

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	International Relations
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	6
<b>Course Title:</b>	International Relations Theory
<b>Course Code:</b>	INR 6200
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Michael Keating
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
<b>Semester:</b>	FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:**

The theories of international relations are best introduced through a study of the classic texts and debates in the discipline. This course examines most of the theories and approaches to international politics, as well as their historic foundations. It begins with some philosophical debates regarding the purpose of theorising, the importance of understanding ontological and epistemological assumptions and the difference between 'understanding' and 'explaining' in international relations theory. The course then critically evaluates the grand and middle range theories of IR, followed by a multitude of multidisciplinary approaches to conceptualising global politics and the post-positivist critiques. The course provides students with a set of conceptual and analytical tools in order to acquire a deeper and more nuanced understanding of international relations and global politics.

**Prerequisites:** INR 5200 or INR 5205 or PLT 5200

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To provide a detailed overview of some of the primary perspectives and analytical approaches for studying international relations
- To advance a critical understanding of the differences in conceptualising global politics
- To encourage abstract and theoretical thinking
- To enable students to assess the contributions and shortcomings of both mainstream and critical IR theories

**Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme

outcomes. 6A(i); 6A(iii); 6A(iv); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

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

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

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in international relations
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key concepts - power and influence, order and justice, agents and structures, understanding and explaining as they are theorized in international relations
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key texts and debates in the IR theory, and ability to critically engage with these
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course
- Demonstrates flexible writing and analytical skills that translate directly into the workplace in, including the ability to adapt work to different contexts, audiences, and levels of complexity

**Indicative Content:**

- Theory and method in the social sciences
- Agency and structure in IR
- Classical and modern key texts and thinkers in IR theory
- Understanding the core assumptions of the theories and approaches to IR
- Critical evaluation of the classical theories, critical theories and approaches to IR
- Understanding of the central role of IR theory in the discipline of International Relations

**Assessment:**

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

**Teaching Methodology:**

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.



