
DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – POLITICAL SCIENCE

DSC-6 : Introduction to International Relations: Theories, Concepts and Debates

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Introduction to International Relations: Theories, Concepts and Debates DSC 6	4	3	1	0	12th Pass	NIL

Learning Objectives

This paper introduces students to some of the key theories, concepts and debates of international relations. While historically contextualizing the evolution of mainstream IR theories, students will also learn about the leading debates aimed at de-centering and pluralizing the knowledge-base of IR. The debates and conversations on the genealogies of Indian perspectives on IR are anchored in this backdrop. The students will learn how to critically engage with the Eurocentric view of IR through decolonial accounts that foreground the agency of the colonial experience, race and culture that not only identify proximately with the Global South but are also co-constitutive of European modernity, the social sciences and the foundations of the IR discipline. The course weaves in some of the major concepts—power, sovereignty, empire and international order—that push the boundaries of the discipline through understandings derived from diverse standpoints. The final segment—Global IR and the relational turn in international relations—appraises the students with the new directions in the discipline.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, the students would have acquired:

- Familiarization with key theories, concepts, and debates of International Relations.
- Comprehensive re-reading of the origin of IR and its mainstream theories and concepts, with basic tools to question statist ontology and reification of eurocentrism.
- Appreciation of decolonial accounts that challenge the mainstream and parochial International Relations.
- Understanding of the genealogy and contributions of the IR scholarship in India to the disciplinary debates through a re-reading of its classical texts and, contemporary writings.
- Analysis of the assumptions and key concepts of IR such as power, sovereignty, empire and international order.
- Learning about the new directions in IR via a critical engagement with Global IR and the relational turn in IR.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-6

UNIT – I (12 Hours)

What is IR and, its Contested Origins

- a. What is IR
- b. Reading the Big Bangs
- c. Bringing in De-colonial Accounts
- d. Understanding the genealogy of IR discipline in India

UNIT – II (15 Hours)

Theories of IR

- a. Introduction to IR Theories
- b. Realpolitik (Kautilya)/ Realism/ Neo-Realism
- c. Liberalism/ Neo-liberalism
- d. Marxism/ Neo-Marxism
- e. Feminism
- f. Constructivism

UNIT – III (9 Hours)

Concepts

- a. Power
- b. Sovereignty
- c. Empire
- d. International Order

UNIT – IV (9 Hours)

Exploring the Future Trajectories

- a. Global IR
- b. A Relational Turn?

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I. What is IR and the story of its contested origins

a. What is IR?

Essential Readings

David Blaney (2020), “Where, When and What is IR?”, in Arlene B, Tickner and Karen Smith (eds.) *International Relations from the Global South: World of Difference*. Routledge: New York.

Robert Jackson and Georg Sørensen (2019). ‘Why study IR’, in *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, OUP: New York, pp.3-32.

Additional Readings

Nicholson, Michael (2002). *International Relations: A Concise introduction*, NYU Press: NY. pp. 1-15.

Richard Devetak (2012). An introduction to international relations: The origins and changing agendas of a discipline”, in R. Devetak, A. Burke and J. George (eds.) *An Introduction to International Relations*, 2nd ed, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 1-19.