Perspectives on Global International Relations

Course:	**M.A. (IRAS)**
Course No:	**IA 420**
Course Title:	**Perspectives on Global International Relations**
Course Type:	**Core**
Semester:	**Winter 2026**
Course Teacher & Contact Details:	*Name:* **Dr. Prasanta Sahoo** *Room No.:* **#309, SIS-II** *Email:* **prasantasahoo@mail.jnu.ac.in** *Tel. No.:* (O): 26704349
Credits:	**4**
Contact Hours:	**4 hours/week**
Class Schedule & Room Number	**229, SIS-II**
Tutorial (for difficulties & discussion)	**309, SIS-II**

Course Description

   Perspectives on *Global International Relations (IR)* offer different approaches to understanding the interactions between states and other actors in the international system to explain the complex issues of international politics, like cooperation, conflict, and the role of non-state actors. The course highlights the ongoing debate on the 'danger' of the marginalisation and negligence of the voices and experiences of the rest of the world in Western discourses. The global IR ponders how to 'accommodate the Global South voices' in the Western IR discourses, which means accepting 'plurality' or 'how to bring the rest in' to the paradigm of the existing discipline without 'displacing' the existing theories. The course delves into the 'importance and relevance' of the perspectives of the Global South by answering the questions that mainstream IR has failed to answer. As an emerging field, the course plays a significant role in transforming the IR discipline, exploring whether adopting new approaches and methods can make the discipline more 'inclusive' for diverse ideas, approaches, and experiences from Western and non-Western societies. The course helps to rethink the epistemological foundations of IR to search for more inclusive and diverse theoretical and methodological approaches. The course will pave the way for the transformation of the IR discipline, which can better explain the interactions amongst states and societies in all parts of the world. By introducing new approaches, global IR wants to end the Eurocentric and USA bias in the IR discipline and make it more 'inclusive and effective'. This global south region-explicit IR study broadly focuses on perspectives from Asia, Africa, and Latin America on the issues of colonialism, decolonisation, imperialism, dependency, ecological issues, peace, war, diplomacy, regions, regionalism, and other subaltern perspectives. It critically examines mainstream IR theories, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and Marxism. Moreover, this course will articulate the need for the greater participation of scholars from the Global South to contribute to knowledge production in the IR discipline.

Course Objectives

The course has the following Objectives:

- Introducing students to a new approach in the IR discipline, such as Global IR theories.
- Explore the origins and development of these theories.
- Delve into the relevance and limits of Global IR theories compared to mainstream IR.
- To develop critical thinking skills in students to evaluate theoretical perspectives on global politics.
- The course examines the applicability of the global south perspective theories to contemporary international relations issues.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, students are expected to:

- learn how to equip oneself with a more in-depth understanding of IR theories
- able to think critically about the main assumptions of the IR discipline
- think outside the Western-centric, Eurocentric, USA-biased, and state-centric boundaries of the contemporary IR
- be able to apply the Global IR perspectives to understand global politics better, now and then
- help to think critically about global politics and argue efficiently

Evaluation Methods

- **Mid-Semester Evaluation (50%)** (Compulsory)

    - Mid-Semester Examination (50%)

- **End-Semester Evaluation (50%)** (Compulsory)

    - End-Semester Examination (50%)

- *The SIS Research Manual should be used as a guide for written assignments. Available at: https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS_Research_Manual_0.pdf*
- *Students must maintain a high degree of academic integrity, which includes but is not limited to abstaining from copying and plagiarism. Refer to the SIS Research Manual for details on plagiarism and research ethics.*

Course Content

I. Theoretical Debates & Discourses

This unit will cover the following subthemes:

- What is Global IR (Discourses)
- Definition
- Reason for Emergence
- Scope
- Purpose of Study

II. Problems of Mainstream IR Theories

The following subthemes will be covered under this unit:
- Historical and Intellectual Roots
- Limits of Mainstream IR
- Eurocentric and USA Bias

III. State and Nation Building: Common Experiences

This will cover the following Themes:
- Historical and Colonial Legacy
- Economic Dependency
- Political Instability and Humanitarian Intervention
- Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Threats
- Ecological Vulnerability and Climate Issues
- Non-Alignment and Geopolitics

