

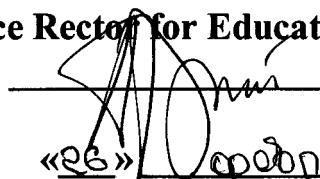
**MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(MGIMO-UNIVERSITY)
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION**

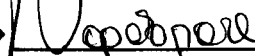
Master's Programme: Politics and Economics in Eurasia

Department of Political Theory

«Approved»

Vice Rector for Educational Development


A. Khudaykulova

«26»  2015г.

Philosophical Foundations of the Analytical Work

Moscow 2015

The Syllabus “Philosophical Foundations of the Analytical Work” corresponds to the necessary minimum of the master level according to the State federal standard for the highest professional training in “Political Science”.

The author of the Syllabus – Alekseeva Tatiana, Chair of the Political Theory Department, Professor, Honored Scholar of the Russian Federation

Director of the MGIMO-Library M.V.Reshetnikova

© Alekseeva, 2015

© MGIMO-University, 2015

Part 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1. The place and role of the course in the overall curriculum:

The course “Philosophical Foundations of the Analytical Work” is designed to provide understanding of the philosophical foundations of the methods and procedures of the international political analysis. It is in a sense a continuation and sequence of the previous course “Philosophy of Science”. It goes together with the other courses, which prepare the students for the self-sufficient work in the sphere of political expertise.

1.2. The course goals and objectives:

The main goal of the course is to provide students with the foundations of the analytical skills in the sphere of international relations and political science studies.

Course objectives are:

1. To introduce students to the main trends in the development of ontology, methodology and epistemology of political studies;
2. To orient students towards the understanding of the most important problems of and challenges to the contemporary political science;
3. To provide students with some of the techniques of analytical work.

1.3. Learning outcomes:

The basic principle of the course is self-sufficient work of students with the systematic discussions in class of their written work, preparation of which is obligatory. Classes are generally held to promote/enhance the understanding of the problems discussed previously in class.

Teaching methods used include a combination of interactive lectures and discussions of students’ written works.

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Define the main trends in the development of contemporary political philosophy;
2. Distinguish different perspectives and levels of analysis;
3. Apply main philosophical ideas to the study of political sciences and international relations;
4. Explain the role of philosophical perspectives in international relations.

1.4. Course requirements:

Students will be required to attend at least 90% of classes and be prepared with their written tasks for discussion classes. Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is compulsory. Students will also be required to prepare 7 written tasks and an analytical paper.

1.5. Grading plan:

- Training written tasks– 70 %
- Analytical paper – 20%
- Oral exam – 10 % (in class, 120 minutes)

PART 2. COURSE CONTENTS

2.1. Types of work

Types of work	Academic hours	ECTS credits
Total	72	4
Lectures	16	
Seminars	16	
Homework	40	
Analytical paper	6	
Preparation for lectures, seminars and oral exam	34	
Course assessment	Oral exam	

2.2 Course outline

Course Outline	Academic hours			
	Lectures	Seminars	Homework	Academic hours per topic
Lecture 1. The Role of Perspectives and Levels of Analysis	2		2	4
Seminar 1. Book review № 1		2	3	5
Lecture 2. How to think about International Relations	2		2	4
Seminar 2. Book review № 2		2	3	5
Lecture 3. Political realism, its sources and perspectives	2		2	4
Seminar 3. Book review № 3		2	3	5
Lecture 4. Liberalism and its philosophical foundations	2		2	4
Seminar 4. How to write an analytical paper		2	2	4
Lecture 5. The constructivist perspective	2		2	4
Seminar 5. Analysis of the international		2	3	5

event (according to the student's choice)				
Lecture 6. Critical theory and international relations	2		2	4
Seminar 6. Analysis of the international event (according to the student's choice)		2	3	5
Lecture 7. Levels of analysis	2		2	4
Seminar 7. Analysis of the international event (according to the student's choice)		2	3	5
Lecture 8. Perspectives on world history	2		2	4
Seminar 8. Discussion of the analytical papers of students. Students' presentations		2	4	6
Total:	16	16	40	72

2.3. COURSE CONTENTS

Lecture 1. The Role of Perspectives and Levels of Analysis

Summary:

Ideal Types. Perspectives and levels of analysis. Foreign policy level of analysis. The Role of Methods. Rationalist vs. Constructivist. The Role of Judgment. The Role of Ethics and Morality. The Role of History.

Seminar 1. Book review № 1 (according to the choice of students)

Lecture 2. How to think about International Relations

Summary:

Prisoner's Dilemma. Realist, Liberal, Constructivist, and Critical Perspectives on the Prisoner's Dilemma

Seminar 2. Book review № 2(according to the choice of students)

Lecture 3. Political realism, its sources and perspectives

Summary:

Sources. "Classical" Political Realism. Neorealism. Anarchy and Self-help. State Actors and Sovereignty. Power. Security Dilemma. Balance of Power. Polarity and Alliances. War.

Seminar 3. Book review № 3(according to the choice of students)

Lecture 1.4. Liberalism and its philosophical foundations

Summary:

Foundations of Liberalism. Reciprocity and Interdependence. Technological Change and Modernization: Nongovernmental Organizations. International Institutions: Path Dependence and Law. Collective Goods: Collective Security and

Wealth. Diplomacy, Compromise, and Legitimacy. Separating Democracy from a Liberal Perspective.

