

# World Politics and International Relations

## Background Reading for Newly Admitted Students

### A. Background reading in International Relations (IR)

It was not an official requirement for admission to this degree course that students already have some knowledge in the specific interdisciplinary field of international relations. However, if your previous studies did not include this field, you should make an effort, before embarking on this advanced degree course, to acquire some background knowledge of the various theories in IR, such as “realism”, “liberalism”, and “constructivism”. A basic knowledge of these theories is important as a starting point both for the historical and political courses and for the methodological course on explanatory models.

The following readings are available in the library of the Department of Political and Social Sciences. Given the demand for them, they are mostly not available for borrowing (the term used in the library is: *esclusi dal prestito*), but can be asked for at the desk for photocopying (they are normally kept behind the library desk under the name “Carter”). If you have the financial means to buy one or more of these works, you are encouraged to do so.

#### On realism in IR:

1. Wohlfort, W.C. (2008), “Realism”, in C. Reus-Smit, D. Snidal (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford UP.  
Dunne, T., Schmidt, B.C. (2010), “Realism”, in J. Baylis, S. Smith, P. Owens (eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

or else:

Jackson, R., Sorensen, G. (2010), “Realism”, Chapter 3 in R. Jackson, G. Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations. Theories and Approaches, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

2. Mearsheimer, J.J. (2010), “Structural Realism”, in T. Dunne, M. Kurki, S. Smith (eds.), *International Relations Theories. Discipline and Diversity, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.
3. (also proposed under Liberalism, n. 2): Lamy, S.L. (2010), “Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism”, in J. Baylis, S. Smith, P. Owens (eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

#### On liberalism in IR:

1. Jackson, R., Sorensen, G. (2010), “Liberalism”, Chapter 4 in R. Jackson, G. Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations. Theories and Approaches, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.  
Dunne, T. (2010), Liberalism, in J. Baylis, S. Smith, P. Owens (eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

or else:

Stein, A.A. (2008), "Neoliberal Institutionalism", in C. Reus-Smit, D. Snidal (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

Moravcsik, A. (2008), "The New Liberalism", in C. Reus-Smit, D. Snidal (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

or else:

Russett, B. (2010), "Liberalism", in T. Dunne, M. Kurki, S. Smith (eds.), *International Relations Theories. Discipline and Diversity, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

Sterling-Folker, J. (2010), "Neoliberalism", in T. Dunne, M. Kurki, S. Smith (eds.), *International Relations Theories. Discipline and Diversity, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

2. (also proposed under Constructivism, n. 3): Lamy, S.L. (2010), "Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism", in J. Baylis, S. Smith, P. Owens (eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

### **On constructivism in IR:**

1. Jackson, R., Sorensen, G. (2010), "Social Constructivism", Chapter 6, in R. Jackson, G. Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations. Theories and Approaches, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.  
Barnett, M. (2010), "Social Constructivism", in J. Baylis, S. Smith, P. Owens (eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

or else:

Hurd, I. (2008) "Constructivism", in C. Reus-Smit, D. Snidal (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

Fierke, K.M. (2010), "Constructivism", in T. Dunne, M. Kurki, S. Smith (eds.), *International Relations Theories. Discipline and Diversity, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Oxford, Oxford UP.

## **B. Background reading in specific disciplines**

The degree course in World Politics and International Relations is multidisciplinary, embracing most of the disciplines included within "Political sciences" in the Italian tradition. If your undergraduate studies were less multidisciplinary, you are likely to find that you lack certain basic notions in one or another specific discipline – basic notions that are essential to make headway in the relevant courses. In particular, if you have gained little or no university experience in an entire discipline – such as politics or history or law – we strongly recommend that you begin consulting the relevant volumes (listed below) well before the beginning of the degree course.

### **On comparative politics:**

R. Hague and M. Harrop, *Comparative Politics and Government. An Introduction*, McGraw-Hill, 2010.

or:

G. Peters, *Comparative Politics*, Macmillan, 1998.

**On history of government:**

Michael Mann *The Sources of Social Power, Volume 2 , The Rise of Classes and Nation States 1760–1914*, Cambridge University Press, 1993, Chapters 13 and 14.

**On political economy:**

N. Gregory Mankiw [2011], *Principles of Economics*, 6th edition, South Western.

**On international law:**

V. Lowe, *International Law*, Oxford University Press, 2007, Chs 2, 3, 4, 5.

A. Clapham, *Human Rights. A very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Chs 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8.

In addition, the following audio-lectures, available on internet, are recommended:

- Judge Christopher Greenwood, The Sources of International Law:

[http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Greenwood\\_IL\\_video\\_2.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Greenwood_IL_video_2.html)

- Judge Thomas Buergenthal, A Brief History of International Human Rights Law:

[http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Buergenthal\\_HR\\_video\\_1.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Buergenthal_HR_video_1.html)

- Mr. Kevin Riordan, Basic Ideas about International Criminal Law:

[http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Riordan\\_CLP\\_video\\_1.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Riordan_CLP_video_1.html)

**On philosophy of the social sciences:**

D. Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation*, Westview Press, 1991.

or:

A. Rosenberg, *Philosophy of Social Science (various editions from 2nd to 4th)*, Westview Press, 1995.

or:

M. Hollis, *The Philosophy of Social Science*, Cambridge University Press, 1994.

The brief course descriptions in the WPIR website include, in most cases, more specific preparatory reading (which may or may not overlap with the above list of basic readings). Please consult the WPIR website for details.

These preparatory readings are distinct from the *course readings* listed in an individual course syllabus, and which students are normally required to read *during the course*. The *course readings* form the basis of presentations and/or discussions in class, of any relevant written assignments, and of the final exam. Whatever your level of preparation prior to the beginning of classes, the course readings are an *essential* part of the degree course.