

# COURSE DETAIL

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES: WESTPHALIAN VS. ASIAN GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES

**Country**

France

**Host Institution**

Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

**Program(s)**

Sciences Po Paris

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Political Science International Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**

170

**UCEAP Course Suffix**

E

**UCEAP Official Title**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES: WESTPHALIAN VS. ASIAN GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

INTL RELATION THRY

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

**Course Description**

This course examines key international relations (IR) theories—Westphalian and Asian Global International Society (GIS)—questioning their relevance to Central and South Asia. It critically assesses whether traditional theories like Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism, alongside non-Western perspectives (Chinese, Indian, and Islamic), adequately explain the region's geopolitical and security challenges. The course analyzes China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), shifting security architectures, and post-NATO Afghanistan, highlighting tensions between theory and reality. Through problem-driven analysis, it challenges assumptions about how Western and Asian GIS traditions interpret state behavior and power shifts. The course explores whether regionalism and security complexes shape international interactions in ways overlooked by mainstream IR. Can existing theories fully capture China's strategic ambitions and evolving security dynamics? Engaging with these debates, students gain a broad understanding of IR across different GIS traditions and critically examine the gaps between theory and practice in this geopolitically significant region.

**Language(s) of Instruction**

English

**Host Institution Course Number**

DAFF 25A70

**Host Institution Course Title**

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**Host Institution Course Details**<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202510/286215>**Host Institution Campus**

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

Seminar

**Host Institution Department**

International Relations

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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