

**MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR  
AUTUMN TERM**

**IR- 503 THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**INSTRUCTOR: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faruk Yalvaç  
OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 10:40- 12:00 a.m.  
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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The aim of this course is to introduce the main theoretical controversies within international relations theory.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, weekly papers, a midterm and a final exam. The distribution of the final course grade from the various assignments is:

<b>Class participation</b>	<b>: 15%</b>
<b>Weekly Papers</b>	<b>: 30%</b>
<b>Mid Term Exam</b>	<b>: 25%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>: 30 %</b>

### **REQUIRED READING MATERIAL**

Burchill, Scott, and Linklater, Andrew, eds., *Theories of International Relations*, (London: Macmillan Press Ltd., 2004).

Dunne, Tim, Kurki Milja, and Smith, Steve, *IR Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

### **THE ORGANISATION OF THE COURSE**

#### **WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION**

##### **Required Reading**

Burchill, Chp.1.

Dunne, Kurki and Smith Chp. 1-3

**Question for discussion: Discuss the role of theory in the study of International Relations?**

## **WEEK TWO: LIBERALISM AND NEOLIBERALISM**

### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 2.

Dunne, Kurki and Smith, Chps. 5-6

**Question for discussion: Please critically assess the controversial issues involved in the liberal theory of international relations.**

## **WEEK THREE: REALISM AND NEOREALISM**

### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 3.

Dunne, Kurki and Smith, Chps. 3-4

**Question for discussion: a) What are the differences between realism and neorealism? b) What are the main criticisms of neorealism?**

## **WEEK FOUR: RATIONALISM**

### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 4.

Dunne, Kurki and Smith, Chp. 7.

**Question for discussion: What do you think are the unresolved theoretical issues with the rationalist theory of international relations?**

## **WEEK FIVE: MARXISM**

### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 5.

**Question for discussion: What are the different ways in which Marxism contributes to the theory of international relations?**

### **WEEK SIX : CRITICAL THEORY**

#### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 6  
Dunne, Kurki and Smith, Chp. 8.

**Question for discussion: Is critical theory also another western type of discourse?**

### **WEEK SEVEN : CONSTRUCTIVISM**

#### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 7  
Dunne, Kurki, Smith, Chp. 9.

**Question for discussion: Why has constructivism created such controversy in the theory of IR?**

### **WEEK EIGHT: POSTMODERNISM AND POSTSTRUCTURALISM**

#### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 8  
Dunne, Kurki, Smith, 11.

**Question for discussion: How do you evaluate the incommensurability of different value systems advocated by post modernist discourse?**

### **WEEK NINE: POST COLONIALISM AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY**

#### Required Reading:

Dunne, Kurki, Smith Chp. 12.

**Question for discussion: How do you distinguish post colonial international relations theory from traditional IR thinking?**

#### **WEEK TEN : FEMINISM**

##### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 9  
Dunne, Kurki, Smith, Chp. 10.

**Question for discussion: How is post colonial feminism different from other forms of feminism?**

#### **WEEK ELEVEN- ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN THEORY**

##### Required Reading

Burchill, Chp. 10  
Dunne, Kurki, Smith, Chp. 13

**Question for discussion: What is the ecocentric position and its implications for the theory of IR?**

#### **WEEK TWELVE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBALIZATION**

##### Required Reading:

Dunne, Kurki, Smith Chp. 14

#### **WEEK THIRTEEN: FUTURE OF IR THEORY**

##### Required Reading:

Dunne, Kurki, Smith, Chp. 15.