IV. Perspectives on Asian IR

This unit will cover the following subthemes:
- Civilizational & Historical Roots
- Colonial & Post-Colonial Context
- Great Power Rivalry
- Complex Web of Security Challenges
- Regionalism with Asian Characteristics or Regional Multilateralism
- Alternative Worldviews

V. Perspectives on African IR

This unit will cover the following subthemes of Distinct Characteristics:
- Legacy of colonialism and post-colonial challenges
- Diverse regional and national identities
- Agencies of African states and actors
- Development, economic inequality, and social justice
- Hybrid Security Orders

VI. Perspectives on Latin American IR

This unit will cover the following subthemes:
- Challenging Hegemonic Narratives
- Importance of Dependency Theory
- Focus on Autonomy and Non-Intervention
- Examining Regionalism and Integration

VII. Contemporary Issues and Global IR

This unit will cover the following subthemes:
- State and Sovereignty
- War and Order
- Peace and Conflict
- Regionalism and New Regionalism

VIII. Perspectives on India's Indigenous IR

This unit will cover subthemes on Indian perspectives of IR, citing from Indian philosophy, philosophical texts, philosophers, and eminent scholars.

- State and Sovereignty
- War and Peace
- Diplomacy and negotiation
- Strategy and Norms
- Morality and Ethics
- Universal Brotherhood

Course Readings: Essential & Additional

Unit I: Theoretical Debates & Discourses

- **Essential Readings:**

Acharya, A. and Buzan, B. (2019). Introduction; Towards Global International Relations. In: *The Making of Global International Relations: Origins and Evolution of IR at Its Centenary*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-7 and 285-320.

Hollis, M., and Smith, S. (1996). A Response: Why Epistemology Matters in International Theory. *Review of International Studies*, 22(1): 111-116; Anderl, F. and Witt, A. (2020). Problematising the Global in Global IR. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 49(1): 32-57.

Milliken, J. (1999). The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods. *European Journal of International Relations*, 5(2): 225-254. https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066199005002003

Barnett, M. and Zarakol, A. (2023). Global International Relations and the Essentialism Trap. *International Theory*, 15(3): 428-444. Doi:10.1017/S1752971923000131

Holden, G. (2002). Who Contextualizes the Contextualizers? Disciplinary History and the Discourse about IR Discourse. *Review of International Studies*, 28(2): 253-270.

Unit II: Problems of Mainstream IR Theories

- **Essential Readings:**

Acharya, A. (2011). Dialogue and Discovery: In Search of International Relations Theories Beyond the West. *Millennium*, 39(3): 619-637. https://doi.org/10.1177/0305829811406574 ; Acharya, A. (2025). Introduction. *The Once and Future World Order: Why Global Civilisation Will Survive the Decline of the West*. Basic Books, New York, pp. 1-21.

Lebow, RN. (1994). The long Peace, the End of the Cold War, and the failure of Realism. *International Organization*, 48(2): 249-277.

Kuru D. (2016). Historicising Eurocentrism and anti-Eurocentrism in IR: A Revisionist Account of Disciplinary Self-Reflexivity. *Review of International Studies*, 42(2): 351-376. Doi:10.1017/S0260210515000315

Buzan, B. (1997). Regions and Regionalism in a Global Perspective. In: Møller, B., and Cawthra, G. (Eds.). *Defensive Restructuring of the Armed Forces in Southern Africa* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Unit III: State and Nation Building: Common Experiences

- **Essential Readings:**

Spivak, G.C. (1994). Can Subaltern Speak?. In: Williams, P. and Chrisman, L. (1st ed.). *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*. Routledge.

Seth, S. (2011). Postcolonial Theory and the Critique of International Relations. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 40(1): 167-83.

Cottey, A. (2008). Beyond Humanitarian Intervention: The New Politics of Peace-Keeping and Intervention. *Contemporary Politics*, 14(4): 429–446. https://doi.org/10.1080/13569770802519342

Bakir, A. (2022). Islam and International Relations (IR): Why is there no Islamic IR Theory?. *Third World Quarterly*, 44(1): 22-38. https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2022.2121695

Unit IV: Perspectives on Asian IR
- **Essential Readings:**

Chen, C.C. (2011). The absence of non-Western IR theory in Asia Reconsidered. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 11(1): 1-23. https://doi.org/10.1093/irap/lcq014

Qin, Y. (2007). Why is there no Chinese International Relations Theory?. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 7(3), September: 313-340. https://doi.org/10.1093/irap/lcm013

Acharya, A. (2023). Imagining a Global IR out of India, *Issue Briefs*, Observer Research Foundation, August 17. https://www.orfonline.org/research/imagining-a-global-ir-out-of-india

Takashi, I. (2007). Are there any Theories of International Relations in Japan?. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 7(3), September: 369-390.

Unit V: Perspectives on African IR
- **Essential Readings:**

Nkiwane, T.C. (2001). Africa and International Relations: Regional Lessons for a Global Discourse. *International Political Science Review*, 22(3): 279-290. http://www.jstor.org/stable/1601487

Dunn, K. (2000). Tales From the Dark Side: Africa's Challenge to International Relations Theory. *Journal of Third World Studies*, 17(1): 61-90.

Danso, K. and Aning, K. (2022). African Experiences and Alternativity in International Relations Theorizing about Security. *International Affairs*, 98(1), January: 67-83.

Bischoff, P-H., Aning, K., and Acharya, A. (2016). Africa in Global International Relations: Emerging Approaches to Theory and Practice, An Introduction. In: *Africa in Global International Relations: Emerging approaches to theory and practice*, Routledge, London.

Unit VI: Perspectives on Latin American IR
- **Essential Readings:**

Tickner, A.B. (2003). Hearing Latin American Voices in International Relations Studies. *International Studies Perspectives*, 4(4): 325-350.

Míguez, M. (2021). Autonomy in Foreign Policy: A Latin American Contribution to International Relations Theory. *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of International Studies*, June 28. https://oxfordre.com/internationalstudies/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.001.0001/acrefore-9780190846626-e-647.

Quijano, A. (2000). Coloniality of Power and Eurocentrism in Latin America. *International Sociology*, 15(2): 215-232. https://doi.org/10.1177/0268580900015002005

Unit VII: Contemporary Issues and Global IR
- **Essential Readings:**

Acharya, A. and Buzan, B. (2007). Why is there no non-Western International Relations Theory?: An Introduction. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 7(3), September: 287-312. https://doi.org/10.1093/irap/lcm012

Peters, M.A. (2023). The Emerging Multipolar World Order: A Preliminary Analysis. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 55(14):1653-1663.

Ayoob, M. (1997). Defining Security: A Subaltern Realist Perspective, In: Krause, K., and Williams, M.C. (Eds.) *Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Cases*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203501764

O'Grady Walshe, C. (2019). Understanding Sovereignty in a Globalised World. In: *Globalisation and Seed Sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa*. International Political Economy Series. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-12870-8_2

Unit VIII: Perspectives on India's Indigenous IR
- **Essential Readings:**

Sarkar, B.K. (1919). Hindu Theory of International Relations. *The American Political Science Review*, 13(3), August: 400-414; Sarkar, B.K. (1921). The Hindu Theory of the State. *Political Science Quarterly*, 36(1): 79-90. https://doi.org/10.2307/2142662

Boesche, R. (2003). Kautilya's Arthasastra on War and Diplomacy in Ancient India. *The Journal of Military History*, 67(1): 9-37; Nagarajan, K.V. (2005). Thiruvalluvar's Vision: Polity and Economy in Thirukkural. *History of Political Economy*, 37(1), Spring: 123-132.

Narayan, J. (1969). The Relevance of Gandhi. *Asian Studies: Journal of Critical Perspectives on Asia*, Archives Material: February 17, pp. 364-374. https://asj.upd.edu.ph/mediabox/archive/ASJ-07-03-1969/narayan-relevance%20of%20gandhi.pdf

Ghosh. S.P. (2013). Introduction. In: *The Relevance of the Ideas of Swami Vivekananda on International Relations: India's Foreign Relations as a Case Study*, KP Bagchi & Company, Kolkata.

Additional Relevant Readings

Acharya, A. (2014). A Multiplex World, (1). In: *The End of American World Order*, Polity Press, London, pp. 3-15.

Acharya, A. (2016). Advancing Global IR: Challenges, Contentions, and Contributions. *International Studies Review*, 18(1): 4-15.

Acharya, A. (2017). Theorising the International Relations of Asia: Necessity or Indulgence?. Some Reflections. *The Pacific Review*, 30(6): 816-828.

