Concepts of World Order

PD Dr. Ulrich Franke
Monday 16-18, online via WebEx (https://uni-erfurt.webex.com/meet/ulrich.franke)
B InB 2014 SVInB#01+#04 (3/6 LP); B Sta 2012 SVIntB#01+#04 (3/6 LP)

Those who talk about politics beyond the nation state cannot remain silent about concepts of world order. Accordingly, it is not surprising that scholars of global politics recently discuss world order lively and will continue doing so for a while. Consequently, we will look for similarities and differences among various world order concepts. We will not only examine concepts that are quite prominent today but also older concepts, from the 19th and 20th centuries at least. In doing so, we will limit ourselves to socio-scientific concepts of world order; ideas from political practice only play a marginal role in this seminar. Central questions could be as follows. How is world order conceived? What brings it about, what does it achieve? Who contributes to world order, and how does this take place? It remains to be seen whether we will be able to bring order into the wealth of concepts in this way. A systematic overview, however, is what we are striving for.

Course aims
Participants will acquire the competence...
- to distinguish basic assumptions, key concepts, and the cognitive interest of different approaches to world order;
- to recognize similarities and differences between approaches to world order;
- to meaningfully discuss strengths and weaknesses of concepts of world order;
- to critically reflect the concepts’ normative underpinnings and implications;
- to work independently with approaches to world order from International Relations (IR);
- to look for, read, excerpt, and produce a coherent essay out of academic sources;
- to take and defend a position;
- to fairly criticize the positions held by others;
- to study and perform self-motivatedly.

Contact
Office hours: Thursday, 10:15-11:45 (please register via <https://terminplaner4.dfn.de/8jO22BbcEyBZe1aV>)
Location: LG1 0036 → via telephone or WebEx
Email: ulrich.franke@uni-erfurt.de

Assignment
Qualifizierter Teilnahmeschein (3 credits or ‘Leistungspunkte’):
- preparation of sessions;
- active participation;
- 1 essay (in English) of 6 pages (text only) dealing with (at least) 5 academic sources (including 3 of the basic readings – see below); at the very latest, the essay is to be submitted via email one minute before that session will start in which we will discuss the third of the 3 included basic readings;
- participants are strongly encouraged to write an essay together; for two authors, the requirements are: 10 pages (text only); 9 academic sources (including 5 of the basic readings – see below); at the very latest, the essay is to be submitted via email one minute before that session will start in which we will discuss the fifth of the 5 included basic readings.
Modulprüfung (6 credits or ‘Leistungspunkte’):
- preparation of sessions;
- active participation;
- 2 essays (in English) of 6 pages each (text only) dealing with (at least) 5 academic sources (including 3 of the basic readings – see below); at the very latest, each essay is to be submitted via email one minute before that session will start in which we will discuss the third of the 3 included basic readings;
- participants are strongly encouraged to write their essays together; for two authors, the requirements are: 10 pages (text only); 9 academic sources (incl. 5 of the basic readings – see below); at the very latest, each essay is to be submitted via email one minute before that session will start in which we will discuss the fifth of the 5 included basic readings.

Readings
Like this syllabus, the readings are available on the University’s e-learning platform moodle.

Overview
Part I: Introduction
#01 (4 May), Introduction, general overview, and assignments: how we will proceed
Part II: Realist, Liberal, and Post-Structuralist Accounts of World Order
#02 (11 May), A realist account of world order
#03 (18 May), A liberal account of world order
#04 (25 May), Post-structuralist accounts of world order
#05 (1 June), no session taking place (holiday: Pentecost)
#06 (8 June), A multiplex world order?
Part III: The role of China and Europe
#07 (15 June), Rising powers: the role of China
#08 (22 June), A post-western Europe?
Part IV: The role of economic forces
#09 (29 June), Globalisation and fragmentation as new anarchy?
#10 (6 July), Neoliberal hegemony in a post-aid world?
Part V: Conclusion
#11 (13 July), Summary and outlook

Detailed Reading List
Part I: Introduction
#01, Introduction, general overview, and assignments: how we will proceed

Part II: Realist, Liberal, and Post-Structuralist Accounts of World Order
#02, A realist account of world order

#03, A liberal account of world order

#04, Post-structuralist accounts of world order
Renner, Judith/Spencer, Alexander 2018: Trump, Brexit & “Post-Truth”: How Post-Structuralist IR Theories can help

#05, no session taking place (holiday: Pentecost)

#06, A multiplex world order?


Part III: The role of China and Europe

#07, Rising powers: the role of China

Tang, Shiping 2018: China and the Future International Order(s), Ethics & International Affairs 32: 1, 31-43.

#08, A post-western Europe?

Waever, Ole 2018: A Post-Western Europe: Strange Identities in a Less Liberal World Order, Ethics & International Affairs 32: 1, 75-88.

Part IV: The role of economic forces

#09, Globalisation and fragmentation as new anarchy?


#10, Neoliberal hegemony in a post-aid world?


Part V: Conclusion

#11, Summary and outlook

Further Readings:

Overview


Realism

English School

Liberalism

Realist Theory of History

Geopolitics

Critical Geopolitics (incl. Non-Western Approaches)

Marxism

Moderate Constructivism

Post-Structuralism