



NAME OF SCHOOL: School of Humanities & Social Science (SHSS)

SEMESTER: **IRL 3005: CONTEMPORARY THEORIES AND IDEOLOGIES IN IR**
CREDIT UNITS : 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. The course introduces students to the study of Contemporary Political Theories and Ideologies within the domain of International Relations (IR). The course looks at essential features of selected theories and ideologies and how they have evolved. It is important to understand what is happening in the world through an examination (lenses) of political ideologies that inform the thought and action of both theoreticians and politicians. It is through an understanding of political ideologies that we are better placed to understand ourselves, our motives of taking certain courses of action and what we believe in. Equally, many people may be unaware of what different groups of people believe in and as such languish in ignorance of false fabrications or are informed by stereotypes. The course shall thus enable us increase our understanding of both theories and ideologies and their impact and relevance globally in the 21st Century, hence the necessity of this study within the setting of International Relations realm.

LINK TO UNIVERSITY MISSION AND PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

2. Use and explanation of various theories and ideologies in the study of International Relations, hence be able to: Collate, collect, analyze and respond critically to information, especially that of political nature. This will enhance the students' critical thinking, get acquainted with the key issues in a Theory or Ideology, and be able to appreciate the link between the said entities (theories and ideologies) and the actual practice and projections of everyday politics.

EXPECTED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

3. By the end of the course, the students should be able to:

- Explain, critique and analyze features of contemporary political theories and ideologies.
- Secondly, students should be able to intelligently discourse on political ideologies and theories.
- Thirdly, students shall be able to relate different ideas to theories and ideologies of choice and;
- Finally, students should be able to participate in the emerging and contemporary political Theories and Ideologies.

COURSE TEXTS

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA.

Macridis Hulliung et al (1996). Contemporary Political Ideologies: Movements and Regimes. Brandeis University, Pearson, Longman.

Note: Other relevant literature will be provided through blackboard platform.

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS (Worth 15% of the Final Grade)

4.
 - a. Individual Assignment (Term Paper). Every student is to Research on a country of his/her choice, which was formerly colonized and bring out the following:
 - The historical background of the country, the colonizer's influence on her political system (if at all) and how this has affected the country's political leadership to date. Any differences of political system from her former colonizer, how and why.
 - Ideological inclination during the Cold war period, and how this has affected the country's standing on the international forums to date (if at all).
 - Whether the country's political system has changed since the late 1980s and why.
 - Any other matter of political or ideological interest about the said country.

Note: The paper should not be more than five (5pages) ie the content (strictly). Fonts: Times New Roman size 12 (main heading could be size 14), double spacing, well paragraphed, well referenced both in-text (citations) and final list of references, one-inch margin all round and be well aligned (justified). The paper is due on the fifth Week (Wed 6th October, 2021) by the

end of the class time (if back to campus). Students are free to consult with the lecturer on any issue or matter which could hinder progress in research and writing of the paper.

b. There will be a CAT on the Wed of the 10th Week for all the work covered till then- **10%**. An alternative to this would be an Article Review if there are those who have not done it.

GROUP ASSIGNMENT (Worth 18% of the Final Grade)

5. The class will be divided into several groups of preferably not more than 7 students per group to research on one of the countries shown below: Russia, UK, Kenya, China, USA, Nigeria, Japan, Brazil, South Africa, India, Australia... depending on the number of groups. Each group is to carry out a detailed research on the assigned country (will be agreed upon) and bring out the following information for Group presentation and a word document paper for marking:

- Historical background of the country, its global location and the development of its political system to date,
- The Ideological system on which the country operates and its economic development,
- Its influence or inclination during the Cold war period, her close Allies and whether this has had any changes since late 1980s and if so why and how,
- The country's political influence on the global matters and its Impact if at all,
- Any other matter of political or ideological interest about the said country.

Note: The paper is to be between 8 to 10 pages ie the content (strictly), fonts: Times New Roman size 12 (main heading could be size 14), 1.5 spacing, well paragraphed, well referenced both in-text and final list of references, one-inch margin all round and be well aligned (justified). The paper is to be handed over (for marking) to the lecturer during the Group's presentation day. Presentations commence on the 9th Week (**3rd Nov**) with Group 1.

CONTENT & CLASS SCHEDULE

6. As shown below (Indicated: learning outcome focused on, topic/sub topic, readings, and any other assignments due in the week). Class discussions/interactions highly encouraged.

a. Week One: Introduction to the Course

Definitions: Political Theories and Ideologies - An introduction

What is an ideology?