Acharya, A. and Buzan, B. (2009). World History and the Development of non-Western International Relations Theory. In: *Non-Western International Relations Theory: Perspectives on and Beyond Asia* (1st ed.). Routledge, London, pp. 197-220.

Africa, S. and Graham, S. (2019). Revisiting International Relations Theory: Discourses from Africa. Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai, *Studia Europaea*, 64(2): 5-26.

Bajpai K. (2004). International Studies in India: Bringing Theory Back Home. In: Bajpai, K. and Mallavarapu, S. (Eds.) *International and Area Studies in India*, Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi, pp. 17-38.

Bajpai, K. (2010). Obstacles to Good Work in Indian International Relations. *International Studies*, 46(1-2): 109-128. https://doi.org/10.1177/002088171004600208

Barnett, M. and Lawson, G. (2023). Three visions of the Global: Global International Relations, Global History, Global Historical Sociology. *International Theory*, 15(3):499-515.

Behera, N.C. (2007). Re-imagining IR in India. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 7(3): 341-368. http://www.jstor.org/stable/26159494

Bernal-Meza, R. (2016). Contemporary Latin American thinking on International Relations: Theoretical, Conceptual, and Methodological Contributions. *Revista Brasileira de. Política Internacional*, 59(1): e005. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/0034-7329201600105

Bilgin, P. (2008). Thinking past "Western" IR?. *Third World Quarterly*, 29(1): 5-23. http://www.jstor.org/stable/20455023

Bischoff, P.-H., Aning, K., and Acharya, A. (Eds.). (2015). Africa in Global International Relations: An Introduction. In: *Africa in Global International Relations: Emerging Approaches to Theory and Practice*. Routledge.

Buzan, B. (2016). Could IR Be Different?. *International Studies Review*, 18(1), March: 155-157.

Cháirez-Garza, J.F. (2019). B.R. Ambedkar, Partition and the Internationalisation of Untouchability, 1939-47. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 42(1): 80-96; Krishna. S. (2014). A Postcolonial Racial/Spatial Order: Gandhi, Ambedkar, and the Construction of the International. In: Anievas, A., Manchanda, N., and Shilliam, R. (Eds.). *Race and Racism in International Relations: Confronting the Global Colour Line* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Chakrabarty, D. (2005). A Small History of Subaltern Studies. In: Schwarz, H. and Ray, S. (Eds.) *A Companion to Postcolonial Studies*, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, pp. 467-485.

Clark, I. (1998). Beyond the Great Divide: Globalization and The Theory of International Relations. *Review of International Studies*, 24(4): 479-498.

Demirkol, A. (2023). A Perspective on Critical Security Concept and International Migration Nexus through Copenhagen School: The Quest for Societal Security. *Lectio Socialis*, 7(1), 23-32. https://doi.org/10.47478/lectio.1146768

Dyer, H.C. (1989). Normative Theory and International Relations. In: Dyer, H.C. and Mangasarian, L. (eds) *The Study of International Relations*. Palgrave Macmillan, London. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-20275-1_8

Eun, Y.-S. (2018). Opening up the Debate over 'Non-Western' International Relations. *Politics*, 39(1): 4-17. https://doi.org/10.1177/0263395718805401

Eun, YS. (2020). Non-Western International Relations Theorisation: Reflexive Stocktaking. *E-International Relations*, April 12. https://www.e-ir.info/2020/04/12/non-western-international-relations-theorisation-reflexive-stocktaking/

Geeraerts, G., and Jing, M. (2001). International Relations Theory in China. *Global Society*, 15(3): 251-276. https://doi.org/10.1080/13600820120066258

Guéhenno, J-M. (1999). The Post-Cold War World: Globalization and the International System. *Journal of Democracy*, 10(1), January: 22-35.

Hardiman, D. (2023). Ranajit Guha: A Tribute. *South Asian Studies*, 39(2), March: 257-262. https://doi.org/10.1080/02666030.2023.2270837

Ho, B. (2019). Chinese Thinking about International Relations: From Theory to Practice. *Asia Policy*, 14(3), July 30: 2-5. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1353/asp.2019.0030

Hurrell, A. (2007). One World, Many Worlds? The Place of Regions in the Study of International Politics. *International Affairs*, 83(1): 151-66.

Kalu, K. (2001). Post-Cold War Realism, Liberal Internationalism, and the Third World. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 36(2): 225-236.