Seminar 4. How to write an analytical paper

Lecture 5. The Constructivist perspective

Summary:

Ideas and Construction of Constructivism. What does “socially constructed” mean? Social Constructivism. Distribution of Identities. Democratic Peace. Feminism. Postmodernism.

Seminar 5. Analysis of the international event (according to the student’s choice)

Lecture 6. Critical theory and international relations

Summary:

Critical theory. Marxist views on international relations. Postmarxist views. Marxism and analysis of world politics.

Seminar 6. Analysis of the international event (according to the student’s choice)

Lecture 7. Levels of analysis

Summary:

Systemic Level of Analysis. Domestic Level of Analysis. Individual Level of Analysis. Foreign Policy Level of Analysis. Interaction of perspectives and levels of Analysis: Causal Arrow. Relevance in the real world.

Seminar 7. Analysis of the international event (according to the student’s choice)

Lecture 8. Perspectives on World History

Summary:

Change and continuity. The Realist View on World History. Liberal Accounts of World History. Constructivist views on World History. Critical Theory Views on World History.

Seminar 8. Discussion of students' analytical papers. Students' presentations

Reading list:

Essential Readings:

Basu R. International Politics : Concepts, Theories And Issues . New Delhi: Sage Publications Pvt. Ltd; 2012. Available from: eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)

Bell D. Political Thought and International Relations: Variations on a Realist Theme. - Cary, NC: OUP Oxford, 2008. -

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/mgimo/docDetail.action?docID=10263695>

Diez T, Costa A, Bode I. Key Concepts In International Relations . Los Angeles: SAGE Publications Ltd; 2011. Available from: eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)

Lynch C., Klotz A. Strategies for Research in Constructivist International Relations. – Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 2007. -

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/mgimo/docDetail.action?docID=10178084>

General Readings:

Classical theory in international relations / ed. by B.Jahn. - Cambridge : Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006. - XV, 309 p.

Gunnell J. *Between Philosophy And Politics : The Alienation Of Political Theory* .
Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press; 1986. Available from: eBook
Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)

International Relations: Critical Concepts in Political Science. In 5 vol. / ed. by A.
Linklater. - London : Routledge, 2002.

Theories of International Relations / S. Burchill, A. Linklater, R. Devetak et al. -
3rd ed. - Hampshire : Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. - X, 310 p

The Oxford Handbook of International Relations. Ed. by Christian Reus-Smith and
Duncan Snidal. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2008.

Thompson K. *Fathers Of International Thought : The Legacy Of Political Theory* .
Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press; 1994. Available from:
eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)

Thompson K. *Schools Of Thought In International Relations : Interpreters, Issues,
And Morality* . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press; 1996.
Available from: eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)

Internet resources:

Open lectures and courses – <https://www.edx.org/school/georgetownx>

2.4. ESSAY TOPICS

The student himself/herself chooses a book for review as well as the topics of the analytical exercises and analytical paper. The choice itself is a part of the educational process, since it teaches students to orient among the flux of events and opinions.

2.5. EXAM TOPICS

1. Why is ethnic conflict that occurs in one part of the world front-page news but not ethnic conflict that occurs in another?
2. Do You think terrorism is caused by American military dominance or American diplomacy? Which answer reflects the realist perspective?
3. Explain the contemporary situation in Syria with rationalist and constructivist methods.
4. Explain American invasion in Iraq with relativist and with universalist arguments.
5. How do ideal types, perspectives and theories differ?
6. What do the realist, liberal and constructivist perspectives each relatively emphasize?
7. Can any perspective apply to any level of analysis?
8. Is constructivism both a theory and a method?
9. Why is former Secretary of State Henri Kissinger identified more with the realist perspective?
10. Would the liberal or realist perspectives emphasize the crucial role of the Reformation in European development?
11. What aspects of the Concert of Europe would the realist, liberal, and constructivist perspectives emphasize?
12. What are the parallels and differences among the Russian and British empires?
13. Contrast the way balance of power and collective security systems work.

14. Explain why the league of Nations failed from realist, liberal and constructivist perspectives.
15. What are realist arguments why hegemons, such as Nazi Germany, France under Louis XIV, and France under Napoleon, cannot stop once they have achieved superiority?
16. In what way do realist and liberal interpretations of deterrence differ, especially as they relate to the use of force and diplomacy?
17. What led to a resolution of the Cuban Missile Crises as seen by realist and liberal perspectives?
18. From the different perspectives, when is it legitimate to intervene in the domestic affairs of another state?
19. How might the different perspectives interpret S. Huntington's thesis about the clash of civilizations?
20. Why does the critical theory perspective reject mainstream realist, liberal, and constructivist perspectives?
21. How globalization works from different perspectives?
22. What are the different meanings of and ways to measure development?
23. A Critical theory perspectives of Colonialism and Imperialism.
24. Has global inequality increased or decreased from different perspectives.
25. In what ways are environmental issues examples of collective goods? In what ways are they not?
26. Give an explanation of the democratic peace from each perspective and level of analysis.

2.6. EXAM TIMING

Spring semester exams – June 1-25