

POLITICAL THOUGHT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Optional Course
for
M.A. (International Relations-West Asian Studies)
Course No: MWAS-307
Semester III

Centre for West Asian Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi

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Course Description

This course aims to familiarize the students with prominent thinkers and major themes in the field of International Relations (IR). Despite being a relatively young discipline, political thinkers starting from ancient Greece have discussed many of the themes, concepts, and ideas. By the end of the course, students will be able to appraise the major analytical terms used in the course and will be able to integrate concepts with real world events in international politics.

Course Content

Unit I:

- Thucydides (the Peloponnesian War and political realism), Kautilya (political realism in inter-state relations); Machiavelli (Raison d'Etat)
- Thomas Hobbes (Anarchic State of Nature; Sovereignty and Westphalianism); Hans J. Morgenthau (Political power)
- John Locke (*Rechtsstaat* and the rule of law); Immanuel Kant (Perpetual Peace); Woodrow Wilson (idealism)

Unit II:

- Kenneth Waltz; Joseph Nye; Francis Fukuyama (End of history thesis)
- Alexander Wendt; Hedley Bull (Culture and values in IR)

- Antonio Gramsci (hegemony); Jurgen Habermas
- J. Ann Tickner; Cynthia Enloe (Feminist Critique)

Unit III:

- IPE: Adam Smith; Karl Marx (International Political Economy), Immanuel Wallerstein (World Systems theory)
- International Law & Organisations: Hugo Grotius (International Law); Jeremy Bentham (liberal states and international law)
- Justice: John Rawls (global justice)

Unit IV:

- Geopolitics: H. John Mackinder (Heartland Theory); Nicholas John Spykman (Rimland Theory)
- Religion/Civilisation: Ibn Khaldun (*Asabiya*), Samuel P. Huntington (*Clash of Civilisations*)
- War/Peace: Sun Tzu (Art of war); Michael Walzer (Just and Unjust War)

Reading List

- Duncan Bell (ed.), *Political Thought and International Relations: Variations on a Realist Theme*
- David Boucher, *Political Theories of International Relations: From Thucydides to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 1998).
- Chris Brown, Terry Nardin, Nicholas Rengger (eds), *International Relations in Political Thought: Texts from the Ancient Greeks to the First World War* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)
- Howard L. Williams, Moorhead Wright, Tony Evans (eds), *A Reader in International Relations and Political Theory* (UBC Press, 1993).
- Edward Keene, *International Political Thought: A Historical Introduction* (2005).
- David Miller (ed.), *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Political Thought*, Wiley, 1991.
- Subrata Mukherjee and Sushila Ramaswamy, *A History of Political Thoughts: Plato to Marx*, PHI Learning Publications, New Delhi, 2011, 2nd edition.
- Roger Boesche, *The First Great Political Realist: Kautilya and His Arthashastra*, Lexington Books, 2003.

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.