CRITICAL APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COURSE PRESENTATION

This 18 hour course explores the critical approaches to international relations. Several labels or adjectives have been proposed in order to describe this constellation of works: post-positivist, feminist, post-colonial, neo-Marxist, radical... In spite of their differences, these approaches share a critical stance on the positivist pretention to produce value-free scholarship, and the hope that new perspectives may help to disclose the current relations of domination that structure world politics. The course does not purport to exhaust the numerous varieties of critical international relations theories. Such an ambition would appear all the more overweening as critical thinking on international relations has not only emerged in the field of international relations but also found some stimulating formulations in other disciplines such as history, law, anthropology, linguistics, and philosophy... Rather, this course introduces to some works produced in these fields with a particular focus on four critical approaches to international relations: the (neo)-Marxist, the postcolonial, the feminist, and the “post-structuralist” approaches (those which try to bridge the gap between the three others).

MOODLE AND EMAIL

The powerpoints presentations are downloadable on moodle (cours d’ouverture)

Code: CAIR

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EXAMINATION

Sciences Po Master Students and BIRD studens: one hour written exam in January (short dissertation on a random topic). You can write the dissertation either in French or in English.
Exchange students: 20 minute oral examination with the professor. Students have 30 minutes in order to prepare a 10 minute presentation on a random topic. After the presentation the professor asks questions during 10 minutes. The exam will take place in December.

English track students willing to double their ECTS credits have to write a book review on a book of the bibliography. The book review must have the following form. First, the student summarizes the book (2 pages). Then, he/she comments on the book by explaining its interest and limitations.

PROGRAMME

Session 1/ September 30th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): Introduction (1/2)

Session 2/ October 7th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): Introduction (2/2)

Session 3/ October 14th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): The Marxist Approaches to International Relations (1/2)


Session 4/ October 21st, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): The Marxist Approaches to International Relations (2/2)

Session 5/ October 23rd, 15.00-16.30 (Veil): The Post-Colonial Approaches to International Relations (1/2)


Session 6/ November 4th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): The Post-Colonial Approaches to International Relations (2/2)

Session 7/ November 13th, 15.00-16.30 (Siegfried): The Feminist Approaches to International Relations (1/2)

Session 8/ November 18th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): The Feminist Approaches to International Relations (2/2)

Session 9/ November 25th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): The Post-structuralist Approaches to International Relations (1/3)


Session 10/ December 2nd, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): The Post-structuralist Approaches to International Relations (2/3)

Session 11/ December 9th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): The Post-structuralist Approaches to International Relations (3/3)

Session 12/ December 15th, 15.00-16.30 (amphi A): Criticizing the Critical Approaches to International Relations (1/1)


**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Benjamin, W., 1921. Zur Kritik der Gewalt.


