

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: International Relations
American Studies
Political Science

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: Global Politics in the C21st

Course Code: INR 4101

Total Hours: 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course addresses some of the most pressing contemporary challenges in global politics. It begins by examining major changes and trends in the actors, dynamics, motivations and interests that dominate international politics in the 21st century, and the unique impact of globalization and other contemporary global dynamics on these changes. Questions are asked about what the key issues in the contemporary study of International Relations should be in light of approaches to IR. In response, we consider the proliferation and impact of non-state actors, from global civil society, to terrorist organizations, to for-profit corporations, to Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs). We explore a range of global challenges, from transnational terrorism to migration, climate change and pandemics, disinformation and cyber-attacks and Weapons of Mass Destruction, and learn about the various responses of states and institutions, and their shortcomings.

Pre-requisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide students with an opportunity to study contemporary events in world politics, and to thereby encourage critical evaluation of global politics
- To address the broad range of issues which constitute global politics in the 21st Century, and the various implications and problems that arise from these
- 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 global politics
- 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:

International Relations: B4(i); C4(i); C4(iii); D4(ii); D4(iii).

American Studies: A4(I), B4(I), C4(I), C4(iii), D4(ii), D4(iii).

Political Science: B4(I), C4(I), C4(iii), D4ii, D4iii

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 contemporary issues in international relations.
- 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:

- State and non-state actors in contemporary global politics
- Key events in global politics in the 21st Century and they can be understood
- Broad introduction to the range of contemporary empirical subjects addressed in the discipline of International Relations
- Contemporary themes, issues, and debates in global politics

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 of 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.

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

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	

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