

Department: International Relations

Faculty: Social Sciences

Course Title: History of International Relations (MA, Compulsory)

Number of Credits: Four

Course Objectives:

The course is intended to fulfill two basic objectives. First, it provides students with a sense of what one means by “International Relations” as a discipline. Second, it exposes students to some of the much-discussed and deliberated upon events and processes in history that have been of interest to scholars of International Relations. By focusing on these objectives, it is hoped that students will have a sufficient understanding of the basic terrain of International Relations and will be better equipped to opt for courses during their Master’s program that will delve in detail on these issues, events, and processes that they have been initiated to in this course.

Course Structure:

Unit I: The Discipline of International Relations

(This unit will be covered in Weeks 1, 2 and 3)

In this unit, we will be examining what International Relations as a discipline is: when was it founded, why was it founded and what were the issues that animated the thinking of International Relations scholars? This unit will also examine the curious fact that, notwithstanding the term “International,” the discipline is considered by some to be a parochial discipline.

Unit II: How to Study International Relations?

(This unit will be covered in Weeks 4 and 5)

This unit will pose the question: how does one study International Relations? Here, we will look at two approaches to the study of International Relations - the classical approach and the behavioral approach. We will also look at cartography and how it has shaped our understanding of space in international relations.

Unit III: The International Society, 17th – 19th century

(This unit will be covered in Weeks 6, 7 and 8)

This unit will cover the evolution and expansion of the modern international society marked by the emergence of the state as one of the important actors in International Relations. It will examine the unequal dynamics that developed during the course of this expansion and how non-Western polities dealt with the increasing assertion of Western polities in International Relations. It will also look at the evolution of international organizations which developed on the structures and processes that had emerged from the 17th century onwards.

Unit IV: Global, non-Eurocentric accounts of History

(This unit will be covered in Weeks 9, 10 and 11)

It has been noted that the standard accounts of history do not adequately highlight the agency and contribution of non-Western entities. This unit seeks to highlight some of the neglected dimensions of history by examining the contributions of the non-West in the material as also the ideational realms. It also introduces students to ‘Global History’ and what it brings to the study of history.

Unit V: International Relations Scholarship and Asia

(This unit will be covered in Week 12)

The last unit of the course engages with the state of the discipline in Asia and the effect that the West has had in the agenda setting of International Relations scholarship.

Reading Suggestions:

Acharya, Amitav (2009), *Whose Ideas Matter? Agency and Power in Asian Regionalism*, Ithaca, Cornell University Press

Acharya, Amitav and Buzan, Barry (eds.) (2010), *Non-Western International Relations Theory: Perspectives On and Beyond Asia*, Routledge, New York

Beeson, Mark and Stubbs, Richard Stubbs (eds.) (2012), *Routledge Handbook of Asian Regionalism*, New York: Routledge

Carlsnaes, Walter; Risse, Thomas and Simmons, Beth A. (eds.) (2002), *Handbook of International Relations*, London, Sage

Gong, Gerrit W. (1984), *The Standard of "Civilization" in International Society*, Oxford, Clarendon Press

Inacik, Hilal (2008), *Turkey and Europe in History*, 2nd ed., Istanbul: EREN Press

Prashad, Vijay (2007), *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World*, New York, The New Press

Watson, Adam (1992), *The Evolution of International Society: A Comparative Historical Analysis*, London, Routledge