Syllabus:
EDS374 International Relations Theory
Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Fall 2012

Course Convenors and Lecturers:
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Halvard Leira (hl@nupi.no)

Timetable
NB OBS – this schedule overrides TimeEdit

All lectures will be held at UMB. The 12 lectures are grouped in three clusters of four lectures, with two lectures per week (Thursdays 1015-1400) in most lecture-weeks. 1015-1145-lectures are in T330, 1230-1400-lectures are in TU101.

Seminars will be held at NUPI, and are voluntary. Seminars are reserved for MSc IR students. The exact timing of seminars will be decided within each group, but they will be within the same timeframe (Thursdays 1015-1400).

THR 06.09  (1) Introduction: What is the International?
THR 06.09  (2) Histories of the International
THR 13.09  (3) Writing the International
THR 13.09  (4) International Relations Theory and Methods
THR 04.10  (5) Liberalisms
THR 14.10  (6) Realisms
THR 11.10  (7) Constructivism and Critical Approaches
THR 11.10  (8) Historical Sociology
THR 15.11  (9) Post-Structuralism
THR 15.11  (10) The English School
THR 22.11  (11) Normative Approaches
THR 22.11  (12) Conclusion: From International to Global?

Evaluation
All students must hand in a book review and have it accepted (graded as pass on a pass/fail-scale), before they are allowed to sit for the final exam. Books will be assigned in the second week of classes, and the deadline for reviews will be November 10th.

The final exam will last for three hours, and will consist of a set of 10-12 questions, where students are expected to answer three of them. The exam is graded on a A-F scale.

Expectations
Regular attendance will most likely correlate with your success in this course. Learning in this course is highly dependent on class discussions and activities, and the exam questions tend to be related more to discussions in class than to set readings. Thus, you are advised to complete the
assigned readings prior to the class session for which they are scheduled. Your active, informed and civil participation in discussion and class activities is expected. Please bring a paper or electronic copy of each reading with you to class, along with notes on the reading, paper, and a pen or pencil.

Policies

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their work. Forgery, cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action.

Courtesy
We are jointly responsible for maintaining a constructive learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the lecturers or to other students will be asked to refrain from such behavior or, in severe cases, to leave the classroom. Mutual respect is expected of everyone in the classroom, and personal attacks will not be tolerated. If you have any complaints against any of the lecturers, please voice them, either directly with the lecturer or with your class representative.

Further guidelines:
• Cell phones should be turned off rather than set to “vibrate” during class.
• Do not carry on side discussions while someone else is speaking.
• Do not begin gathering or packing your belongings until class is dismissed.

E-mail
E-mail is the most reliable way to get in touch with the lecturers outside of class, particularly since we have no office at Ås. While we may sometimes be able to return e-mail more quickly, in general you should expect a response within 48 hours (outside of the weekends). If you have no reply within 48 hours, please send a follow-up email or give us a call.

Tips for e-mail success:
• Provide a useful and descriptive subject line (ex: “Question about political realism”)
• Begin with a greeting (ex: “Dear Prof. Carvalho”, but do not overdo it. Professor-Doctor-Professor is not our first name, and “Dear Benjamin” will tend to work as well) and end with a signature (ex: “Sincerely, Student (where “Student” indicates your name)).
• NB OBS! Check to see whether your question is already answered in the syllabus or other course materials before sending an e-mail.

Late Work
Work that is not handed in at the time it is due will not be graded, and will thus lead to an automatic fail. The only exception is if you 1) have an excused absence 2) have discussed the situation with the lecturers prior to the assignment’s due date and 3) have gotten a written verification that a late hand-in will be accepted.
Reading list

Structure of readings to each session

There is no set textbook as such for this course (but a book on the history of IR – Knutsen 1997), and the teaching as well as the exam is NOT focused on textbook knowledge, but rather a broad understanding of overarching themes. Students with a background in IR should not have a need for further textbooks, but students with little or no in-depth knowledge of IR might find one of the textbooks suggested below useful.

The readings for each lecture are divided into three groups:

1) One or more chapters from Knutsen and a note of the relevant chapter in the first of the suggested textbooks. This is intended to give an overview of the theory (ies) at hand, and is usually the easiest text for the session. Students will be expected to have background knowledge at the level of a textbook chapter when attending the lectures.

2) One or more texts from central author(s) within the relevant field. This could be considered the primary source – an author arguing in favour of his/her theory. This material might be easier to digest after the relevant lecture. The final exam will (among other things) test for detailed understanding of these texts.

3) A wide array of additional and supplementary reading. Texts marked with an asterisk (*) are particularly recommended.

Required Readings

Books:

Other Texts
Bull, Hedley (1977) The Anarchical Society London: Palgrave. (Chapters 1, 2, 3)
Hobden, Stephen and John Hobson (eds.), Historical Sociology of International Relations (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2002) (Chapters 1, 2, 11)

Mervyn Frost, “Ethical Competence in International Relations” *Ethics and International Affairs* Summer 2009, pp. 91-100.


Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*


Waltz, Kenneth, *Theory of International Politics* (1979), Chapters 1, 6


**General reading**

*Useful introductory texts (older versions will generally be acceptable, theories do not change THAT much):*


- Widely used and generally OK, although uneven.

• High-quality compilation centred around the different –isms.


• Quite likely the most widely used introductory text for IR in Europe and flat out the best, but geared more towards undergraduate studies. Very handy if you are new to IR.


• Good, basic introduction to IR.


• Organised around themes that are central to theoretical debate rather than the different –isms. Strong on normative stuff.


• Somewhat dated, but contains several worthwhile essays and provides a glimpse into the heated debates of the early 1990’s.

**HELP! (The section for non-native English-speakers who need to get a grip on IR-theory):**


• Cheap (if available) book, written as a basic, but sophisticated, introduction, by one of the leading IR-scholars in Scandinavia over the last 20 years.


• An entertaining introduction to global politics through key practices rather than theories.


• Largely focused on Norwegian foreign politics, but explicitly theory-driven, with a base in the “critical” approaches of the 1990’s.


• Relatively basic, but organised around central “real-life” issues, rather than theoretical approaches.

**Supporting material**


1. **Lecture: Introduction: What is the International?**

**Required Reading:**

**Knutsen:** Introduction and Chapters 1, 2

2. **Lecture: A History of the International**

**Required readings:**

**Knutsen:** Introduction and Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6


**Supplementary Readings:**


Edward Keene, *Beyond the Anarchical Society: Grotius, Colonialism and Order in World Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).


3. Lecture: Writing the International

Required readings:

Dunne et al.: Introduction and Chapter 15
Knutsen: Chapter 7, 8


Supplementary reading:


### 4. Lecture: (Meta)Theory and Methods

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<td><strong>Dunne et al.</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2</td>
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<td><strong>[Burchill et al.]: Chapter 1</strong></td>
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<th><strong>Supplementary reading:</strong></th>
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* Lebow, Ned R. & Mark Lichbach (eds.) (2007), *Theory and Evidence in Comparative Politics and IR*


**5. Lecture: Liberalisms old and new**

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<td><strong>Dunne et al.</strong>: Chapters 5, 6</td>
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[Burchill et at.: Chapter 3]

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<th>Knutsen:</th>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
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**Supplementary reading:**
Brown, Michael et al eds. (1996) *Debating the Democratic Peace*


Deudney, Daniel (2007) *Bounding Power*


Ikenberry, G. John (2006) *Liberal Order and Imperial Ambition*


6. Lecture Realist theories of international relations

**Required readings:**

Dunne et al.: Chapters 3, 4

[Burchill et al.: Chapter 2]

Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (1979), Chapters 1, 6

**Supplementary reading**

*Classical realism*


*Carr, Edward Hallett (1995 [1940]),* *The Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*, London: Papermac,


**Neo-realism**


Conversation with Kenneth Waltz: [http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Waltz/waltz-con0.html](http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Waltz/waltz-con0.html)

7. **Lecture: Critical approaches and the rise of Constructivism**

**Required readings:**

Dunne et al.: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 12


**Supplementary reading:**


Checkel, Jeffrey (1998) “The Constructivist Turn in International Relations Theory”, *World Politics* 50(2)


Guzzini, Stefano & Anna Leander (eds.) (2006) *Constructivism and International Relations: Alexander Wendt and his Critics*


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**8. Lecture: Historical Sociology**

**Required reading:**

[Burchill et al.: Chapter 6]

Stephen Hobden and John Hobson (eds.), *Historical Sociology of International Relations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2002) (Chapters 1, 2, 11)

Supplementary Reading


Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol (1985) *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

9. Lecture: Poststructuralism

Required readings:

Dunne et al.: Chapter 11

[Burchill et al.: Chapter 8]


Supplementary reading:


Shapiro, Michael J. (1992) *Reading the Postmodern Polity: Political Theory as Textual Practice*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.


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### 10. Lecture: The English School

**Required reading:**

Dunne et al.: Chapter 7

[Burchill et al.: Chapter 4]

Bull, Hedley (1977) *The Anarchical Society* London: Palgrave. (Chapters 1, 2, 3)

**Supplementary readings:**

The “reconvened” English School has a very useful webpage: [http://www.leeds.ac.uk/polis/englishschool/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/polis/englishschool/) with articles, papers, and a bibliography of English School resources.


### 11. Lecture: Normative Issues in International Relations

**Required reading:**

**Dunne et al.: Chapter 2**
**Supplementary Reading:**


**12. Lecture: From International to Global?**

**Required Readings:**

**Knutsen:** Chapter 10