

History PG

Semester: 1				
Programme : History				
Course : International Relations in the Modern World				
Paper code:			Credits: 6	
Hours/week : 4				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core (Major)				
Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
<p>Course Overview: This postgraduate course offers a sophisticated analysis of the transformation of the international system from the mid-20th century to the contemporary era. It moves beyond basic historical narratives to critically examine the ideological, economic, and geopolitical structures that defined the Cold War and the subsequent transition to a multipolar world. Students will engage with the complexities of decolonization, the rise of the "Third World," and the persistent flashpoints in Middle Eastern diplomacy. The curriculum further interrogates the nuances of globalization, exploring how systemic issues like global terrorism and climate change redefine state sovereignty. By the end of the module, scholars will have developed a rigorous framework for interpreting the North-South economic divide and the evolving role of international organizations in conflict resolution</p>				
Course Outcome:				
1. Identify and describe the specific diplomatic frameworks and economic treaties (e.g., Bretton Woods, Yalta, Atlantic Charter) that established the post-1945 global order				
2. Interpret the nuances of superpower rivalry by explaining the shift from bipolar confrontation to policies of Détente, Glasnost, and Perestroika within their specific socio-political contexts.				
3. Apply theoretical models of international relations—such as MAD, deterrence, and globalization—to explain contemporary geopolitical shifts and the emergence of China as a global power.				
4. Deconstruct the structural causes of regional instabilities in the Middle East and the Global South, examining how historical decolonization processes intersected with Cold War power politics.				
5. Critically appraise the efficacy of intergovernmental organizations (EU, ASEAN, SAARC, etc.) in managing global dilemmas, ranging from economic integration to the challenge of global terrorism.				
6. Synthesize historical data to formulate original policy-oriented arguments regarding the resolution of current global crises, such as the North-South economic divide and international environmental protocols.				
Prerequisites: <i>Basic knowledge about any prior course</i>				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL

I.	<p>Unit I: Prelude to Cold War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomacy during the Second World War - Cairo, Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam • Emergence of New World Order- Geneva Convention, Atlantic Charter, United Nations • New Global Economy - Bretton Woods Conference, International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) 	18	<p>CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6</p>	<p>K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6</p>
	<p>Unit II: Post War Europe and the Coming of the Cold War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the Berlin Crisis to NATO, America and Western Europe, USSR and the Eastern Europe - Molotov Plan; COMINFORM and COMECON, Warsaw Pact; de-Stalinization, Peaceful Transition to Socialism • The Ideological Conflict or Power Struggle between the two Super Powers – debate • The Cold war across the world – Korea, Vietnam and Cuba 			
	<p>Unit III: International Relations during the Cold War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nuclear arms race – the concept of MAD and deterrence, Détente and disarmament • Stagnation in the Soviet Union, Glasnost and Perestroika, to the collapse of Socialism in the USSR and East Europe, Termination of Bipolarity and unification of Germany • Government Organizations as torchbearers of Peace or Triggered Conflict—EU, 			

	ASEAN, SAARC, SAFTA, OAS, NAFTA, etc			
II.	<p>Unit IV: The Third World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergence of the Third World Countries and their Economic Problems—Africa, Latin America, People’s Republic of China and Taiwan, India and other South Asian countries • Development and its contestations 			
	<p>Unit V: The Middle East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of Israel – background, circumstances and immediate impact • The Arab- Israeli conflict from the Suez Crisis to the War of 1973 • The question of Palestine in International Relations 	18	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6
	<p>Unit VI: International Relations after the Cold War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization and its dilemmas – the North-South divide in the Global Economy, the emergence of China • The Challenge of Global Terrorism – origins, crises and conflicts • The Environmental Crisis – climate change and its challenges, international agreements and protocols, present and future concerns. • Global escalation of violence and conflict 			
Text Books				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Avi Shlaim, The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World, Penguin Books Ltd., 2014. • Brown, Archie, The Rise and Fall of Communism, London: Vintage, 2010. • Calvocoressi, Peter, World Politics Since 1945-2000, London and New York: Routledge, 2004. • Carr, E. H., International Relations between the Two World Wars, London: Palgrave-Macmillan, 1985. • Fukuyama, Francis, The End of History and the Last Man, Harlow, England: Penguin Books, 2012. 				

- Goscha, Christopher E., Vietnam: A New History, New York: Basic Books, 2016
- Hobsbawm, Eric, The Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, London: Abacus, 1995.
- Huntington, Samuel, The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Orders, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.
- Judt Tony, Post War: A History of Europe Since 1945, Great Britain: William Hienemann, 2005.
- Kailor, R. William, Twentieth Century World: An International History, New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Khalidi, Rashid. The Hundred Years War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017, Metropolitan Books, 2020.
- Lowe, Norman, Mastering Modern World History, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.
- Leffler, Melvyn P. Odd Arne Westad, The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Vol. I: Origins, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Leffler, Melvyn P. Odd Arne Westad, The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Vol. II: Crises and Détente, Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Leffler, Melvyn P. Odd Arne Westad, The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Vol. III: Endings, Cambridge University Press, 2012
- MacMahon, Robert J. The Cold War in the Third World, OUP, 2013
- Macwilliam, C. Wayne and Harry Piotrowsky, The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations, London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016.

Suggested readings

- Mansfield, Peter, A History of the Middle East, Penguin, 1991.
- Morgenthau, J. Hans, Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948.
- Smith, Joseph, The Cold War: 1945-1965, Cambridge: Blackwell Publishing House, 1989.
- Stearns, Peter N. Globalization in World History, Routledge 2010
- Stueck, Willam, Rethinking the Korean War: A New Diplomatic and Strategic History, Princeton University Press, 2002.

Web Resources

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Evaluation: Theory
CIA=30
Semester Exam: 70

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam:
End Semester Exam: 70
Two modules of 35 marks each.
2 questions of 15 marks from 4 options: 2X15=30
1 question of 5 marks from 3 options: 5X1= 5

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Identify and describe the specific diplomatic frameworks and economic treaties (e.g., Bretton Woods, Yalta, Atlantic Charter) that established the post-1945 global order	K1
CO2	Interpret the nuances of superpower rivalry by explaining the shift from bipolar confrontation to policies of Détente, Glasnost, and Perestroika within their specific socio-political contexts.	K2
CO3	Apply theoretical models of international relations—such as MAD, deterrence, and globalization—to explain contemporary geopolitical shifts and the emergence of China as a global power.	K3
CO4	Deconstruct the structural causes of regional instabilities in the Middle East and the Global South, examining how historical decolonization processes intersected with Cold War power politics.	K4
CO5	Critically appraise the efficacy of intergovernmental organizations (EU, ASEAN, SAARC, etc.) in managing global dilemmas, ranging from economic integration to the challenge of global terrorism.	K5
CO6	Synthesize historical data to formulate original policy-oriented arguments regarding the resolution of current global crises, such as the North-South economic divide and international environmental protocols.	K6