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# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUMMER SCHOOL 2012

## Day 1:

10.30 – 10.45: Welcome and Introduction

10.45 – 11.30: Lecture and Seminar on Theories of International Relations

*The theories of international relations provide us with ways of understanding the actions of states in international politics. We will be exploring the four most prominent theories of IR – realism, liberalism, constructivism and Marxism, asking how they explain state behaviour, international organizations and the continued presence of war in the international system.*

11.30 – 1.00: Case Study – The Israel-Hizballah War of 2006

*We will put these four theories to the test using a case study of the Israel-Hizballah War. Using detailed background information and briefings, students will make their own assessments of which of the theories best helps us to understand the events of 2006.*

1.00– 1.45: Lunch

1.45 – 3.00: Key Security Issues in International Relations

*This afternoon begins with seminars on two of the most important issues in international affairs – terrorism and nuclear proliferation. Since September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, terrorism has been at the forefront of the minds of policymakers and has had a massive impact on global politics. Yet the causes of terrorism are still widely disputed. We will be examining the explanations offered for the prevalence of terrorism. The second issue for discussion is nuclear proliferation – the possibility of a nuclear-armed Iran and North Korea is seen by many, if not most, to be a fundamental threat to the security of western nations. We will examine North Korean and Iranian attempts to build nuclear weapons and the attempts of the international community to bring them back into the fold.*

3.00 – 4.30: How to Deal With Problems in International Relations

*In this session, students will be asked to put themselves in the position of a national government attempting to respond to security concerns. We will be examining what different theories of international relations would propose as solutions, and, based on case study information, students will have to decide which approach is best taken to combat terrorism and nuclear proliferation.*



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## Day 2:

### 10.30 – 11.00: Key International Institutions

*The influence of international institutions on our life is extremely widespread, yet the profile of the organizations is often so low that we do not understand how pervasive their impacts are. We will examine the role and policies of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, NATO, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the international regime.*

### 11.00 – 12.00: Case Study: The Role and Influence of the United Nations

*Perhaps the most important international organization is the United Nations – tasked with maintaining world peace and security. We will study the structure of the United Nations, and ask to what extent it is able to influence world affairs.*

### 12.00 – 1.00: Seminar and Debate: The Case for Global Governance

*In this session, students will take part in a debate about the benefits and problems of global governance, ask to what extent our lives are impacted by organizations of global governance and whether moves to increase global governance are an unjustified infringement of sovereignty or a move towards global justice. Students will take part in a debate on whether global governance should be extended or whether it currently reaches too far.*

### 1.00 – 1.45: Lunch

### 1.45 – 2.30: Climate Change: Potential Causes of Conflict

*We will look at the likely causes of international tension resulting from expected climate change: fresh water shortages, flooding, refugee flows and desertification. This introductory session will focus on the predicted global climate related flashpoints in the next two decades.*

### 2.30 – 3.30: Climate Change: Is Prevention Possible?

*This session will examine past and current efforts to limit the impact of climate change. To what extent have they succeeded, and what are the main stumbling blocks to progress? Does it matter that countries like Canada have chosen to withdraw from the Kyoto agreement? What are the prospects for future climate summits?*

### 3.30 – 4.30 Climate Change: Managing the Impact

*Case study based on the likely impact of climate change in one of the most heavily impacted regions of the world, the Indian Subcontinent. In this exercise students will take on the roles of regional and international players and attempt to build an international*



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*consensus on how to deal with some of the most serious consequences of these developments.*

**Day 3:**

10.30 – 11.15: China: A Brief History of China in International Relations

*A whistlestop tour through China's interactions with the global community from the Opium Wars up to the present day.*

11.15 – 12.15: China's Financial Power

*China has followed a very distinctive development path over the past three decades, accumulating vast reserves of foreign currency, largely in dollar denominated debt issued by the US government. Some scholars of IR believe that these currency holdings will fundamentally alter the balance of power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, limiting America's ability to act and giving China a far greater role in international affairs. Others would say that the enduring and overwhelming supremacy of American military might will continue to be the deciding factor. In this session we will examine exactly how much is known about China's financial clout and how it might be used.*

