

GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-4): Understanding 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
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Understanding International Relations GE-4	4	3	1	-	Passed Class XII	NIL

Learning Objectives

This course aims to make students understand the intersections between politics, economics, culture and nature that shape human life in the contemporary world. These intersectional relations foreground the multiple interactions that constitute the reality of the group life of humans. The issues around which the course is designed consists of the role of state in international politics, cultural identities such as the nation and, issues such as global poverty and global inequalities. Additionally, the course dwells on the psycho-cultural and politico-economic causes of violence, oppression and injustices that make the world a contested space. It examines the ways in which information technology shapes the course of human life in the age of globalization and how the phenomenon of the international manifests both in the virtual and the material world. Going beyond the Westphalian conception of territoriality, the course looks at the ways in which International Relations manifests in the realm of art/cinema/museums.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students would be able to:

- Understand the nature of the contemporary world in which we live through connected histories, economies and societies.
- Analyze the ways in which our world is shaped in both territorial and non-territorial forms leading to basic planetary understandings of both human and non-human relations.
- Enhance cognitive abilities to map out the multiple and complex interactions in international relations between peoples, histories and civilisations.
- To understand the role of the state and its interface with the market, probe into the cultural identities of a nation, analyse global poverty and climate change politics.
- To critically analyse the politics of 'common yet differentiated responsibilities.'
- Think critically about issues of global inequalities, violence, and injustices in the age of globalization.
- Appreciate the ways in which aesthetic articulation(s) problematize and interrogate the international and our ways of being therein.

SYLLABUS OF GE-4

UNIT – I (7 Hours)

Making Sense of the World

- 1.1 What is International Relations?
- 1.2 Understanding Space: How do we sense our planet
- 1.3 Ways of knowing and being: - Peoples, Histories and Civilisations

UNIT – II (12 Hours)

States, Nations and Markets

- 2.1 State and Diffusion of authority/power
- 2.2 Nations and Nationalism
- 2.3 States and Markets

UNIT – III (12 Hours)

Inequalities

- 3.1 Politico-military inequalities: big states, small states
- 3.2 Economic inequalities: rich states, poor states
- 3.3 Climate Change: Global commons and differentiated responsibilities

UNIT – IV (7 Hours)

Sites of Conflict and Forms of Violence

- 4.1 Changing Landscape/ Nature of Conflict
- 4.2 Forms of Violence

UNIT – V (7 Hours)

Knowing our Virtual and Creative World: The Visual Turn in International Relations

- 5.1 Internet
- 5.2 Museums
- 5.3 Cinemas

Essential/recommended readings

1.1. What is International Relations?

David Blaney, "Where, When and What is IR?" in Arlene B. Tickner and Karen Smith (eds.), *International Relations from the Global South: World of Difference*, New York: Routledge, 2020, pp. 38-55.

1.2. Understanding Space: How can we understand our planet.

Simon Dalby, "What happens if we don't take nature for granted," in Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss (eds.), *Global Politics: A New Introduction*, New York: Routledge, 2008, pp. 39-60.