

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: MA in International Relations

Level: 7

Course Title: Research Methodology

Course Code: INR 7100

Course Leader: Dr Michael Keating

Student Engagement Hours: 200

Seminars: 39

Tutorials: 6

Independent / Guided Learning : 155

Semester: AUTUMN

Credits: 20 UK CATS credits
10 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

Introduces students to the process of research, including the ability to work from libraries and institutional archives, and developing skills in academic writing, with a focus on the fields of international history, international theory, current affairs and policy processes. Students are encouraged to develop independence of thought by discovering, evaluating and making appropriate use of a wide range of approaches to research and writing. Complimenting the courses on theory and concepts, this course assists students with the identification of their own interests as they move towards choosing a thesis topic.

Pre-requisites: MA International Relations students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the process of conducting MA level autonomous research
- To examine the range of research methods and techniques available to scholars in the field
- To engage critically with texts
- To consider the ethical dimension of research
- To develop a familiarity with the policy making process
- To consider the qualities of academic writing including effective arguments supported by evidence
- To examine and apply professional presentation skills

Programme Outcomes:

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

B; E; F; G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Engages with and critically reflects upon on the different methodological tools used in International Relations.
- Demonstrates the ability to exercise initiative in organising and pursuing set projects and assignments.
- Demonstrates the ability to utilize research methods in the context of International Relations, and the skills necessary to effectively communicate research methods and findings.
- Demonstrate professional presentation skills, and the ability to pitch material to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Indicative Content:

- methods for conducting primary research including library and archival research
- methods for engaging critically with texts, and evaluating primary, secondary and tertiary sources
- writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence
- research design and thesis planning
- presentation of proposed research projects

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal Number of Items (including final exam)*	Total assessment
LEVEL 7	R7000/UK MA	2-3	5000-7000 words

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for

