

<b>Module code</b>	INR417	<b>Level</b>	4
<b>Module title</b>	Critical Thinking in International Relations	<b>Credit value</b>	20
<b>Core</b>	Core	<b>ECTS Credits</b>	10
		<b>Notional learning hours</b>	200
<b>Courses on which the module is taught</b>	BA (Hons) International Relations	<b>Teaching Period</b>	Spring

### 1. Module description

In international relations, issues such as genocide, human trafficking, climate change or poverty are crucial factors. As social scientists, how we define significant actors influences how they are described in international law, policy making, and political campaigning. This module will explore primary social science perspectives and provide an understanding of various ways of looking at the world. You will learn about the building blocks of theoretical perspectives and critically engage with some real-world examples, applying a variety of approaches and political lenses. This will enable you to begin to analyse how these and other concepts have evolved through time, and how different perspectives shape and define the political and policy landscape.

### 2. Learning outcomes

*Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:*

#### **Innovation (MLO 02)**

define and compare perspectives on real-world situations with key concepts in International Relations to propose novel approaches of solutions

#### **Decision Making (MLO 04)**

investigate and contrast different ideas, including your own, to inform decision making on issues in the political landscape

#### **Communication (MLO 05)**

communicate your arguments/reasoning orally, in international relations settings, within familiar and well-defined contexts.

#### **Discipline Skills (MLO 08)**

use established discipline-specific knowledge, techniques and tools, to enhance critical thinking for practical purposes.

### 3. Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching approach on this module includes the use of case studies to unpack theoretical concepts. We will use mini-lectures, seminars, group discussions and some online content to critically engage with issues in international relations, and develop an understanding of the theoretical ideas that underpin them.

<b>Learning hours</b>	
<b>Directed learning</b>	<b>48 hours</b>
Workshops/classes	48
<b>Guided/Self-guided learning</b>	<b>152 hours</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>

#### 4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

##### Assessment 1: Viva/Oral Exam

**Weight (%): 50**

**Word Count or Equivalent: 10 mins**

Conduct a critical conversation with your tutor about a particular concept relevant to the module, exploring the origins of the theory. Use a real-world example to support your arguments and to exercise judgements

##### Assessment 2: Case Study

**Weight (%): 50**

**Word Count or Equivalent: 1500 words**

You will pick a particular case study (for example a particular genocide, human trafficking situation or gender issue) and use this case to trace the origin of the concept in relation to ideology, theory and/or legal/policy frameworks and to generate fresh observations or routes to a resolution.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity of formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback.

Assessment	MLO2	MLO4	MLO5	MLO8
Viva/Oral Exam		X	X	X
Case Study	X	X		X

#### 5. Indicative resources

Benton, T. and Craib, I. (2010) *Philosophy of Social Science* London: Palgrave

Dunne, T., Kurki, M., and Smith, S. (2020) *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*. Oxford: OUP

Sands, P. (2016) *East West Street* London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson