

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Department of Social Sciences
Programme:	MA International Relations
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Contemporary Theories of Global Politics
Course Code:	INR 7111
Course Leader:	Dr Paul Rekret
Student Engagement Hours:	200 (standard 4 credit MA course)
Lectures:	Click here to enter text.
Seminar / Tutorials:	45
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
Semester:	Fall, Spring
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course examines the theoretical frameworks of International Relations for the twenty-first century. Emphasis is placed upon the theoretical frameworks deployed in understanding the effects of social change on political, economic and social life and how these enable us to rethink the fundamental categories of international relations: power, agency, the state, democracy, security, etc. It considers alternative theoretical and empirical frameworks consistent with characteristic features of the twenty-first century, such as developments in digital technology, ecological collapse, capitalist crisis, migration and borders, and transformations in colonialism and imperialism. The course seeks to examine how these processes might have changed key actors in global politics as well as implications for the levels of analysis by which we study international relations.

Prerequisites:

MA International Relations students

Aims and Objectives:

- To engage students with the theoretical and conceptual debates that characterise the field of International Relations as it pertains to contemporary in the 21st century
- To examine how contemporary processes of social change and crisis challenge conventional approaches to the study of global politics

- To develop the capacity to independently apply theoretical frameworks and concepts to contemporary processes and events

Programme Outcomes:

A; B; D; F; G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of some of the central debates, themes and contestations in contemporary theories of global politics.
- Develop independent assessments of the classical concepts, methods and approaches of international relations.
- Demonstrates an understanding of contemporary global changes and their implications for the study of international relations.
- Exercise initiative in the design and implementation of substantial investigations of central issues in contemporary IR theory.
- Demonstrates the ability to exercise initiative in organising and pursuing reading and research in IR theory.
- Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and effectively communicate complex and abstract theoretical frameworks, debates and arguments in International Relations.

Indicative Content:

- Digital society and global politics
- Contemporary debates in imperialism, colonialism and race in global politics
- Ecological collapse, anthropocene and the nation-state
- Migration and bordering
- Contemporary theories of agency and power
- Contemporary debates in capitalist crisis

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a

