School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Problems of International Relations (IS 452N) Winter 2019

Instructor: Rajesh Rajagopalan, Room 218, SIS Building, Ph: 2670-4593
[rajesh.sis.jnu@gmail.com]

Schedule:
Mondays 2:00-2:55 pm; 3:00-3:55 pm
Thursdays 9:00-9:55 am; 10:00-10.55 am

Office Hours:
Mondays 1:00-2:00 pm; Thursdays 11:00-11:45 am (or by appointment)

Course Description
This course follows the introductory course on international relations theory in the previous semester and is designed as a companion course. Now that you have learned the basics of IR theory, in this course, we will look at how IR theory is employed to understand international politics and foreign policy from different perspectives. So we will discuss some key contemporary debates in international politics from opposing theoretical perspectives. While some of these debates are general in nature, others are particularly relevant to Indian foreign policy and the Indian situation in global politics. We will start with the debates around polarity and hegemony in IR. We will then look at the debate about the future of the Liberal International Order and the emerging US-China competition (a new Cold War?). The subsequent section will consider the role of regions and whether regional powers matter in international politics. The last few sections will consider issues such as whether Asian international politics are or will be different from previous, European-dominated international politics and how we might understand Indian foreign policy from a theoretical perspective.

Course Assessment
The course assessment will be as follows: there will be a mid-term and a final exam. The mid-term will account for 40% of the total grade and the final 50%. The mid-term will be for 2 hours and the final for three hours. The mid-term will require you to answer two essays, while for the final, you will answer three (500-700 words each). There will be a number of in-class snap tests. These will account for the remaining 10% and there will be no make-up tests for the snap tests. Questions will be based on the class discussions and lectures as much as on the readings, so don’t miss classes. There will be NO make-up exams (unless you are hospitalized and have a medical certificate from the JNU medical centre – or authenticated by the JNU medical centre – to prove it).

Course Readings
Is the US Still the Unipolar Power?

**Does the US Want to be the Unipolar Power?**


**Understanding Unipolarity**


**Why Has There Been No Balancing Against the U.S.?**

A New Great Power Competition?

The Liberal International Order Debate

Regional Powers and Regional Security: Do They Matter?


Asia Future – Europe’s Past?


**Understanding Indian Foreign Policy -- Is Theory Useful?**


**Postcolonial Theory and Indian Foreign Policy**


**Asian International Relations Theory**