



Debate Chamber
8a Woodstock Road
Oxford OX2 6HT
Tel: 01865 515030
Email : info@debatechamber.com
www.debatechamber.com

International Relations Summer School 2010

18th-20th August • University of London Union

Wednesday 18th August

DAY ONE: 'Through The Looking Glass' – Perspectives on International Relations

10.00 – 10.30 Registration

10.30 – 10.45 Welcome and introduction to the course

10.45 – 11.35 Lecture and seminar: *Theories of International Relations*

And introduction to the nature of International Relations and how it is studied. An overview of the four principle theories of international relations (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and Marxism/Structuralism), provides students with the conceptual tools to draw their own conclusions about international politics, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the different theories.

11.35 – 11.45 Break

11.45 – 13.15 Case study: *The Lebanon War*

Students use the 2006 war to test the four theories of IR and try approaching problems of analysing international events for themselves. They will be challenged to generate explanations of the conflict, the behaviour of the key actors involved, and what the war tells us about international politics.

13.15 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 14.30 Lecture: *Models of World Power*

This lecture introduces students to three modern controversies over how to visualize the world system in terms of power: the question of hegemony and imperialism; Samuel Huntington's 'clash of civilizations' model; and 'globalisation' theories which stress the importance of international organisations, corporations, cultural influences and communications networks.

14.30 – 16.30 Seminar: *The Post-9/11 World*

Students will apply their knowledge of different views of international relations to the present world environment. They will be challenged to interpret the causes of the attacks on the World Trade Center, what effect they had on the international environment, and what these attacks said about the nature of world politics. In particular, they will be asked to analyse the war in Iraq and what this tells us about different theories of international relations, and models of power in world affairs.



Debate Chamber
8a Woodstock Road
Oxford OX2 6HT
Tel: 01865 515030
Email : info@debatechamber.com
www.debatechamber.com

Thursday 19th August

DAY TWO: 'One Step Forward, Two Steps Back' – Theories of Global Development

10.30 – 11.30 Seminar: *Dimensions of Democracy*

Tutor-led discussion on the three central issues relating to democracy in international relations. What causes democracy to emerge? What are the problems with the transition to democracy? Does the spread of democracy promote peace? Students will engage with core International Relations theories including Transition Theory and Democratic Peace Theory.

11.30 – 13.30 Debate: *Is Democracy Promotion Good?*

Split into groups, students will participate in a formal debate over the various ways in which states promote democracy – from funding opposition movements to outright military intervention.

13.30 – 14.15 Lunch Break

14.15 – 14.30 Lecture: *World Systems Theory*

World System Theory posits that the world can be divided into a number of 'core' countries, which dominate international power and the flow of international resources, and a much poorer 'periphery', which is excluded and exploited by the core. Students will be introduced to these ideas for critical examination later in the day.

14.30 – 14.45 Lecture: *Development Theory*

This lecture provides an introduction to the theory of development studies, including concepts on the explanation of underdevelopment, how state development is best encouraged, and the international agencies involved in the development process. Students will be introduced to examples of the successes and failures of different development projects.

14.45 – 15.00 Break

15.15 – 16.30 Seminar: *The Bottom Billion: explaining development and politics*

In this seminar, students will engage in a discussion of the issues that have been introduced over the afternoon, critically examining the strengths and weaknesses of both World System Theory and different models of development. Students will be challenged to assess explanations for the underdevelopment of different regions of the world, and the methods that can be used to tackle this underdevelopment – as well as helped to develop their own ideas on these subjects.



Debate Chamber
8a Woodstock Road
Oxford OX2 6HT
Tel: 01865 515030
Email : info@debatechamber.com
www.debatechamber.com

Friday 20th August

DAY THREE: 'The Point Is To Change It' – Problems and Solutions in World Politics

10.30 – 11.30 Seminar: *Organisations of Global Governance*

Students will be introduced to the various organisations that, some theorists claim, demonstrate that nation states have been transcended by global governance: the UN, the WTO, the IMF and others. Students will be challenged on the effectiveness and legitimacy of these organisations, and engage in a discussion on their functions and uses.

11.30 – 11.45 Lecture: *Military Intervention in World Politics*

This lecture will introduce students to the problem of military intervention in world politics, the demand for it, the difficulties in carrying it out, and the various actors (the UN, regional organisations, alliances and individual states) that may carry it out. The varying record of success and failure of these methods will also be described.

11.45 – 12.00 Break

12.00 – 13.15 Case study: *Intervention in practice: Somalia and Sierra Leone*

Students will engage in a case study of two distinct interventions, that in Somalia by the United Nations in the early 1990s, and that by the United Kingdom in Sierra Leone in 2000. Students will compare the objectives of the two interventions, the degree to which they succeeded, and the reasons for their successes and/or failures. In doing so, students will be encouraged to frame their own ideas in response to the complex issues which surround intervention.

14.00 – 14.15 Lecture: *The End of the 'End of History': ethnic violence in global conflict*

This lecture details the return of academic focus to the problem of ethnic violence in global conflicts. Since the end of the cold war, ethnic violence has played an increasingly central role in inter-state and intra-state conflict – why is this so? How does ethnicity become an issue powerful enough to provoke bloodshed, and what are the consequences of it doing so?

14.15 – 15.15 Seminar: *The International Relations of Regional Politics*

This seminar will introduce students to the international relations of specific regions of world politics, such as Central Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. The class will divide into groups, with each group led by a tutor specialised in a certain global region. Students will be introduced to the question of how far regional political issues matter to international relations, the concept of regional hegemony, and the specific political issues of relevance in the particular region they are studying.

15.15 – 16.15 Debate: *Should the USA be the World's Policeman?*

Pulling together on all the issues discussed in the day, and in the Summer School as a whole, students will engage in a formal debate on whether the United States of America should act as a world policeman. Split into teams, for and against, they will have to grapple with the problems of intervention, the demand for intervention possibly presented by ethnic violence, and the issues of regional politics, in assessing the degree to which American intervention and enforcement in world affairs is a good thing. They will be encouraged to frame their arguments using all that they have learnt over the summer school, including considerations of U.S. power, theories of international relations, considerations of democracy and how states develop.

16.15 – 16.30 Round up and certificates