

# POLS 318: Theories of IR

## Lecture 1: Introduction

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# POLS 318: Theories of IR

## TODAY'S PLAN:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Review syllabus & course procedures
- 3 *Canvas*
- 4 Theories of IR???
- 5 A general overview of topics

# POLS 318: Theories of IR

## INTRODUCTIONS:

- Rotem Dvir - political science graduate student
- Major field: International Relations
- Focus: International security and foreign policy

MORE?

Check my website: <https://rotemdvir.wixsite.com/mysite>

# IT'S ALL IN THE SYLLABUS



# Syllabus Review

## Some basics

- Class 'meetings' time.
- Fridays F2F: Discussion meeting (Q&A).
- Office hours: Tuesday/Wednesday (Zoom, and by email).
- Why office hours? (Link)

## What is this class?

- Leading theories of international relations; specific issues in foreign and economic policy, international conflict, and more.
- Main Objectives.

# Syllabus Review

## Your responsibilities

- Pre-recorded lectures: (Youtube links). Why? [▶ LongLecture](#)
- Submit tasks on time: mid-term, final and others.
- Read before class!!! (links in syllabus, Google scholar).



# Syllabus Review

## Attendance Policy

- 5% of final grade.
- How do I follow attendance?
- Free unexcused absences, then what?
- Excused absences and make-up policy.

# Syllabus Review

## Grading

MID-TERM TASK: (20%)

- Class topic (weeks 1-7): main arguments and implications.
- Pick a podcast - how does the class topic feature in it?

SURVEY TASKS: (15%)

- Three surveys during the semester (links by email).
- Points in exchange for serious and thoughtful answers

TAKE-HOME QUIZZES: (15%)

- Three short quizzes on reading material. [▶ Details](#)
- Submit by deadline (check the syllabus).



# Syllabus Review

## Grading (cont.)

### TERM PAPER & PRESENTATION: (45%)

- By yourself or in a group (3 students max).
- Investigate real-world cases with IR theories.
- Approve paper topic by March 29, 2021.
- Due **May 3rd, 2021**.
- Presentation "as-if" we meet in-person.

# Syllabus Review

## COVID-19

- Stay safe, your health is priority number 1.
- University protocols - good for everyday routine.

## Communication

- 1 Ask anything - email me whenever you need my help.
  - 2 Office hours are for you - use it...
  - 3 Email response within 24 hours.
  - 4 Weekends: no email responses (unless urgent)
- Canvas - course material, grades, attendance.
  - Course website - soon.

# Theories of IR

## What is IR? (Poast 2020)

- How to understand events in the international system.
- IR angle: general view, implications for others.
- What is the event an example of?
- Domestic political ramifications.
- Other angles?

## Course Topics: A Bird's eye view

- 1 Theory construction in general and IR.
- 2 Material theories of IR (Realism, Neorealism).
- 3 Liberalism and domestic politics.
- 4 Other theories: rationalism, constructivism.
- 5 Political psychology and leaders.
- 6 International political economy.
- 7 International Institutions.
- 8 Democratic peace and audience costs theory.
- 9 International conflict - reputation, deterrence, coercion,
- 10 Territorial disputes.
- 11 International Terrorism.
- 12 Modern warfare and covert action.

# Synchronize lectures



# Take-Home Quizzes

- More grading opportunities.
- Syllabus readings for the following week.
- Open-ended and multiple choice questions.
- Topics:
  - 1 Domestic politics and IR (week 4).
  - 2 Political psychology (week 6).
  - 3 Terrorism (week 13).