

## **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:** 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:** **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 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.

**Pre-requisites:** HST 3100 or HST 3105

### **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 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 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 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.