Types of Political Ideologies

Major Political Ideologies

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding of critical issues that are emphasised by Theories and Ideologies.
- Understand the link between the said entities and the reality of Political practises.

b. Week Two: Introduction to Liberalism with Democracy as its Key Tenet

- Democracy and Liberalism
- The core of Liberalism
- State and the individual
- Liberalism and Neo-liberalism
- Expansion of Neo-liberalism

Readings:

Macridis Hulliung et al (1996). Contemporary Political Ideologies: Movements and Regimes. Brandeis University, Pearson, Longman. Pp. 25 – 44.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Enhancement of critical thinking through understanding of Theories and Ideologies.
- Demonstrate understanding why theories and ideologies are the lenses in IR.

c. WEEK THREE: DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMY

Macridis Hulliung et al (1996). Contemporary Political Ideologies: Movements and Regimes. Brandeis University, Pearson, Longman. pp. 51-70.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Enhance understanding of Democracy as an Ideology and its Economic Impact.
- Demonstrate understanding of Democracy and its Global Impact.

d. WEEK FOUR

Classical Nationalism

Modern Nationalism

Post Modernism / Post - Colonialism

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA. pp.23 – 43.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Show understanding of Nationalism as an Ideology and its Impact on colonization.
- Demonstrate Ideology as a major decolonization Force.

e. WEEK FIVE: GLOBALISATION AND NEO-LIBERAL GLOBALISATION

1. What is globalization / Neo-Liberal Globalization?
2. What is Globalization / Neo - Liberal Globalization?

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA. pp. 48-55

Submission of Term Paper (Individual Assignment) - 15 Marks.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding of Theories and Ideologies and their global impact.
- Demonstration of theories and ideologies as the interpretive lenses of IR.

f. WEEK SIX: DEMOCRACY

1. Liberal
2. Social
3. The New Democracy

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jean, USA.pp. 63 - 92

Additional reading by Shivji, Mafeje and Bello.

Expected Learning Outcome/s:

- Show Liberal and Social dynamics and their link to Theories and Ideologies.

g. WEEK SEVEN

Mid Semester Exams: 20th October, 2021. Could change to 13th Oct 2021.

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA. PP. 63 – 92.

h. WEEK EIGHT

1. Capitalism
2. Socialism
3. Democracy

Macridis Hulliung et al (1996). Contemporary Political Ideologies: Movements and Regimes. Brandeis University, Pearson, Longman. Pp.105-113.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Enhancement of critical thinking through understanding Capitalism.
- Demonstrate understanding of the said ideologies as seen through the lenses of IR.

i. WEEK NINE: FEMINISM

1. Development of Feminism
2. Feminist Responses
3. Current Trends

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA. pp. 159-175.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Show understanding of Feminism as a Theory and its Key Tenets.
- Demonstrate understanding why theories and ideologies are the lenses in IR.

j. WEEK TEN: MARXISM

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA. pp. 181-204.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Enhancement of critical thinking through understanding of Marxism as an Ideology.
- Demonstrate Revolutionary effects of Marxism since its inception in 17th Century.

k. WEEK ELEVEN: LIBERTARIANISM AND ANARCHISM

1. Anarchism
2. Libertarianism
3. Current Trends

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Inculcate of critical thinking through understanding of Anarchism and Libertarianism.
- Demonstrate their Global impact and trends as seen through IR lenses.

l. WEEK TWELVE

1. RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGIES
2. Islam
3. Christianity

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA. Pp. 261 – 272.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Enhancement of critical thinking through seeing Religions as Ideologies.
- Demonstrate understanding of Religions and their Global Impact.

m. WEEK THIRTEEN: ENVIRONMENTALISM - REVISION

Lyman Tower Sargent (2009). Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Suzanne Jeans, USA. Pp. 277 – 288.

n. WEEK FOURTEEN: FINAL EXAMS – 8th December, 2021.

TEACHING METHODS

7. The class will utilise Zoom presentations, interactive class discussions, independent study, group work, video clips, guest speakers (on opportunity basis) and group presentations. The said approaches are meant to inject realism and help students understand the subject with ease. Students are free to raise any issue/s which to the best of their imaginations is not helping them understand the subject easily. They could suggest on any material which would improve on the content or improve on any of the methodologies being utilized. This will be highly appreciated as an appropriate feedback path to continuously improve on the course.

COURSE EVALUATION

8.

<i>Attendance and participation</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>Individual Assignment</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Group presentation & Report</i>	<i>18%</i>
<i>Article Review/CAT Assignment</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Mid-Semester Exam</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>30%</i>
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>

OTHER REQUIREMENTS (Vital for smooth Learning)

9. a. Avoid Lateness. Let us endeavour to hook in before 09:00 and start on time. Note the system records the **EFFECTIVE time spent in class** and advices accordingly.
- b. Late submission of Assignments will attract a loss of **ONE MARK** per DAY.
- c. Mute microphones when in session to avoid unnecessary noise unless when talking.

KEY INSTITUTIONAL ACADEMIC POLICIES

10. Students should note the following key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students Handbook and their respective sanctions:

a. Academic dishonesty:

- (1) Any intentional giving or use of external assistance during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination.

- (2) **Fabrication.** Any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise/undertaking;
- (3) **Plagiarism.** Any passing of another person's ideas, words, or work as one's own;
- (4) **Previously Submitted Work.** Presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course; etc.

b. Class Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Upon being absent for more than **Seven** classes in a 3 unit course, will result to an automatic **“F”** grade to the said student/s registered and meant to attend the course. This is a University Policy and **is Not Negotiable**.

USIU GRADING

11.	A	90 – 100	A-	87 - 89		
	B+	84 - 86	B	80 - 83	B-	77 -79
	C+	74 – 76	C	70 – 73	C-	67 – 69
	D+	64 - 66	D	62 – 63	D-	60 – 61
	F	0 - 59.				

Note: Purpose your Grade from Day One. Aim high...