

International Relations (214) Tutorial Guidelines

Max Smeets
Max.Smeets@sjc.ox.ac.uk
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Schedule:

- Week 1: Topic 1: Competing Approaches to the Study of International Relations.
- Week 2: Topic 1a: Power Politics
- Week 3: Topic 1b: International Society, Law and Order
- Week 4: Topic 2 Int Cooperation and the world economy
- Week 5: Topic 2a: Explaining Economic Integration
- Week 6: Topic 2b: Globalization
- Week 7: Topic 3: Global Governance and Security
- Week 8: Topic 3a International Organizations and International Security / Topic 3c: Humanitarian Intervention

We have 8 tutorials, but there are 12 topics on the list (3 core topics and 9 subsidiary topics).

I dropped the following 2 topics:

- a) Global inequalities Topic 2c
- b) Identity and culture in International Security Topic 3b

Reading:

- You'll have to do a lot of reading to succeed on this course.
- To place a priority in engaging in extensive reading, there might be weeks that I'll allow you to write an essay plan instead (which also requires citation, and will be marked).
- To help you out, we'll go through the reading list together at the end of each tutorial (so you know which chapters are particularly important etc.)
- To search out additional readings have a look at the departmental reading list (available on Weblearn)
- Make notes (obviously): about a page per chapter.
- The topics on the reading list are interrelated, so try to connect readings from other weeks.

Essays:

- +/- 2000 words, with citations (preferably footnotes).
- Please take the time to proofread your essays to catch spelling and grammar errors.
- I'll not ask you to read out your essays in tutorials (I think it is a waste of time)
- You must e-mail your essay to me and your tutorial partner(s) by 6pm the day before the tutorial.
- You must read the tutorial partner's essay before the tutorial.
- I will normally pidge your marked essays with feedback the day after the tutorial (2 days at the latest).
- You will get feedback on the following points:
 - Has the question been answered in the introduction?
 - Have unclear elements in the question been defined?
 - Is there a logical structure to the essay and argument that is clearly set out in a 'road map'?
 - Is the argument balanced? Do you engage with counterarguments?

- Does the argument reflect sufficient reading and engagement with the relevant literature?
- What evidence is supplied to support the argument?
- Is the argument original?
- Does the conclusion wrap up the argument into a coherent whole?

Lectures:

- Don't miss them.

Other / advice:

- Good essays do not only require a critical engagement with the literature, but also the use of historical examples. Although the course places particular emphasis on post-1990 events, it might be good to make a detailed timeline of events since WWI.
- Follow the news. Download news apps on your phone, read articles in The Economist (I'm not a big TIME magazine fan), and put NYT, Al Jazeera or BBC as your home page.
- For Facebook procrastinators: You may want to 'like' all the major newspapers and think tank pages (CFR, Brookings, New America, Carnegie, Chatham House, RUSI, IISS, CSIS) on Facebook and 'unfollow' all your uninteresting friends so you'll come across some interesting articles while scrolling down your newsfeed.
- For any questions please feel free to shoot me an email: Max.Smeets@sjc.ox.ac.uk
- and GET IN TOUCH WITH ME IF YOU STRUGGLE DUE TO EXCESSIVE WORKLOADS OR OTHER PROBLEMS.