

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Debating International Relations Theories  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **5500BICIRP** (129674)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Beaconhouse Group

Team	Leader
Matthew Hill	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ5  
**Credit Value:** 20  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 46  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200  
**Private Study:** 154

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Online	2
Tutorial	22

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	AS1	1,500 word article review	40	
Essay	AS2	2,500 word essay	60	

### Aims

1. To understand the evolution of IR as a body of knowledge and intellectual pursuit.
2. To understand the interplay between history and theoretical development.
3. To critically engage the Great Debates in the history of IR and understand the key questions at stake in those debates.
4. To develop a comprehensive understanding of the strength and limits of each theoretical approach

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of key questions and major debates in the history of IR.
- 2 Critically reflect on the strengths and limitations of individual theoretical approaches.
- 3 Discuss and analyse the key texts in the subject of IR.
- 4 Breakdown the relationship between international theories and the development of international affairs.

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1500 word article review	1	3		
2500 word essay	1	2	3	4

## Outline Syllabus

*Module will typically include the following:*

- *The emergence of IR as a subject in the early 20th Century*
- *What are the 'Great Debates'?*
- *Realism/Liberalism*
- *Traditionalism/Behaviouralism*
- *Neorealism/Neoliberalism*
- *Rationalism/Reflectivism*

## Learning Activities

Lectures and tutorials

## Notes

In the first year of your UG degree you examined the different theories that are applied in International Relations, and how they were developed. Whilst we touched on how these theories formed and how they disputed each other, this module goes into the controversies in further detail. Structured around the 'Great Debates', this module provides greater insight into the theories that help inform our understanding of the world.