

Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities
Course Outline: Theories of International Relations

Semester: Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Avinash Godbole,

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Class hours:

Contact Hours: Thursday 3 pm to 4 pm

Course Description:

International relations (IR) have evolved over the long period of history of nation states. In particular, this evolution has been at its fastest since the end of the Second World War. Various scholars have organised the knowledge about IR in a range of theoretical understandings. Different theoretical approaches can lead one to understand a subject's causes and effects in different ways and create space for debate on which one is a better approach in undertaking such tasks. This course will introduce these concepts and theories and help in looking at those critically to understand their merits and limits.

It is absolutely essential that students come prepared for the classes. Additional relevant readings will be shared well in advance and participation in class is highly valued as well as recommended.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Introduction theories of IR and the debates therein.
2. Familiarization with the concepts and theoretical frameworks in IR.
3. Students develop conceptual clarity on the issues and theories.
4. Students can develop thinking on applicability of theories in situations to better organise the thought process and bringing an element of predictive research.
5. Ability to write own ideas on events and trends in International Relations.

Core Readings:

1. People, states, and fear an agenda for international security studies in the post-cold war era, Buzan, Barry, (Boulder Lynne Rienner 1991)
2. Keohane, Robert (ed) Neorealism and Its Critics (1986)
3. Kenneth N. Waltz, Theory of International Politics (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979)
4. Hans J. Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace (New York: McGraw Hill, 1993 [1948]).
5. Ruggie, John. G. (1993). Territoriality and beyond: problematizing modernity in international relations. *International organization*, 47(1), 139-174.
6. David Held, Anthony McGrew, et al, Global Transformations: A Reader (London: Polity, 2000).

7. Scott Burchill, et al, *Theories of International Relations*, 3rd Ed, Palgrave, London, 2005.

Modules:

1. Week 1 Introduction to the Course

2. Week 2 and 3 Foundations of the Theory + The Three Images/Levels of Analysis

- a. Kenneth N. Waltz, "Laws and Theories", Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979), pp. 1-17.
- b. David Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations" *World Politics*, 14 (1), October 1961, pp. 77-92.
- c. Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1954), pp. 1-15& 224-238
- d. Kenneth N. Waltz, "Reductionist and Systemic Theories", Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979), pp. 60-78.

3. Week 4 & 5 Realism

Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* (New York: McGrawHill, 1993 [1948]), pp. 3-26.

John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001), chapters 1 & 2.

Waltz, "Political Structures", *Theory of International Politics*, pp. 79-101.

Neoclassical and Hegemonic

Gideon Rose, "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy", *World Politics*, 51 (1), 1998, pp. 144-72.

Robert Gilpin, "The Theory of Hegemonic War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4), Spring 1988, pp. 591-613.

4. Week 6 Liberal Institutionalism

Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, *Power and Interdependence*, 2nd edn. (New York: Longman: 1989), pp. 23-37.

Kenneth A. Oye, "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies", *World Politics*, 38 (1), October 1985, pp. 1-24.

Stephen D. Krasner, "Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables", *International Organization*, 36 (2), Spring 1982, pp.185-205.

Additional Readings,

- Robert Jervis, "Security Regimes", *International Organization*, 36 (2), Spring 1982, pp. 357-378.
- John Gerard Ruggie, "International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order", *International Organization*, 36 (2), Spring 1982, pp. 379-415.

5. Week7 Constructivism

Ian Hurd, 'Constructivism', Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, eds., Oxford Handbook of International Relations, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 298-316.

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics", International Organization 46 (2), Spring 1992, pp. 391-425.

6. Week 8 Marxism, Post Colonialism and Dependency Theory

Frank, Andre Gunder, "The Development of Underdevelopment", Monthly Review, 18, September, 1966, pp. 17-31.

Alex Callinicos, "Does Capitalism Need the State System?", Cambridge Review of International Affairs 20 (4), 2007, pp. 533-549.

7. Week 9 Feminism: Gender in IR

J. Ann Tickner, "Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformulation", Millennium: Journal of International Studies 17 (3), 1988, pp. 429-440.

V. Spike Peterson, "A Gendered Global Hierarchy", Grey Fry and S O' Hagan, eds., Contending Images of World Politics, London: Macmillan Press, 2000, pp. 199-213.

8. Week 10 Non-Western IR theory

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 'Why is there No Non-Western International Relations Theory?', International Relations of the Asia-Pacific, 7 (3), 2007, pp. 287-312.
Mohammed Ayoob, "Subaltern Realism: International Relations Theory Meets the Third World", Stephanie Neuman, ed., International Relations Theory and the Third World (London: Macmillan, 1998), pp. 31-54.

9. Week 11. Indian and Chinese IR Theory

TBD

10. Week 12 Post-Positivism: Critical Theory and Post Modernism

Richard Devetak, "Critical Theory", Scott Burchill and Andrew Linklater, eds., Theories of International Relations (London: Macmillan Press, 1996), pp. 145-178.

Ken Booth, "Security and Self: Confessions of a Fallen Realist", Keith Krause and Michael C. Williams, eds., Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Cases (London: UCL Press, 1997), pp. 83-120.

11. Week 13

Scenario Building and Role Play exercise

12. Week 14

Issues in Contemporary IR.

Readings TBD

Assessment Method:

Book Review: 20th Sept 20 marks

Short Essay: 20th October 20 Marks

Final Exams (as per schedule) 50 Marks

Attendance and participation 10 Marks

Papers

All papers should be on A4 pages, in Times New Roman, 12-point font with 1-inch margins and use footnotes to cite sources. All papers will be due on the date specified in class via e-mail. **THERE ARE NO EXTENSIONS OR MAKE-UP FOR THESE ASSIGNMENTS AND NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

A Note on Plagiarism:

In line with JGU policy, JSLH operates a zero-tolerance approach to Plagiarism. The unacknowledged use of material by others within your work is a violation of academic integrity and all reported cases will be investigated before potential disciplinary action. **All** the electronic submissions will go through Turnitin check and the accepted level of match is 30% with green colour (indicating usage of citation for the similarity). There will be no second chance for cases exceeding this and it will result in 0 marks for the submission.
