



## Course Outline

Course number	RBA203					
Course title	Theory of International Relations					
Credit points	6 ECTS (4 LV KP)					
Total hours	160					
Contact hours	64					
Independent studies	96					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	none					
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective	X	Free elective	

### COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Toms Rostoks ( <a href="mailto:toms.rostoks@lu.lv">toms.rostoks@lu.lv</a> )	PhD	Visiting Associate Professor

### COURSE TEACHERS

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Toms Rostoks ( <a href="mailto:toms.rostoks@lu.lv">toms.rostoks@lu.lv</a> )	PhD	Visiting Associate Professor
Kate Kanasta ( <a href="mailto:kate.kanasta@gmail.com">kate.kanasta@gmail.com</a> )	MA	Visiting Lecturer

### COURSE ABSTRACT

The course starts with the introduction to the evolution of International Relations as a separate field of study. The first part of the course introduces students to academic research and writing in international relations. It is followed by an analysis of the most relevant IR theoretical schools – Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Economic structuralism, Feminism, Poststructuralism, and Normative IR theories. The course also looks at concepts such as the balance of power, security, and foreign policy. Lectures are followed by discussions based on an analysis of current events. At the end of the course, students present their research papers.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
<b>Class participation.</b> Students should attend no less than 70% of all classes. Students are expected to actively participate in seminars by discussing the seminar readings. Mandatory readings must be done before every class. In case students fail to meet attendance requirements, they are not admitted to the final exam.	10%
<b>Mid-term exam</b> (closed book exam)	25%
<b>Course paper:</b> The length of the paper is expected to be approximately 14-16 pages. The research paper has to be submitted both in paper and by e-mail to the course instructor no later than 4 days before the presentation. The research paper should be written in a group of 2 or 3 students. A written concept of the research paper should be submitted by e-mail in a form of a Word document by 13 January 2023. The concept should contain the title of the research paper, a list of group members, a research question, a brief description of theoretical and empirical parts of the paper, and a list of main sources of literature.	20%
<b>Two individual written essays:</b> More detailed description of written essays is included in the course plan. If individual written assignments are not submitted by the specified deadline through the RGSL Portal, this will result in a partial loss of the final grade.	20%
<b>Final exam</b> (Closed book exam)	25%

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As described in the previous section.

## COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Theorizing international relations	20
2	Main theories of international relations	20
3	Security and foreign policy	10
4	World politics – current affairs	14