

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Understanding International Relations  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **7100IR** (125130)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

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

Team	Leader
Xin Liu	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ7  
**Credit Value:** 30  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 32  
**Total Learning Hours:** 300  
**Private Study:** 268

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Seminar	14
Workshop	18

**Grading Basis:** 50 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Essay plan 1,000 words	15	
Essay	AS2	Essay 4,000 words	85	

### Aims

*To engage in independent and critical thinking, and to develop and engage with the theoretical concepts and apply them to the world.*

*To develop the ability to present and defend arguments and interpretations in an appropriate and scholarly manner.*

*To understand global events from the state, non-state and international perspectives.*

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the major concepts and theories relating to international relations including power, the international system, globalisation and the international political economy.
- 2 Critically analyse the events, processes, relationships, institutions and key actors involved in international politics.
- 3 Apply a critical understanding of the competing concepts and theories relating to patterns of international co-operation and conflict to historical and contemporary events.
- 4 Analyse global events from the state, non-state and international perspectives.

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Essay plan 1,000 words	1	2	3	4
Essay 4,000 words	1	2	3	4

## Outline Syllabus

*This module is broken down into four main parts. First, it provides a general context of theory in the IR subject area. Second, it discusses the key IR theories that have played historically significant roles in developing our understanding of the world. Third, it examines the critical theoretical approaches to IR. Fourth, it examines the future of IR by questioning how theories are adapting to the changing political, social, legal, economic, and security world circumstances.*

## Learning Activities

This module will include three invited experts to come and discuss particular theories and case studies. This process will help consolidate learning on a vital element to understanding IR. Structure of module is based on a three-step process:

1. One week of prep-reading including roundtable discussions on reading with the module leader.
2. Spread over one or two days, the students will have 4 hours of class with an invited academic.
3. Class work set by invited academic to be completed for the session the week after. This session will be facilitated by the module leader.

## Notes

There is more to understanding how states interact in the world than reading, watching or listening to the news. Why do state and non-state actors act the way they do? This core module provides an introduction into International Relations by

examining the theories, key concepts and authors in the field that help us to answer this vital question. It will interrogate how these theories help explain the world we also apply them to real-world case studies.