianism?
IR200 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL THEORY 2009

Time allowed: 3 hours.

Answer FOUR of the following TWELVE questions. All questions will be given equal weight (25%).

1. In what circumstances did EITHER Vitoria OR Grotius consider war to be just?
2. Compare and contrast Rousseau and Kant on the question of inter-state peace.
3. What are the implications of revolution for international order? Discuss with reference to the thought of EITHER Paine OR Burke.
4. Why has the idea of the balance of power proved so controversial?
5. Is it fair to describe the inter-war liberal internationalists as “utopians”?
6. Should the English School of International Relations be closed?
7. EITHER a) What role does class play in international politics? OR b) Is the “dependency” thesis still relevant to twenty-first century international politics?
8. How well has Realism stood up to its critics?
9. ‘In a fragmented world, order must always take priority over justice.’ Do you agree?
10. In what ways might EITHER nationalism OR imperialism be considered positive features of international order? Illustrate your answer with reference to at least ONE classical thinker.
11. What do feminism and constructivism have in common?
12. Is Eurocentrism a problem for contemporary International Relations theory?
Time allowed: 3 hours.

Answer FOUR of the following TWELVE questions. All questions will be given equal weight (25%).

1. Is perpetual peace realistic?
2. Why read EITHER Vitoria OR Grotius today?
3. ‘A mere conjunction of syllables, framing words which convey sound without meaning.’ (Cobden) Assess this indictment of the balance of power.
4. ‘Despite the vast changes of the last two hundred years the debate between Burke and Paine has lost none of its relevance for international political life.’ Discuss.
5. Why has the appeal of EITHER Carr’s *The Twenty Years’ Crisis* OR Waltz’s *Theory of International Politics* proved so enduring?
6. In what ways might nationalism be considered a progressive doctrine?
7. Has the effort to produce a scientific approach to international relations been worthwhile?
8. Do you agree that John Burton’s world society perspective is more in tune with modern realities than the English School’s international society perspective?
9. How valuable is the contribution of EITHER constructivism OR feminism to the study of international relations?
10. In what ways do EITHER neo-Marxist theories OR modern Liberal theories improve on older ones?
11. Can a case for EITHER humanitarian intervention OR distributive justice be made on prudential as well as moral grounds?
12. Is there any practical value in international political theory?