

Theories of International Politics

Course Rationale

1. This course introduces graduate students to important theoretical perspectives in the study of international relations. It covers the works that address major theoretical paradigms, including Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Marxism, and the English School. It also puts light on some other perspectives such as International Political Economy, International Historical Sociology, Critical Theory, Poststructuralism, and non-Western International Relations Theory. It overall discusses intellectual history as well as cutting-edge contributions to the field.

Educational Objectives

2. The course is designed to introduce students to the major theoretical and conceptual traditions of international relations as a way to make sense of the complex issues, developments and events constituting the international. The key objective of the course is to introduce students to the most significant orthodox and critical theoretical approaches within international relations. A critical assessment will be made of the principal propositions and arguments of the theories drawn from the diverse traditions of classical realism, neo-realism, neoliberalism, constructivism, poststructuralism, feminism and gender, neo-Marxism and postcolonialism.

International Practice

3. The Course is taught in all top universities offering International Relations and its affiliate disciplines such as Strategic Studies as a degree program.

Proposed Timeframe of Commencement

7. The course is proposed for the Fall 2022 as part of the compulsory courses to be taught at CIPS

Course Content

8.
 - a. **Course Code:** SS-802
 - b. **Title:** Theories of International Politics
 - c. **Credit Hours:** 3hrs
 - d. **Objectives.** To teach students of MS Strategic Studies the theories of International Relations
 - e. **Outcomes.** The students of this course should be able to:
 1. Have an understanding of the major theories of International Politics and of the purpose of theory in improving our understanding of the workings of global affairs
 2. Reflect on the historical development of International Political theory and the discipline of IR itself since the era of World War One
 3. Critically engage with the concepts of each of the theories under discussion

4. Compare, contrast and critically evaluate the key theories of International Politics
 5. Develop the necessary skills to write in an informed manner on International Politics theory
- f. **Contents with suggested contact hours:** This will be a 16 classes *3hrs = 48 credit hours course. Following topics will be covered in this module and. The content of the course will be spread along the following topics and issues:
- a. Classic Realism
 - b. Structural Realism – Defensive
 - c. Structural Realism – Offensive
 - d. Neoclassic Realism and its extensions
 - e. Liberalism: Democratic Peace, Cooperation, Institutions and Regimes
 - f. Constructivism: Ideas, Identity and Norms
 - g. The English School
 - h. International Political Economy
 - i. Critical Theory and Poststructuralism
 - j. Non-Western IR Theory

g. **Details of lab work, workshops practice (if applicable).** NA

h. **Recommended Reading (including Textbooks and Reference books).**

- (1) Hans Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations*, 1948, Chs. 1, 2 and 3.
- (2) E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939*, 1939, Chs. 1 and 5.
- (3) Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, 1979, Chs. 1, 4, 5 and 6.
- (4) Stephen Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of Power," *IS*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 3-43.
- (5) John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chs. 1 and 2.
- (6) Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*, CUP, 1981, pp. 1-49.
- (7) Randall Schweller, "Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In," *IS*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 72-107.
- (8) Jeffrey W. Taliaferro et al., "Introduction: Neoclassical Realism, the State and Foreign Policy," in Steven E. Lobell, *Neoclassical Realism, the State and Foreign Policy*, CUP, 1-41.
- (9) Randall Schweller, "Unanswered Threats: A Neoclassical Realist Theory of Underbalancing," *IS*, Vol. 29, No. 2, pp. 159-201.
- (10) Jack S. Levy, "Domestic Politics and War," in R.I. Rotberg and T.K. Rabb, eds, *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*, CUP, 1988, pp. 79-100.
- (11) Robert Jervis, "War and Misperception," in R.I. Rotberg and T.K. Rabb, eds, *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*, CUP, 1988, pp. 101-126.
- (12) Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, Chs. 1 and 2.
- (13) Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*, PUP, 1984, Chs. 1, 2, and 3.

- (14) G. John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan*, PUP, 2011, Ch. 1
- (15) Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *IO*, Vol. 46, pp. 391-425.
- (16) Christian Reus-Smit, *The Moral Purpose of the State*, PUP, 1999, Chs. 1 and 2.
- (17) Peter J. Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*, CUP, 1996, Chs. 1 and 2.
- (18) Susan Strange, "Territory, State, Authority and Economy: A New Realist Ontology of Global Political Economy," in Robert W. Cox, ed., *The New Realism*, UNUP, 1997, pp. 3-19.
- (19) Robert Gilpin, *Global Political Economy*, PUP, 2001, Chs. 1, 4 and 15.
- (20) Robert W. Cox, *Production, Power and World Order*, CUP, 1987, Introduction and Conclusion.
- (21) Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, *Power and Interdependence*, Longman, 2011, Ch. 1.
- (22) Charles P. Kindleberger, *Power and Money*, Basic Books, 1970, Ch. 1.