

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Humanities & Social Sciences
Programme:	International Relations
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Introduction to International Relations
Course Code:	INTR 4101
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces students to both the study of International Relations (IR) and key issues in contemporary global politics. Conflict, cooperation, and power are unpacked and addressed while the course introduces and reflects on the fundamental approaches, concepts, and theories used in the discipline. Issues to which these are applied then include migration, the relationship between humans and the environment, terrorism, security, and disinformation. Throughout, different actors, institutions and ideas are engaged with as the course assesses contemporary global politics through an array of contemporary case studies.

Prerequisites:

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 key contemporary issues and problems in 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:

4AI; 4BI; 4CI; 4DI

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

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

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrates broad knowledge and understanding of the core theories, thinkers, paradigms, debates and methods of International Relations.
- Demonstrates a broad understanding of key issues, themes, problems, and challenges in contemporary global politics.
- Demonstrates broad communication skills (including digital literacy) in deploying ideas and information to in a range of different formats and media.
- Demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace.

Indicative Content:

- Theoretical Approaches in IR
- Key concepts in IR
- Key issues in contemporary global politics
- State and non-state actors in IR
- The transformation of warfare
- Climate change and conflict

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 delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

- Baylis, J., Smith, S. and Owens, P. (2022) *The Globalization of World Politics*. 9th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Edkins, J., Zehfuss, M. and Gregory, T. (Eds.) (2025) *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. 4th ed. Oxon and New York, Routledge.
- Grieco, J., Ikenberry, G. and Mastanduno, M. (2022). *Introduction to International Relations: Perspectives, Connections and Enduring Questions*. 3rd ed. Bloomsbury.
- Haynes, J., Hough, P. and Pilbeam, B. (2023). *World Politics: International Relations and Globalization in the 21st Century*. 3rd ed. Sage.
- Heywood, A. and Whitham, B. (2023) *Global Politics*. 3rd ed. Bloomsbury.
- Sørensen, G. and Møller, J. (2025) *Introduction to International Relations and Global Politics*. 9th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Weber, C. (2021) *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*. 5th ed. Routledge.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	Nov 2024	