International Relations and South Asia – Winter 2019/2020

Rahul Mukherji, Department of Political Science, SAI, Heidelberg

October 22 2019

Wednesday: 4-6 pm at CATS-010.01.05

Student Contact Hours: 14.00-1530 hours on Friday

This course has two significant objectives. First, it will attempt to introduce key topics in International Relations such as anarchy, balance of power, hegemony, security dilemma, regionalism, ethnic conflict, state, ideas and perceptions, and approaches to global governance. It will then explore how relevant are these concepts for the study of South Asian international relations. In so doing, the course hopes to achieve the twin tasks of introducing the student both to international relations and South Asian international relations.

The Moodle password for this class is: IRSA9708

Class 1 – October 23

What is theory in IR? A few Thoughts on Methods.


Supplementary

- Elman and Elman, eds., Progress in International Relations Theory, Lakatosian evaluation of power transition, institutional, and other IR research programs.
• Jon Elster, *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences*, ch. 1. Explanation by causal mechanism.
• Ernest Nagel, *The Structure of Science*, ch. 3-5.
• Henry E. Brady and David Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry*.
• James Mahoney, “Process Tracing and Historical Explanation,” *Security Studies*, April-June 2015, on “hoop tests” and “smoking guns.”

**Class 2 - October – 30**

*Structure and Agency*


*Supplementary*

• Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, chapters 16-20. This is like reading the daily newspaper in today’s era of neoliberalism and populist backlash.

**Class 3 – November 6**

*Strategy and Bargaining in Anarchy*

• John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, ch. 5.

Supplementary

- Kenneth Waltz, Man, the State and War, ch. 6, on “the third image.”

Class 4 – November 13

Origins of State Systems

- Hendrik Spruyt, The Sovereign State and Its Competitors, ch. 5. Alliance of crown and town.

Supplementary

- Stephen Krasner, Sovereignty, ch. 1 and 2.
- Christian Reus-Smit, The Moral Purpose of the State, ch. 1-3. Claims that the moral purposes of domestic society are reflected in the norms of regional and historical international societies; short version in IO fall 1997.
• Alastair Iain Johnston, *Cultural Realism*. Ancient Chinese were realists, but realist ideas arose from and were transmitted through culture.
• Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe*; Ernest Haas, *The Uniting of Europe*.

Class 5 – November 20

Evolution of States in South Asia


Supplementary

• Husain Haqqani, Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military, pp. 51-86, 199-309.
• Philip Oldenburg, *India, Pakistan and Democracy* (New York, Routledge, 2010).

Class 6 – November 27

Global Governance


Supplementary

• Peter Gourevitch, *Politics in Hard Times*, ch. 3-4.
• Helen Milner, *Interests, Institutions, and Information*, ch. 1-4, & browse 5-8 chap.


• Robert Keohane, After Hegemony, 7-10, 85-98 (top), and 111-116.


• Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics (1998), Introduction (pp. 1-38), plus one of two empirical chapters (pp. 79-120, or 121-164).


Class 7 – December 4

Kauutilya and International Relations – Guest Lecture by Dr. Michael Liebig


Supplementary


https://idsa.in/book/IndigenousHistoricalKnowledgeKautilyaandHisVocabulary_011015


https://idsa.in/book/IndigenousHistoricalKnowledgeKautilyaandHisVocabulary_011015


Class 8 – December 11

The State & Ideas


Supplementary


**Class 9 – December 18**

*Global Governance & North-South Relations*


*Supplementary*


• Leslie Elliott Armijo. 2007. The BRICs Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) as Analytic Category: Mirage or Insight? *Asian Perspective* 31(4): 7-42.


**Class 10 – January 8**

*India as a New Donor – Guest Lecture by Dr. Andreas Fuchs*


**Supplementary**


**Class 11 – January 15**

*India’s Strategic Culture*


**Supplementary**


Class 12 – January 22

Nationalism Ethnic Conflict and South Asia


Supplementary


Class 13 – January 29

South Asia: Balance of Power or Regionalism

Read selectively from the following readings and form a view:


Final Exam – February 5
Prior Requirements

- This class does not require any prior knowledge of South Asia. What is required is a commitment to South Asia and to social theory. The instructor and the lecturers are happy to work with students. Students are required to go through the readings mentioned just below the titles. This is essential for taking the exam. The supplementary materials are further readings for students who want to learn more about a particular topic.

Organization

- The Vorlesung will be a 90-minute lecture with discussions wherever possible. I encourage students to ask questions, even though lecturing will be the main component of the class. Questions and comments make for a lively class both for the lecturer and the pupils. Otherwise, the class becomes boring. I will use slides, which will come with lecture notes.
- The lecture slides and essential readings will be uploaded on Moodle. The supplementary material will be available in the library reserves. Following the lecture and essential readings will earn you a good grade. If you go into the supplementary material as well, that will be impressive. There is no limit to how much you can learn from this class.

Students who desire a “Schein” must register on Moodle by the second week after the lecture begins (November 6 2019). The password for registering for this class is: IRSA9708

Assessment

- Attendance in the Vorlesung is voluntary for those who do not wish to get a ‘Schein’ at the semester’s end. For others, attendance is compulsory. BA students will answer 3 questions (for 6 credits) and MA students will answer 4 questions (for 6 credits). Appropriate arrangements will be made for students from the Institute of Political Science and others who need 8 credits. The exam paper will be given out on January 29th. The week between January 29 2020 and February 5 2020 can be used to prepare for the exam. There will be a closed book exam on February 5 2020.
- Students who do not attend the exam will receive no grade, unless they have a good excuse. Such students are required to submit a paper within a week. MA students will have to write a 5000 - word paper. BA students should turn in a 3500 - word paper. The right to turn in such a paper is not automatic. I
will need to be convinced that circumstances beyond the student’s control led to the student’s absence at the time of the exam.