

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: International Relations

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: Introduction to International Relations

Course Code: INR 4100

Course Leader: Dr Mike Keating

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / 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 a broad introductory survey of international relations. It acquaints students with the fundamental concepts and theories used in the discipline that help us make sense of our political world, and are crucial for further analysis of the field. The course gives students a taste of the theoretical debates and practical dynamics of global politics. It further examines some of the major challenges that humanity faces in the 21st century. Students get a chance to learn about and take part in the major debates of the discipline, for example concerning actors in the international system, the sources of insecurity, the relevance of economics to international politics, the importance of fighting poverty and underdevelopment, questions about how best to address environmental challenges, whether the state is still important and if globalization is a phenomena of the 20th century.

Pre-requisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

- To acquaint students with key terms, issues and debates in the field of IR.
- To draw attention to the complexities and subtleties of the analysis of global politics
- To provide students with an opportunity to relate theories and concepts to historic and contemporary events in world politics, as well as to encourage critical evaluation of both the theory and practice of global politics.

Programme Outcomes:

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

4A(iii); 4B(i); 4B(iii); 4C(i); 4C(iii); 4D(i); 4D(iii)

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.

- Demonstrates a broad understanding of the main theories, paradigms and concepts in the study of international relations
- Demonstrates a broad understanding of both historical and contemporary issues in international relations
- 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:

- Theories of IR
- Concepts in IR
- Actors in IR
- Key historical junctures in IR
- Introduction to key sub-fields in IR (political economy, security studies)
- Contemporary themes, issues and debates in IR (ie Governance, Poverty and Underdevelopment, Environment, Regionalism, Globalization, UN Peacekeeping Operations)

Assessment:

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

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.

