

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES)

THEORIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: HOW WE EXPLAIN WHAT IS HAPPENING

1st lesson

EFOP-3.6.2-16-2017-00007

SZÉCHENYI 



HUNGARIAN
GOVERNMENT

European Union
European Social
Fund



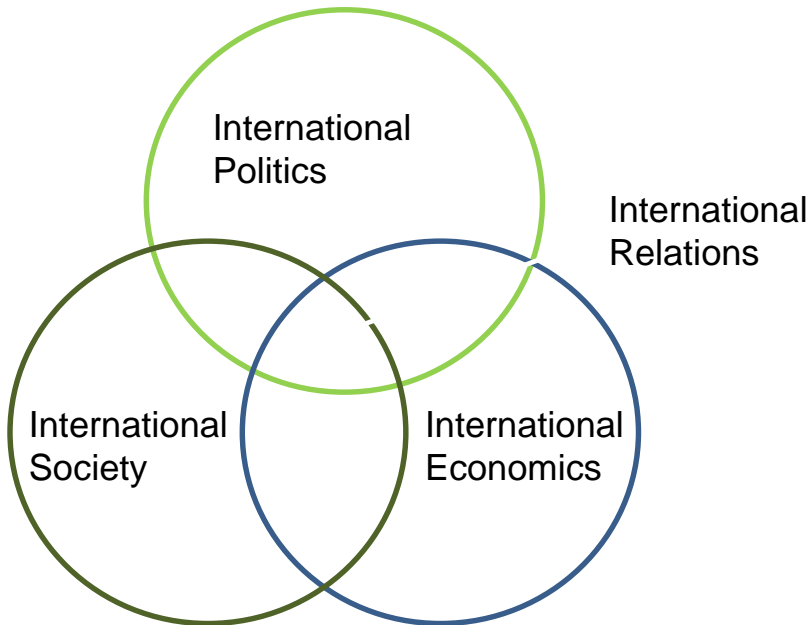
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

LEARNING GUIDE

- Lesson length: 7 slides
- Content:
 - What is International Relations?
 - What can we learn here?
 - Why should we study IR?
 - What is our standpoint here?
- Recommended minimum duration for review: 30 minutes
- Suggested minimum time for learning: 1 hour
- The learning of the curriculum is aided by a course book and self-assessment questions.
- Recommended minimum duration of this full lesson: 2 hours

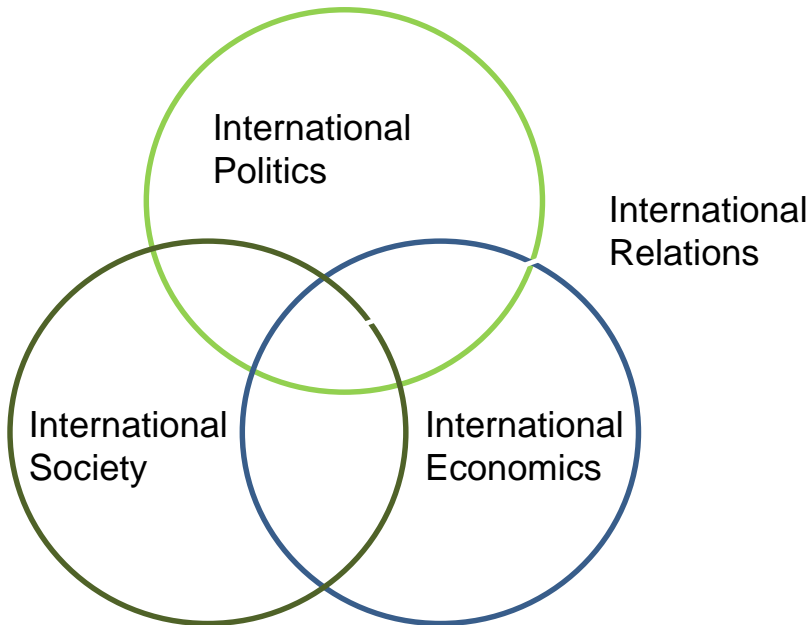


WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?



- IR is the study of:
 - Relations among sovereign states.
 - Intergovernmental relations.
 - Analysis of foreign policy.
 - Contacts and interactions between nations (such as wars, alliances, diplomatic relations).

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR)?



- IR is the study of:
 - Cultural relations are also analysed (included in this are economic, ethnic, racial, gender and religious ties).
 - Different interactions through various political lenses (liberalism, realism, post structuralism, etc.).

WHAT CAN WE LEARN HERE?

- Origins of the nation-state (where states came from).
- Different political theories and views on the world/globalisation, etc.
- Practical applications - looking at globalisation in relation to: poverty, development, contemporary issues, war, terrorism, economic globalisation as well as discussions on where to from here and the issues that certain societies have had to face due to globalisation.

WHY SHOULD WE STUDY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?

- The world is ever changing, so we need to understand and comprehend why this is in fact happening.
- Help understand our role in the world and how we can change it.
- Understand how the world in turn affects us.
- Help understand and evaluate different policy decisions (and again analyse how these in turn affect us). .
- Understand the international system through a variety of lenses to give us a better understanding of how different nations look at the country.

REMEMBER!

- Theories do all kinds of things - **construct the truth, act as paradigms for explanation, emphasise different facts** - indeed see the world totally differently based on the kinds of things we focus on.
- Should we be looking at companies, nation-states, the legal structure, the global political economy, gender, or class relations as the primary analytical starting point for Global politics/International Relations?

WHAT IS OUR STANDPOINT HERE?

- Our examination of the development of contemporary International Relations has focused on how core concepts of international relations have emerged and evolved over time, most notably the state, sovereignty, the nation, and the international system.
- These concepts provide the building blocks for contemporary International Relations.

THE STANDPOINT DECIDES MANY THINGS

Whether the world develops into a multipolar, unipolar, or bipolar system depends in part on by looking to the trends of the past and how they influence contemporary thinking.

Suggestion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVCDnUZqLzU>

ABOUT THIS LESSON

The images used in the curriculum can be found online and are freely accessible.

The curriculum is for educational purposes only.

Compulsory and recommended literature sources for the given course were used as sources for the lesson.

This teaching material has been made at the University of Szeged, and supported by the European Union by the project nr. EFOP-3.6.2-16-2017-00007, titled Aspects on the development of intelligent, sustainable and inclusive society: social, technological, innovation networks in employment and digital economy. The project has been supported by the European Union, co-financed by the European Social Fund and the budget of Hungary.



HUNGARIAN
GOVERNMENT

European Union
European Social
Fund



INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE