



Theories of International Relations

IR theory is an essential course for the students of International affairs. Course is concerned with ontological foundations of *theory* which presupposes that IR is not a hard science rather falls in the category of social sciences. This course aims at two-fold training purposes: 1st to acquaint the candidates with basic toolkit of IR, 2nd make an attempt to deconstruct the mainstream positivist undertones of IR scholarship which by default renders other marginal theories such as postcolonialism as primitive (non-scientific) It further enlists the discourse of **world system theory** to highlight the extractive nature of capitalist structure which is underpinned by the positivist IR theory. To these ends, the core contributor wishes the best to every participant in this collective pursuit of our **real** in IR. Additionally, this course is not lecture such as conventional one-way monologue, rather it is designed as dialogue and mutual discussion hence, it is seminar.

Standard modus operandi is following: each session will start with presentation of the allotted topic which will followed by questions and answers. Literature will be provided in advance. Subsequent to the presentations and discussion, core contributor will make another attempt to clarify things further for the participants.

Content:

1. Theories of IR

Session 00 Defining IR Theories:

- Theory
- International
- Relations

I. Classical /Traditional/ Positivists Theories of IR



- Aneela Sumbal
- Ayesha Rehman
- Mahnoor Pervez

1. Idealism

- What is Idealism? Epistemic Foundations: Mind Dependent Reality
- Chief Exponents – Immanuel Kant, Woodrow Wilson
- Empirical Case Studies – Post WWI settlements



- **Umme Laila**
- **Amna Rasool**
- **Muhammad Shehzad**

2. Rationalism

- What is Rationalism? Epistemic Foundations: Rational agency
- Chief Exponents - [Jürgen Habermas](#)
- Empirical Case Studies: Post WWII German Reconstruction Period
 - **Syed Shahid Waqar**
 - **Laraib Zahra**
 - **Midra Gull**

3. Realism

- What is Realism? Epistemic Foundations: Mind Independent Reality
- Chief Exponents – Thomas Hobbes, Hans J. Morgenthau, E.H. Carr, Henry Kissinger
- Empirical Case Studies: Power Politics of Major Powers WWI & WWII
 - **Maryam Nasir**
 - **Malik Mustanjim**
 - **Rimsha Asghar**

4. Neo Realism

- What is Neo Realism? Epistemic Foundations: Mind Independent Reality
- Chief Exponents – Kenneth Waltz – Theory of International Politics
- Empirical Case Studies - Post WWII Bipolar World Order
 - **Shahbaz Fareed**
 - **Khawar Sheraz**
 - **Qurat ul Ain**

5. Marxism/Materialism

- What is Marxism? Epistemic Foundations: Material determinism
- Chief Exponents – Karl Heinrich Marx
- Empirical Case Studies – Causes of WWI & WWII
 - **Asma Ismail**
 - **Nishwa Tasavvar**
 - **Muhammad Bilal Shakeel**

6. Liberalism

- What is Liberalism? Epistemic Foundations: Emancipation/Liberation
- Chief Exponents – Jhon Lock, Voltaire



- Empirical Case Studies: Rise of Supranational institutions in post WWII era
 - Saba Aslam
 - Nouman Raza
 - Uswa Touseef

7. Neo Liberalism

- What is Neo Liberalism? Liberation/emancipation from repressive, regressive national institutions
- Chief Exponents - [Robert Keohane](#), [Joseph Nye](#)
- Empirical Case Studies – Post USSR Disintegration Political Order
 - Ayesha Abdul Rehman
 - Yasir Hayat Khan
 - Muhammad Jamshed Hassan khan

8. Conservatives/ Neo Conservatives

- What is conservatism and neo conservatism? Epistemic foundations: preservation of collective identity
- Chief Exponents: Bernard Lewis, Samuel P. Huntington
- Empirical Case Studies: Post 9/11 US foreign and Defence Policy
 - Zoha Masood
 - Hadia Akhtar
 - Tabeer

II. Modern, Post-Positivists Theories of IR

- Saira Shahzadi
- Sunbal Shahzadi
- Iqra Mubarik

1. Constructivism

- What is Constructivism? Political reality is socially constructed therefore, historical determinism is not relevant.
- Chief Exponents: Alexander Wendt
- Empirical Case Studies: Social Construction of Indo-Pak rivalry
 - Iffat Dil Awaiz
 - Muhammad Hafeez
 - Shaikh Mishal Soni

2. Post Modernism

- What is Post Modernism? Reality is relative and heterogeneous corresponding to peripheral/indigenous cultural contexts.



- Chief Exponents: Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida
- Empirical Case Studies: Trump Presidency in USA

- **Ali Umer**
- **Haji Arslan Sikander**
- **Alia Aman**

3. Post Colonialism/Neo Colonialism

- What is Post Colonialism/ Neo Colonialism?
- Chief Exponents: Gayatri Spivak, Partha Chatterjee, Ashish Nandy, Dipesh Chakrabarty
- Empirical Case Studies: Core's exploitation of the periphery such as British and American relations with Pakistan

- **Ahmad Hassan**
- **Muhammad Afrasiyab**
- **Fatima Kubra**

4. Existentialism

- What is Existentialism? Radical Empiricism (unmediated first-hand experience with events and peoples)
- Chief Exponents: Martin Heidegger, Jean Paul Sartre, Merleau Ponty
- Empirical Case Studies: Power Politics in Emerging Multipolar world

- **Wazir Zaffar Hassan**
- **Muhammad Ilyas**
- **Nasik Mubeen**
- **Hamza Latif**

5. Feminism

What is feminism?

Feminism as General theory

Feminism and IR

Disclaimer: Each topic in this course carries an expanded blueprint of the said topic. However, it does not necessarily entail that the presenter/contributor of this course must subscribe to these views rather he/she will be encouraged to come up with his/her own findings and share them with other participants. Therefore, this course is open-ended and discourages the singularly closed- monolithic perspective of the content.