

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences
Programme:	International Relations Political Science
<i>FHEQ</i> Level:	4
Course Title:	Introduction to International Relations
Course Code:	INR 4100
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces the main theoretical approaches used in the discipline of International Relations. It acquaints students with the fundamental approaches, concepts, and theories used in the discipline that help us make sense of global politics, and are crucial for further analysis and critique of the field of International Relations (IR). Students get a chance to learn about and take part in the major debates of the discipline of IR – around the nature of power, the impact of ‘human nature’ on global politics, the role of gender in global politics, and includes and contextualizes attempts and strategies to decolonize both the discipline of IR and the practice of global politics.

Pre-requisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce an array of theoretical paradigms in the discipline of International Relations, acquainting students with key terms, issues, and debates in this field
- To encourage critical evaluation of theoretical approaches to global politics
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of contemporary international relations
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

International Relations: A4(i); C4(i); C4(iii); D4(i); D4(iii).

Political Science: A4(i); C4(i); C4(iii); D4(i); D4(iii).

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a broad understanding of the main theories, paradigms, and concepts in the study of international relations and global politics.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, technical competence, clarity, evaluative skills, and research and critical reading skills appropriate for a 4000-level course.

Indicative Content:

- Theoretical Approaches in IR
- Concepts in IR
- Actors in IR

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing and discussion of images, film, and documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate, understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

Edkins, J. and M. Zehfuss (Eds.) (2019) *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. 3rd ed. Oxon and New York, Routledge.

Baylis, J., S. Smith and P. Owens (2019) *The Globalization of World Politics*. 8th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Weber, Cynthia (2014) *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*. 4th ed. London: Routledge

Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi (2014) *International Relations Theory*.

Jabri, Vivienne (2007) *War and the Transformation of Global Politics*. London: Palgrave.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	