

Prof.Dr.Dr.h.c.Reinhard Meyers (WWU), Prof.Dr. J.H.deWilde (U.Twente)

Hauptseminar: International Relations Theory.

3 SWS, 7 LP

This seminar is partially blocked; Dates: Mondays in Enschede from 15.45 till 17.25, room LA - 1345 (the long building on the right-hand side when entering the campus); Tuesdays in Münster from 14.00 – 16.00 Room 613, Social Science Branch Library Scharnhorststrasse (opposite departmental building at Scharnhorststrasse 100) Start: November 13, 2006 in Enschede ; end January 16, 2007 in Münster

The study of international relations (IR) can be defined as the thinking about the relations between political units in anarchical structures. A rough outline starts with concepts of "theory" and their different epistemological validity criteria and methodological functions for understanding international relations. It then deals with the different ontologies IR theories produce; their premises, characteristics, and consequences. Hermeneutic, empirical, normative and critical approaches will be covered. In view of the intellectual history of IR as a Social Science the following debates will be dealt with more extensively: The first debate: Idealism versus Classical Realism; The second debate: Behaviourism versus Realism; The third debate: Pluralism versus Realism versus Radicalism; Syntheses and perfections: Neorealism; Neoliberalism & Globalism; Foreign Policy Analysis & the Agency/Structure debate; International Political Economy (IPE); the English School; Gender Studies; The fourth debate: Constructivism versus Positivism; Reflectivism; Post-modern Approaches. Students should gain a thorough knowledge of the epistemological premises, methodological ramifications, and ontological consequences of the grand theories of international relations. There will be oral presentations during the classes, a number of written examinations, and students have to submit a substantial seminar book review paper discussing 'classics of IR'.

Objective: To make the student familiar with the intellectual history of IR in terms of its major debates

Study material:

- **John Baylis/Steve Smith (eds.): The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford UP 2005 [Please buy/use ONLY the THIRD EDITION !]**
- **Hedley Bull (1966), "International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach", *World Politics*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 361-377.**
- **Contemporary Developments in International Relations Theory (downloadable PDF file on this website)**

Assessment: Written exam on parts 1, 2 & 3 of Baylis & Smith; substantial book review about an IR Classic (list available at the beginning of the seminar or earlier); class presentation based on a chapter in parts 4 & 5 of Baylis/Smith (preferably supported by Power Point presentation, otherwise based on two – to three-page handout)

Timetable:

(cf. next page)

Week	Date	Subject	Readings
46	November 13	a) Introduction and course organisation b) Historical Evolution of the International System	B/S 1-2
47	November 20	The First Debate: Realism vs. Idealism	B/S 3-5
	November 21	The Second Debate: Realism vs. Behaviouralism	B/S 7, Art. Bull
48	November 27	The Third Debate I-a: Realism vs. Pluralism	B/S 7-8
	November 28	The Third Debate, I-b: Realism vs. Radicalism	B/S 10, 13
49	December 4	The Third Debate II: Rationalism vs. Reflectivism vs. Social Constructivism	B/S 6, 11-12
	December 5	Syntheses in IR theory (I): Neo-Liberal Institutionalism	B/S 9, 16, 18
50	December 11	Syntheses in IR theory (II): The English School	B/S 15, 17
	December 12	Syntheses in IR theory (III): International Political Economy	B/S 14, 19
02	January 8	Paper presentations	
	January 9	Paper presentations	
03	January 15	Paper presentations	
	January 16	Paper presentations	
		Exam	-
05	February 1	Deadline Submission of Paper	