

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

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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%2F286215=>**Host Institution Campus**

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Seminar

Host Institution Department

International Relations

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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