STV 9042 – Checkel's Assessment: 17.01.25

Overall, the seminar worked very well. I asked a lot of the students – reading load, response memos, discussion questions – and all delivered. Over the course of the five days, we developed an exceptionally good/positive learning environment, where the students and professor debated, disagreed and learned from each other.

In terms of the syllabus, it worked in providing students with a good, plural, state-of-the-art overview of contemporary IR theory. However, if taught again, I would expand the readings for two sessions – that on experimental IR; and the session on China and non-western/global IR. These changes are based on feedback from the students who just took the course.

On pedagogy, the seminar/debate format worked nicely. In this regard, having the students prepare written discussion questions was key in 'priming' them to participate actively. The one-on-one meetings (Wednesday morning) also worked as they got the students to think about their paper assignment at an operational/practical level.

The administration of the course worked quite well. Thank you, Mari!

The students clearly very much benefitted from and liked the seminar, as reflected in the pedagogical assessment they filled in at the end of the course. (Mari has a copy of the assessment.)