

**MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
IR 503 Theories of International Relations
INSTRUCTORS: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faruk Yalvaç & Dr. Oktay F.
Tanrısever**

GENERAL INFORMATION

This course provides an analysis of the important theoretical debates in International Relations by paying attention to the relationship between these theoretical debates and the actual context of International Relations. The first part of the course will explore Political Realism as the dominant paradigm of International Relations. In this part, philosophical and methodological issues in International Relations will be discussed in detail. In the following part, the course will analyze the central assumptions and key concepts of the theories that challenge the dominance of classical political realism in the field. These theories include Structuralism, Critical Theory, World System Perspective, Neo-Weberian Historical Sociology, Post-Modernism, Constructivism and Feminism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be asked to write weekly short assignments with 50% weight on the final grade. The final examination will count for 50% of the final grade.

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL

Scott Burchill, Richard Devetak and Andrew Linklater, eds., *Theories of International Relations*, London: Palgrave, 2002.

An updated additional list of recommended reading materials for each week will be given in the first week.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE COURSE

Week 1: The Role of Theory in Studying International Relations

Week 2: Political Philosophy and the Study of International Relations

Week 3: The Development of International Relations as a Discipline

Week 4: Political Idealism, Rationalism and Liberalism in the Study of International Relations

Week 5: Political Realism and the Study of International Relations

Week 6: Systems and Decision-Making Theories

Week 7: The Interdependence School in International Relations

Week 8: Structuralism and Neo Realism

Week 9: Critical Theory

Week 10: World System Perspective

Week 11: Neo Weberian Historical Sociology and International Relations

Week 12: Postmodernism

Week 13: Constructivism

Week 14: Feminism