

THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Compulsory Course for M.A. (International Relations-West
Asian Studies) Course No: MWAS-201 Semester II

Centre for West Asian Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi

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Course Description

This course will examine the basic concepts and theories that conceptualize International Relations as a field of study and study the co-constitutive debates and challenges in the practice of international relations.

Course Content:

Unit I: Basic Concepts

- a) Nation-state b) Power
- c) Anarchy d) Balance of power
- e) National Interest f) Hegemony

Unit II: Theories

- a) Realism and Neo-Realism b) Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism
- c) Social Constructivism d) Marxist Theories of IR
- e) The English School f) Critical theories 1

Unit III: International Issues and Challenges

- a) International Terrorism b) Humanitarian Problems and Intervention
- c) Identity and Culture
- d) Environmental Issues

Readings

- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, pp. 1-18, 88-99, 102-128, 163-170.
- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization*, vol. 46 (Spring 1992), pp. 391-425; or Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics*, ch. 6, "Three Cultures of Anarchy," pp. 246- 312.
- Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *American Political Science Review*, vol. 80 (December 1986), pp. 1151-1169.
- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, vol. 30 (January 1978), 167-214.
- Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, "How Not to Be Lakatos Intolerant," *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 46 (June 2002), pp. 231-262.
- William Wohlforth et al, "Testing Balance of Power Theory in World History," *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 13, 155-185.
- Beth A. Simmons, *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), pp. 12-17 (overview of argument) and Ch. 7, pp. 256-306, on the torture convention
- Richard K. Betts, "The Delusion of Impartial Intervention," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1994.
- John G. Ruggie, "What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge," *International Organization*, vol. 52 (Autumn 1998), pp. 855-885.

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and tutorial will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian region.

Method of Assessment:

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered up to that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two questions out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, students must answer 5 out of 10 questions.