

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Academic School/Department:</b> | Social Sciences and Humanities                       |
| <b>Programme:</b>                  | International Relations                              |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                 | 6                                                    |
| <b>Course Title:</b>               | Senior Seminar in International Relations 2          |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                | INR 6297                                             |
| <b>Total Hours:</b>                | 120                                                  |
| Timetabled Hours:                  | 0                                                    |
| Guided Learning Hours:             | 25                                                   |
| Independent Learning Hours:        | 95                                                   |
| <b>Credits:</b>                    | 12 UK CATS credits<br>6 ECTS credits<br>3 US credits |

### **Course Description:**

Senior Seminar in International Relations 2 is the second half of the two-semester sequence of courses taken by International Relations majors in their Senior year, culminating in the submission of a dissertation 8,000 to 10,000 words in length. Students are guided through the various stages of drafting and revising their final dissertation, and orally present their research according to conference standards as part of the formative process.

### **Prerequisites:**

INR 6296 Senior Seminar in International Relations 1

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To help students develop self-directed and more advanced research and writing strategies that reflect a systematic engagement with a key issue related to their specific interests in International Relations
- To enable students to achieve the submission of a final dissertation, and an oral presentation of their research
- 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 International Relations
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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: A6(iv); B6(iii); B6(iv); C6(i); C6(ii); C6(iii); C6(iv); D6(i); D6(ii); D6(iii); D6(iv)

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:**

- Students should demonstrate the ability to carry through their research design that was begun in Senior Seminar in International Relations 1 by using evidence, data and information from a range of primary and secondary sources.
- Students should present their research findings in an analytical way, revealing their scholarly activities using wide ranging and multiple sources.
- Students should demonstrate their analytical and interpretive skills through this dissertation which is expected to show the development of rational and logical progression of ideas, arguments, and evidence.
- Students should critically assess the information gathered, extend their ability for critical appraisal, and consolidate their knowledge of their subject based on work from previous courses.
- Students should demonstrate an understanding of theories that are relevant to their topic as well as utilise explicit and identifiable methodological approaches.
- Student should demonstrate an ability to actively engage in the feedback/editing process in a timely and systematic manner and take responsibility for their own learning and development.
- Students demonstrate the ability to make a coherent and engaging 10-minute oral presentation to their peers in a formal conference-style setting.

### **Indicative Content:**

- Extending research sources
- Developing a clear thesis, theoretical framework, and methodology
- Multiple draft writing
- Editing and proofreading
- Oral presentation of research

### **Assessment:**

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

### **Teaching Methodology:**

Course meetings consist of a few interactive group discussions and oral presentations, but weekly meetings primarily revolve around individual tutorial supervision. The course is student-centered, and students are responsible for time and research self-management as well as for their own engagement with their project. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improve student approach to learning and achieve better results.

**IndicativeText:**

Greetham, B. (2019) *How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London: Palgrave.

*Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus*

See syllabus for complete reading list.

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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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