Kang, D.C. (2005). Hierarchy in Asian International Relations: 1300-1900. *Asian Security*, 1(1): 53-79.

Kundu, K. (2010). Rabindranath Tagore and World Peace. *Asiatic*, 4(1), June: 77-86.

Mallavarapu, S. (2010). Development of International Relations Theory in India. *International Studies*, 46(1-2): 165-183. https://doi.org/10.1177/002088171004600211

Marwah I.S. (2024). The View from the Future: Aurobindo Ghose's Anti-Colonial Darwinism. *American Political Science Review*, 118(2): 876-889.

Mattoo, A. (2010). The State of International Studies in India. *International Studies*, 46(1-2): 37-48; Bava, U.S. (2018). India and the Global Order: Negotiating between the Old and New Order. *International Studies*, 54(1-4): 22-41.

Mearsheimer, J.J. and Walt, S.M. (2016). The Case for Offshore Balancing. *Foreign Affairs*, 94(4), July/August: 70-83.

Mende, J. (2019). Are Human Rights Western—And Why Does It Matter? A Perspective from International Political Theory. *Journal of International Political Theory*, 17(1), 38-57. https://doi.org/10.1177/1755088219832992

Mohan, C.R. (2006). India and the Balance of Power. *Foreign Affairs*, 85(4), July-August: 17-32; Bava, U.S. (2018). India and the Global Order: Negotiating between the Old and New Order. *International Studies*, 54(1-4): 22-41.

Narlikar, A., Mattoo, A. Narlikar, A. (2023). Introduction: The Mahabharat as a Manual for the Modern Day; To War or Not to War: The *Bhagavat Gita*. In*: Strategic Choices, Ethical Dilemmas: Stories from the Mahabharat*, Vintage Books, New Delhi.

Prebisch, R. (1998). Dependence, Interdependence and Development. *Cepal Review*, United Nations, 34, Santiago, Chile, April. https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d1d1b257-65ff-4fce-85b6-19d3c224367d/content

Ramakrishnan, A.k. (1999). The gaze of Orientalism: Reflections on Linking Post-Colonialism and International Relations. *International Studies*, 36(2): April, 129-63.

Rösch, F. and Watanabe, A. (2018). Conclusion: Is there any Japanese International Relations Theory?. In: *Modern Japanese Political Thought and International Relations*, Rowman & Littlefield, London.

Sengupta, S. (2023). Climate change, International Justice and Global Order. *International Affairs*, 99(1), January: 121-140. https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiac264

Shahi, D., and Ascione, G. (2015). Rethinking the absence of post-Western International Relations theory in India: 'Advaitic Monism' as an Alternative Epistemological Resource. *European Journal of International Relations*, 22(2): 313-334. https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066115592938

Sharma, A. (2021). Decolonising International Relations: Confronting Erasures through Indigenous Knowledge Systems. *International Studies*, 58(1): 25-40. https://doi.org/10.1177/0020881720981209

Sørensen, G. (1998). IR Theory after the Cold War. *Review of International Studies*, 24(5): 83-100.

Tickner, AB. (2014). Autonomy and Latin American International Relations Thinking. In: Domínguez, J., and Covarrubias, A. (Eds.). *Routledge Handbook of Latin America in the World* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Tieku, T.K. (2013). Theoretical Approaches to Africa's International Relations, (2). In: Murithi, T. (Ed.). *Handbook of Africa's International Relations* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Turner, J.A. (2014). An Islamic Paradigm of International Relations. In: *Religious Ideology and the Roots of the Global Jihad*. Palgrave Macmillan, London. https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137409577_5

Villanueva, R., Alba-Ulloa, J.D., Olvera, P.G., Lorenzini, M.E. (2024). Missing Voices: Latin American Perspectives in International Relations. *International Affairs*, 100(1), January: 1-5.

Wight, C. (2019). Bringing the Outside In: The limits of Theoretical Fragmentation and Pluralism in IR theory. *Politics*, 39(1): 64-81.

Wilkens, J. and Datchoua-Tirvaudey, A.R.C. (2022). Researching Climate Justice: A Decolonial Approach to Global Climate Governance. *International Affairs*, 98(1), January: 125-143. https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiab209

Yong-Soo, E. (2019). Global IR through Dialogue. *The Pacific Review*, 32(2): 131-149. https://doi.org/10.1080/09512748.2018.1461680