

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

1.	Program	BS International Relations
2.	Title	Foundations and Concepts in International Relations
3.	Semester	5 th
4.	Code	BS -IR303
5.	Rating	03 Credit Hours
6.	Type	Core Course
7.	Pre-requisites	
8.	Introduction	<p>This course introduces students to the study of International Relations (IR), focusing especially on the international actors and systems at the heart of the discipline. In doing so it considers several topics of interest. These include: the evolution of IR during the twentieth century; the impact of key historical events on the development of the discipline, including the Peace of Westphalia, European Imperialism, and the First World War; changes to the international system since end of the Cold War; the history of globalization and its influence on the evolution of the discipline's main theories and concepts. The course rigorously examines the difficulties implicit in defining and limiting war between and within states; the contentious place of peace in international society; the role and responsibilities of the state as one actor amongst many in the international system; our changing understanding of international power; the impact of globalization and the end of the Cold War on actors' definitions of security; the difficulties of global governance in an anarchic international society; and the likely impact of Asia's (especially China's) rise on the units, processes, and structures of the international system. This is the core course on which subsequent and more specialised courses in the area of international relations are based.</p>
9.	Objectives	<p>explore the evolution of the discipline of International Relations (IR) over the past century by examining our changing understandings of order in the modern world;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● consider the impact of major historical events on the evolution of IR, including the treaties of 1648, Europe's imperial expansion, the First World War, and the ongoing influence of globalization; ● introduce students to a range of theoretical tools that will help them to analyse the behaviour of international actors and the nature of international systems; ● define and discuss some main concepts within the discipline, including war, peace, the state, and power; and ● critically assess challenges facing contemporary international society, including

		security, global governance, and the rise of East Asian actors.																																		
10.	Contents	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Week</th> <th>Contents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Week 1</td> <td>Introduction to IR – No Reading</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 2</td> <td>Introduction: How Can We Understand a Complex International System? Who gets to tell the story?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 3&4</td> <td>Theoretical Traditions: Realism, Liberalism, and Social Constructivism Critiques of the idea of a great debate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 5</td> <td>The Causes of War and Conditions of Peace</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 6</td> <td>Why, When, and How Do States Cooperate?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 7</td> <td>How Do Others See the World (and why don't they see it like we do?)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 8</td> <td>Globalization and Its Discontents</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 9</td> <td>Mid Term Exam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 10</td> <td>Norms and Institutions: Where do they come from and what can they do?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 11</td> <td>Non-State Actors in World Politics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 12</td> <td>Making and Managing International Alliances</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 13</td> <td>Deterrence and Coercion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 14</td> <td>America's Role in the World: What Has it Been? How has that changed?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 15</td> <td>Forecasting the Future of International Relations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 16-17</td> <td>Conclusion What's the point of International Relations?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week 18</td> <td>Final Term Exam</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Week	Contents	Week 1	Introduction to IR – No Reading	Week 2	Introduction: How Can We Understand a Complex International System? Who gets to tell the story?	Week 3&4	Theoretical Traditions: Realism, Liberalism, and Social Constructivism Critiques of the idea of a great debate	Week 5	The Causes of War and Conditions of Peace	Week 6	Why, When, and How Do States Cooperate?	Week 7	How Do Others See the World (and why don't they see it like we do?)	Week 8	Globalization and Its Discontents	Week 9	Mid Term Exam	Week 10	Norms and Institutions: Where do they come from and what can they do?	Week 11	Non-State Actors in World Politics	Week 12	Making and Managing International Alliances	Week 13	Deterrence and Coercion	Week 14	America's Role in the World: What Has it Been? How has that changed?	Week 15	Forecasting the Future of International Relations	Week 16-17	Conclusion What's the point of International Relations?	Week 18	Final Term Exam
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11.	Outcome	<p>At the end of the course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should be able to:</p> <p>Describe the evolution of International Relation as an academic discipline;</p> <p>Explain the relevance of key terms in International Relations;</p> <p>Identify the strengths and weaknesses of IR's various theoretical approaches; and</p> <p>Analyse contemporary and historical international events from a variety of theoretical viewpoints.</p>																																		

12.	Recommended Books / Reference	<p>Baylis, J. and S. Smith (eds.) The Globalization of World Politics: an Introduction to International Relations. 5thEdition. (Oxford: Oxford University Press). 2010.</p> <p>Griffiths, M., T. O’Callaghan and S.C. Roach International Relations: the key concepts. (Abingdon: Routledge, 2007) second edition [ISBN 9780415774376].</p> <p>International Relations: a concise introduction - Michael Nicholson 2002</p>
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Assessment Criteria:

Requirements	
Assignments/Quizzes/Project/Case Study/Team Presentations	
Mid-Term Exam	
Final Term Exam	