COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: International Relations

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: The Evolution of International Systems

Course Code: INR 4105

Course Leader: Dr Martin D. Brown

Student Engagement Hours:120Lectures:22.5Seminar / Tutorials:22.5Independent / Guided Learning:75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course is designed to be a study of the evolution, and gradual development, of the European 'states' system. It will provide a comparative cultural, economic, historical, and political analysis of how international systems have evolved and functioned, illustrating the ways in which 'states' interact with one another within systems. It will begin with the fall of the Roman Empire in Western Europe, move through to the early European systems of the medieval period, on to the wars of religion of the sixteenth century, the defeat of Napoleon in 1813, and end with the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. This course will analyse the development of European international systems, the methods via which they were spread, and examine the elaborate rules and practices that regulate them.

Prerequisites: HST 3100, HST 3105, HST 3200, or HST 3205

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of the complex historical evolution of international systems.
- To encourage an appreciation of the economic, cultural, political and social, dimensions of international systems.
- To examine the conflicting arguments of different historical and International Relations based interpretations with regard to this subject.

- To be acquainted with the various concepts and definitions utilised by the English School of International Relations.
- To enhance transferable skills (written and oral) through group discussion, exams, and research papers based upon a critical understanding of various source materials.

Programme Outcomes:

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

outcomes. 4A(iii); 4B(i); 4C(i); 4C(iii); 4D(i); 4D(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 English School's approach to the study of international relations
- Demonstrates a broad understanding of historical issues in international relations, particularly as they pertain to the evolution of international systems
- 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:

- Emergence of the modern state system
- Various concepts and definitions utilised by the English School of International Relations, Watson & Bull
- Key historical junctures in inter-state relations
- Interplay of economic, cultural, political and other features in formation of systems
- Key treaties and agreements and their significance
- The role of both short-term and long-term processes in historical change
- Contemporary relevance of historical rules and practices of inter-state relations

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

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 <u>prepared</u>.

Bibliography:

- Kennedy, P. (1989), The Rise and Fall of Great Powers, Vintage
- Roberts J. M. (2007), *The Penguin History of the World*, (5th ed.), Penguin
- Watson, A. (2009), Evolutions of International Systems, (2nd ed.), Routledge

Change Log for this CSD:

Major	Nature of Change	Date Approved &	Change
or		Approval Body	Actioned
Minor		(School or LTPC)	by
Change			Academic
?			Registry