

**Department of Political Science**  
**Faculty of Behavioral & Social**  
**Sciences University of the Punjab,**  
**Lahore Course Outline**



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| Programme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | BS International Relations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Course Code | IR-201 | Credit Hours         | 03 |
| Course Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Theories of International Relations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |             |        |                      |    |
| Course Introduction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| This course provides a comprehensive overview of the major theories of international relations (IR). It examines the foundational and contemporary theoretical frameworks that shape our understanding of global politics. The course covers classical and modern theories, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, feminism, and post-colonialism, and their application to current international issues and events. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| Learning Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| By the end of the course, students will be able to:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| 1. Understand and explain the main theories of international relations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| 2. Critically evaluate the assumptions and arguments of each theory.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| 3. Apply theoretical perspectives to analyze international events and issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| 4. Compare and contrast different IR theories.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| 5. Develop well-informed arguments about international relations based on theoretical insights.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        |                      |    |
| Course Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |        | Assignments/Readings |    |
| Week 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Introduction to International Relations Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overview of international relations as a field of study</li><li>Importance of theory in understanding global politics</li><li>Key questions and debates in IR theory</li></ul> |             |        |                      |    |
| Week 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Classical Realism <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Historical context and key figures (e.g., Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes)</li><li>Core principles: power, anarchy, and national interest</li><li>Critiques and contemporary relevance</li></ul>              |             |        |                      |    |
| Week 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Neorealism <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kenneth Waltz's structural realism</li><li>Balance of power and security dilemma</li><li>Critiques and applications</li></ul>                                                                                        |             |        |                      |    |

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| <b>Week 4</b>  | <b>Liberalism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical roots and key figures (e.g., Kant, Wilson)</li> <li>• Core principles: cooperation, institutions, and interdependence</li> <li>• Critiques and contemporary relevance</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Week 5</b>  | <b>Neoliberal Institutionalism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Keohane and the role of international institutions</li> <li>• Cooperation under anarchy</li> <li>• Critiques and applications</li> </ul>                            |  |
| <b>Week 6</b>  | <b>Constructivism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexander Wendt and the social construction of international politics</li> <li>• Role of ideas, norms, and identities</li> <li>• Critiques and contemporary relevance</li> </ul>        |  |
| <b>Week 7</b>  | <b>Marxism and Critical Theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical materialism and class struggle</li> <li>• Dependency theory and world-systems analysis</li> <li>• Critiques and contemporary relevance</li> </ul>             |  |
| <b>Week 8</b>  | <b>Feminist Theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender and international relations</li> <li>• Contributions of feminist scholars to IR</li> <li>• Critiques and contemporary relevance</li> </ul>                                    |  |
| <b>Week 9</b>  | <b>Post-Colonialism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colonial history and its impact on contemporary IR</li> <li>• Key concepts: subaltern, hybridity, and orientalism</li> <li>• Critiques and contemporary relevance</li> </ul>          |  |
| <b>Week 10</b> | <b>English School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International society and the concept of order</li> <li>• Pluralism vs. solidarism</li> <li>• Critiques and applications</li> </ul>                                                     |  |

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| <b>Week 11</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Green Theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental issues in international relations</li> <li>• Ecological security and sustainable development</li> <li>• Critiques and contemporary relevance</li> </ul>                                                                    |  |
| <b>Week 12</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>International Political Economy (IPE) Theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liberal, mercantilist, and Marxist perspectives</li> <li>• Globalization and economic interdependence</li> <li>• Critiques and applications</li> </ul>                                                   |  |
| <b>Week 13</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Post-Structuralism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discourse analysis and power/knowledge</li> <li>• Key figures: Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida</li> <li>• Critiques and contemporary relevance</li> </ul>                                                                        |  |
| <b>Week 14</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Contemporary Debates and Emerging Theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theories of globalization</li> <li>• The rise of new powers and multipolarity</li> <li>• Critiques and future directions</li> </ul>                                                                          |  |
| <b>Week 15</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Application of IR Theories to Contemporary Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies (e.g., international conflicts, global governance, human rights)</li> <li>• Application of multiple theoretical perspectives</li> <li>• Student presentations and discussions</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Week 16</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Review and Exam Preparation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Final Term Exam</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| <b>Textbooks and Reading Material</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 1. <b>Book Title:</b> "International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Authors:</b> Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, Steve Smith</li> <li>○ <b>Year of Publication:</b> 2021</li> <li>○ <b>Publisher:</b> Oxford University Press</li> </ul> 2. <b>Book Title:</b> "Theories of International Relations" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Authors:</b> Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Terry</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |

Nardin, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit, Jacqui True

- **Year of Publication:** 2020
- **Publisher:** Palgrave Macmillan

3. **Book Title:** "International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction"

- **Author:** Cynthia Weber
- **Year of Publication:** 2021
- **Publisher:** Routledge

4. **Book Title:** "The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations"

- **Authors:** John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens
- **Year of Publication:** 2020
- **Publisher:** Oxford University Press

5. **Book Title:** "Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches"

- **Authors:** Robert Jackson, Georg Sørensen
- **Year of Publication:** 2019
- **Publisher:** Oxford University Press

6. **Book Title:** "Constructivism in International Relations: The Politics of Reality"

- **Author:** Maja Zehfuss
- **Year of Publication:** 2018
- **Publisher:** Cambridge University Press

**Note:** Additional readings and resources will be provided throughout the course to support learning and facilitate in-depth analysis.

### Teaching Learning Strategies

Teaching learning strategies: class participation and panel discussion, to hold a seminar with effective students participation, interactive sessions with students, surprise quiz and presentation on relevant topics, to hold competition among students to discuss effectively different topics related to subject and appreciate students through giving them certificates.

### Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

1. Assignment types,
2. Quiz competition among students.
3. Presentations with question answers session
4. And group discussions