

Category III

Political Science Courses for Undergraduate Programme of study with Political Science as one of the Core Disciplines (B.A. Programmes with Political Science as non-Major or Minor discipline)

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE (DSC-9) (Minor Paper) : Introduction to International Relations

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre- requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Introduction to International Relations MDSC-5A	4	3	1	-	Passed Class XII	NIL

Learning Objectives

This course introduces students to the historical and conceptual foundations of the discipline of IR. It discusses the evolution of the discipline in the aftermath of the Second World War with theories being its main foundation and the lens through which it understood and explained the world. The disputations and challenges to these theories led to the emergence of “debates” which are then discussed and understood as the disciplines’ dominant ‘self-image’. This is followed by an elaboration of the discipline’s major theoretical frameworks, each giving a different picture of the world — realism/neorealism, liberalism/neoliberalism, Marxism/Neo-Marxism and feminism. The course then examines major concepts—such as power, state and human rights. Students will also learn about the global governance with a case study of climate change negotiations. Finally, the course introduces scholarship from India within the wider context of Global South towards the development of a more inclusive IR from a Non-Western perspective.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand the ways in which IR as a discipline evolved from a Eurocentric vantage point to the emergence of a critical movement to shape a more inclusive, historical and a global IR.
- Appreciate the ways in which scholarship from postcolonial countries such as India contribute to understanding the world around us.
- Analyse key concepts and concerns of IR such as war and peace, state, sovereignty and human rights to understand how these forces shape the world towards more efficient global governance.
- Develop critical understandings of power hierarchies and unequal relationships through the lens of feminism and Marxism.
- Understand the important aspects of Non-Western IR that can help students investigate and shape the future course of the discipline.
- Develop a basic understanding of the Indian contributions to the discipline of international relations.

SYLLABUS OF MDSC-5A

UNIT – I

Disciplinary history of IR

- 1.1. What is International Relations?
- 1.2. Debates: Idealism/Realism & Science/Classical Methods, Inter-paradigm Debate

UNIT – II

Theories of IR

- 2.1. Realpolitik/Realism/Neo-realism
- 2.2. Liberalism/Neo-liberalism
- 2.3. Marxism/Neo-Marxism
- 2.4. Feminism

UNIT – III Concepts & Issues

- 3.1. State and Sovereignty
- 3.2. War and Peace
- 3.3. Human Rights
- 3.4. Global governance: climate change negotiations

UNIT – IV

IR Beyond Eurocentrism

- 4.1 Non-western Perspectives
- 4.2 Indian Contributions to IR

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1. Disciplinary history of IR

1.1. What is IR?

Essential Readings

Grieco, Joseph, John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno, (2014) *Introduction to International Relations: Enduring Questions and Contemporary Perspectives*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, Chapter one, pp. 2-30.

Devetak, Richard, Anthony Burke and Jim George, (2007), *An introduction to International Relations*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Introduction, pp. 1-18.

Additional Readings

Mansbach, Richard W. and Kirsten L Taylor, 2008, *Introduction to Global Politics*, New York: Routledge, Chapter two, pp. 1-32.

Reus-Smit, Christian, 2020, *A Very short introduction to International Relations*, Oxford University Press, Chapter one, 7-27.

1.2. Debates: Idealism/Realism & Science/Classical Methods and Inter-paradigm Debate

Essential Readings