Critical Theory and International Relations Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Critical Theory and International Relations Training Course provides a foundational understanding of **Critical Theory** and its profound application to the field of **International Relations**. In a world grappling with complex global challenges from persistent inequality to emerging power dynamics traditional theories often fall short. This course fills that gap by offering a transformative lens to deconstruct and analyze the underlying structures of power, identity, and knowledge that shape global politics. Participants will engage with leading critical scholars and apply these powerful conceptual tools to contemporary issues, fostering a deeper, more nuanced understanding of international affairs beyond conventional state-centric perspectives.

By moving beyond the traditional paradigms of realism and liberalism, this course equips participants with the analytical skills needed to address the root causes of global conflict and injustice. We will explore how historical legacies of colonialism, patriarchy, and capitalism continue to influence today's international system. The curriculum is designed to be highly interactive and case-study-driven, enabling participants to not only grasp theoretical concepts but also to apply them to real-world scenarios. This training is essential for anyone seeking to develop a **critical perspective** on global issues and contribute to a more equitable and just world order.

Programme Curriculum

Critical Theory and International Relations Training Course

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Course Objectives

1. **Deconstruct** traditional International Relations theories (e.g., realism, liberalism) and their inherent biases.
2. **Analyze** the role of power, discourse, and knowledge in shaping global governance structures.
3. **Apply** critical frameworks, including Postcolonialism, Feminism, and Marxism, to contemporary global issues.
4. **Examine** the historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism and imperialism on international relations.
5. **Understand** the relationship between global capitalism and systemic inequality.
6. **Critically evaluate** the concepts of sovereignty, security, and human rights from a non-Western perspective.
7. **Explore** the emerging fields of Critical Security Studies and Critical Political Economy.
8. **Formulate** a nuanced understanding of identity politics in a global context.
9. **Develop** the capacity for ethical and reflexive inquiry in international affairs research and practice.
10. **Analyze** the role of non-state actors and social movements in challenging global hierarchies.
11. **Assess** the potential for **emancipation** and social change within the existing international system.
12. **Master** advanced analytical skills for deconstructing complex global events and policies.
13. **Contribute** to a more inclusive and just discourse on international affairs.

Target Audience

1. Graduate Students and Researchers in International Relations, Political Science, and Global Studies.
2. Policy Analysts and Diplomats
3. NGO Professionals and Civil Society Advocates
4. Journalists and Media Professionals
5. Academics and Educators
6. Human Rights Defenders and Activists.
7. Legal Professionals.
8. Government Officials and Public Servants.

Course Content

- **Module 1: Foundations of Critical IR Theory**
    - **Introduction to IR Theory:** A critical overview of realism, liberalism, and constructivism.
- **The Frankfurt School:** From Max Horkheimer to J??rgen Habermas.
- **Robert Cox & Problem-Solving vs. Critical Theory:** "Theory is always for someone and for some purpose."
- **Theories of Hegemony & Counter-Hegemony:** Antonio Gramsci's influence on IR.
- **Methodology and Reflexivity:** The importance of self-critique in research.
- **Module 2: Postcolonialism & Decolonizing IR**
    - **Historical Legacies:** The enduring impact of colonialism and imperialism.
- **Theories of the Subaltern:** Recovering voices from the marginalized.
- **Case Study: The Global South in International Development** (Exploring power dynamics in development aid and neocolonialism).
- **Orientalism and Othering:** Edward Said's critique of Western representations.
- **Decolonizing Knowledge:** Challenging Eurocentric frameworks in global studies.
- **Module 3: Critical Security Studies**
    - **Beyond the State:** Redefining security to include human and environmental concerns.
- **Securitization Theory:** The Copenhagen School's framework for understanding security as a speech act.
- **Case Study: Climate Change as a Security Threat** (Analyzing how environmental issues are framed as national security risks).
- **Biopolitics and Governance:** Foucault's influence on understanding power and control.
- **Emancipatory Security:** Moving toward a security agenda that empowers marginalized groups.
- **Module 4: Feminist IR**
    - **Gender and Global Politics:** Exploring the roles of gender in war, diplomacy, and economics.
- **The Personal is International:** How personal experiences of gender inequality connect to global structures.
- **Case Study: The Gendered Impacts of Conflict and Peacekeeping** (Examining how women are disproportionately affected by war and excluded from peace negotiations).
- **Intersectionality:** Analyzing how race, class, and gender intersect to produce unique vulnerabilities.
- **Challenging Masculinist Norms:** Deconstructing the role of hyper-masculinity in state-building and warfare.
- **Module 5: Marxism and International Political Economy**
    - **Historical Materialism:** Marx's method for analyzing global capitalism.
- **Dependency and World-Systems Theory:** Explaining global inequality through unequal exchange.
- **Case Study: The Global Supply Chain** (Analyzing how labor exploitation in the Global South is a function of the global capitalist system).
- **Neoliberalism & Financialization:** The role of international financial institutions.
- **The Rise of China:** A critical perspective on its integration into the global economy.
- **Module 6: Critical Geopolitics**
    - **Mapping Power:** How geographical representations shape political reality.

- **Spatial Analysis:** Analyzing the geopolitics of borders, territories, and resources.
- **Case Study: The Geopolitics of Resource Extraction in Africa** (Examining how foreign interests and transnational corporations exploit resources).
- **The Politics of Maps:** How maps are tools of power and control.
- **Critical approaches to the Arctic:** Analyzing competition and cooperation in a new geopolitical frontier.
- **Module 7: Poststructuralism and Discourse Analysis**
    - **The Power of Language:** How international reality is constructed through discourse.
- **Deconstructing Identity:** The fluid and constructed nature of national and political identities.
- **Case Study: The "War on Terror"** (Analyzing how the discourse of terrorism constructed a new global order).
- **Genealogy and Archaeology:** Foucault's methods for tracing the origins of concepts.
- **The Body in IR:** The corporeal dimensions of power and violence.
- **Module 8: The Future of Critical Theory in IR**
    - **Emerging Theories:** Posthumanism, New Materialism, and Decoloniality.
- **Methodological Innovation:** New approaches to research beyond traditional empiricism.
- **Case Study: The COVID-19 Pandemic** (Using critical theory to analyze global health governance and inequality).
- **Activism & Praxis:** The role of academics and practitioners in social change.
- **Building a Just World Order:** Pathways to emancipation and alternative futures.

Training Methodology

- Interactive Seminars & Discussions.
- Case Study Analysis.
- Collaborative Group Projects.
- Reflective Journaling.
- Guest Lectures & Expert Panels
- Socratic Questioning.
- Role-Playing & Simulations.
- Debate & Counter-Argumentation.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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