

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**Academic School/Department:** Social Sciences and Humanities

**Programme:** International Relations  
Political Science

**FHEQ Level:** 3

**Course Title:** World Politics

**Course Code:** INR 3100

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

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

### **Course Description:**

This course engages students with world politics with an emphasis on understanding the possibility of and mechanisms for international cooperation in the contemporary international system. We look at inter-state cooperation in the form of treaties, diplomacy, norms and institutions (such as the UN), as well as informal modes of cooperation. We then turn to non-state actors such as companies, charities, NGOs, social movements and individuals and address their impact on cooperation and conflict in world politics. Finally, the course looks at the rise of 'Great Powers', reflecting on the costs and benefits of strategies of conflict or cooperation in response to changes in the hierarchies of world politics.

### **Pre-requisites:**

None

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To acquaint students with world politics as complex system of cooperation and conflict between a range of different actors.
- To draw attention to the complexities and subtleties of international cooperation and the problem of conflict, including in the context of the rise of 'Great Powers'
- 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 world politics
- 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: B3(i); C3(i); D3(i)

Political Science: B3(i); C3(i); D3(i)

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 an understanding of institutions, practices and systems of cooperation in world politics.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, technical competence, clarity, evaluative skills, and research and critical reading skills appropriate for a 3000-level course.

**Indicative Content:**

- Theories of cooperation and the notion of conflict
- Key historical junctures in international cooperation
- Actors in world politics
- Forms of cooperation, and how to tell it apart from coercion
- 'Great Powers' and their challenge to cooperation in world 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:**

Kegley, C.W. and G.A. Raymond (2021) *Great Powers and World Order: Patterns and Prospects*. Sage.

Baylis, J., S. Smith and P. Owens (2019) *The Globalization of World Politics*. 8th ed. Oxford.

## 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	