12.15 – 1.00: China and Africa

*In recent years China has developed strong relations with several resource rich African countries, providing aid and development assistance and investing heavily through Chinese state owned companies. This session will examine several case studies which will highlight issues of resource control, aid policy and political impact.*

1.00– 1.45 Lunch

1.45 – 2.45: China's Regional Sphere of Influence

*China regards south east Asia as its 'backyard' and exerts a strong influence over regimes in the area. This session will focus on China's role in Burma, as that country moves slowly towards democratic reform, and in North Korea, as the leadership changes there settle in.*

2.45 – 3.45: China and Taiwan

*One of the main points of tension between China and the US, the status of Taiwan is a difficult and complex issue. We will look at recent developments, the tricky legal status of Taiwan on the international stage, and the range of possible long term outcomes of the situation, which range from unification to independence.*

3.45 – 4.30: A look ahead to China's Presidential 'Election'

*At the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party in October 2012 it is widely expected that Xi Jinping will replace Hu Jintao as Chinese President. This session will take a brief look at that process and its likely consequences for Chinese foreign relations.*



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#### **Day 4:**

10.30 – 10.50: Introduction to International Law

10.50 - 11.20: History and Development of International Law

*International law has been evolving gradually for many centuries, and we will begin by looking at some of the key points in its development – 1648 and the Peace of Westphalia, 1815 and the Congress of Vienna and the two major attempts to create world order in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – the establishment of the League of Nations and the United Nations.*

11.20 – 11.50: International Law and the Modern World Order

*The end of the Cold War changed the international landscape dramatically. We will be assessing the impact of the fall of the USSR on international law, and how the doctrine of humanitarian intervention developed in the 1990s.*

11.50 – 12.20: International Law Success Stories

*While the failure of international law to stop states from going to war is often highlighted, its success stories are less well known. We will examine some of its accomplishments, including the reduction of trade barriers, preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and regulating states' behaviour in outer space.*

12.20 – 12.45: Sources of International Law

*In this session, we will conduct a brief survey of the role of treaties, international organizations, courts, tribunals, conventions and customary international law in the development of an international legal regime.*

12.45 – 1.30: Lunch

1.45 – 2.15: Military Intervention: America's Strategy

*President Obama came to power promising a radical departure from the policies of his predecessor, and has made a number of attempts to repair the USA's relations with other areas of the world. We will be examining how much the USA's foreign policy has changed, whether the change is greater at the level of policy goals or merely in the policy tools used and which theory of IR can best explain Obama's foreign policy.*

2.15 – 4.30: Democracy and Intervention

*When Prime Minister Tony Blair claimed that one of the most important and difficult issues of our time was the question of when it was legitimate to intervene in other states. Democratic Peace Theory claims that democracies are less likely to go to war with one another – we will ask whether the appropriate conclusion to draw from this is that democratic nations should impose democracy in other countries. Using case studies of*



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*Rwanda, Kosovo and Libya, we will also examine when it is legal and legitimate to intervene in other states in the name of human rights.*

**Day 5:**

10.30 – 11.30: International Aid

*In Britain the government is committed to raising the aid budget to 0.7% of GDP by 2013. This means that, unlike most other government departments the budget is protected from public sector cuts, which has proved hugely controversial. In this session we will examine how the British Aid budget is spent and debate what level of foreign aid is appropriate.*

11.30 – 1.00: International Aid Policy Debate

*It has been suggested that international development aid functions as an 'anti-politics machine', suppressing political debate and democratic decision making in the recipient state in favour of internationally agreed priorities and norms. We will explore this idea using key texts and case studies.*

1.00-1.45: Lunch

1.45 – 4.30 Current Issues

*In this final session we will look at some up to date International Relations issues making the news in August 2012!*