

Theories of International Relations (IR-800) **(Core Course)**

Course Description: This is the main political science course on theories in international politics. The course will be covered with the strategic lens to cover the core concepts of strategic thought and its relevance to theories to understand these concepts comprehensively. A theory is a coherent, logical explanation for some phenomenon. The focus of this course will be on theories as well as strategies and the teachings of eminent strategists. The course will focus on two major areas: strategic thought, such as Machiavelli, and renowned theories of international politics. War has been a part of international politics for thousands of years. However, it is still difficult to predict when wars will occur. Similarly, countries (city-states and empires) have traded for centuries. However, despite the dominant ideology of free trade, some countries refuse to participate in the international economic arena. There is also a significant debate about promoting economic, social, and political development in less-developed countries. The course will cover theories of security studies and critical discourse on theories.

Course Objectives: The course has four main objectives:

- To enable students to assess the contributions and shortcomings of both mainstream and critical IR theories and strategic studies discourse.
- To interrogate how 'the international' has been constructed as a field of study and which strategies are relevant in strategic studies discourse.
- To connect IR with methodological and theoretical debates that have been germane to the formation of social science as a whole.
- To demonstrate how theory provides a road map or lens to examine international events and processes.

Course Outcome: This course aims to comprehend the theoretical discourse of international politics and the role of strategic thought in it. At the end of the course, students will:

- Evaluate the advantages and difficulties of strategies/IR theories compared to each other and vis-à-vis schemes drawn from other disciplines.
- Discuss critically and write knowledgeably about major IR theories, relating these both to contemporary events and historical processes.
- Possess the means to show how theory and practice intertwine in constituting mainstream and critical IR theories.
- Learn how to think and write critically about critical debates in contemporary IR theory.

Course Contents

Week 1:	Introduction of the Course
Week 2:	Eminent Strategists and Their Strategic Thought
Week 3:	History of International Politics
Week 4:	Debate of Classical Realism & Neo-Realism
Week 5:	More May Be Better/More May Be Worse/Balance of Power Theory
Week 6:	Debate of Liberalism & Neo- Liberalism
Week 7:	Comparison between Realism liberalism
Week 8:	Complex Interdependence Theory/ Idealism
Week 9:	<i>Midterm Exams</i>
Week 10:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security Studies Theories & Debate of Referent Object• World System Theory/ Feminism Theory
Week 11:	Securitization/ Regional Security Complex Theory
Week 12:	World Security Theory/Critical Security Studies
Week 13:	Human Security and Regime Theory
Week 14:	Constructivism/ Globalisation
Week 15:	Marxism /Neo-Marxism
Week 16:	Final Exam

Reading Material

- Barry Buzan and George Lawson, 'The Global Transformation', *International Studies Quarterly* 57(3), 2013, 620-634.
- Joseph S. Nye, *The Future of Power* (New York: Public Affairs, 2011).
- Bernard Brodie, *Strategy in the Missile Age* (Princeton University Press: Princeton NJ, 1971).
- Bernard Brodie, *War and Politics* (New York: Collier- Macmillan Publishers, 1973).
- Gaddis, John Lewis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of Postwar American Security Policy* (Oxford University Press, 1982).
- Murray William, Knox and Bernstein, *The Making of Strategy Rules, States and War*.
- Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1995).
- Wohlstetter, "The Delicate Balance of Terror", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 37, No. 2, January 1959.
- Kenneth Waltz, "The Spread of Nuclear weapons: More May Be Better," *Adelphi Paper*, No. 171 (Autumn 1981).
- Bernard Brodie, *Statecraft and Security: The Cold War and Beyond* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

- Mark W. Zacher, Brent A. Sutton, *Governing Global Networks: International Regimes for Transformation and Communication* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- John Gerard Ruggie, 'International Responses to Technology: Concepts and Trends,' *International Organization*, Vol.29, No.3 (Summer 1975): 570.
- Andreas Hasenclever, Peter Mayer and Volker Rittberger, "Integrating Theories of International Regimes", British International Studies Association, *Review of International Studies*, 26, 1 (January 2000): 3-33.
- Ernst Haas, 'Technological Self-Reliance for Latin America: The OAS Contribution,' *International Organization*, No. 4 (Autumn 1980): 553.
- Stephen D. Krasner (ed.), *International Regimes* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1983), 186.
- Sterling Folker and Jennifer ed., *Making Sense of International Relations Theory* (New Delhi; Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 2007), 13–17.
- Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics* (UK: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012), 189.
- Stephen M. Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *International Relations*, 112, (1998): 30.
- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, *Power and Interdependence* ed. (New York: Longman, 2001).
- Richard W. Mansbach and Kristen L. Rafferty, *Introduction to Global Politics* (New York: Madison Avenue 2008), 31-32.
- Cynthia Weber, *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction* (New York: Routledge Publication, 2009), 65.
- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics" *International Organization*, 2 (Spring, 1992): 391-425.