

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Semester: II	
Programme: POLITICAL SCIENCE	
Course: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
Paper code: C1PS230221T	Credits: 4
Hours/week : 4	
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC: CORE (MAJOR)	
Theory / Practical / Composite: THEORY	
No of Modules: TWO	
<p>Course Overview: This course introduces students to the foundational concepts, theories, and institutions that define the field of International Relations. Focusing on the evolution of the discipline, it covers major theoretical approaches such as Realism, Liberalism, and World Systems theory, alongside key concepts like balance of power, national interest, diplomacy, propaganda, and war.</p> <p>Through a study of significant historical periods—including the Cold War, the era of Nonalignment, and the post-Cold War world—students will examine how global power structures have shaped contemporary international politics. The course also explores the role and functioning of major international organizations such as the United Nations and analyzes the foreign policies of the United States, China, and India in the changing global order.</p> <p>Emphasizing critical engagement with both theoretical perspectives and empirical developments, this course equips students with the analytical tools to understand and interpret complex international phenomena and prepares them for advanced study in Political Science and International Relations.</p>	
Course Outcome:	
<p>1. Remember: foundational concepts, leading theories (Realism, Liberalism, World Systems), and key institutions in international relations, with relevant historical and contemporary contexts.</p> <p>2. Understand: how major events (Cold War, Nonalignment) and global actors (United Nations, USA, China, India) have shaped global politics and influenced international dynamics.</p> <p>3. Apply: core theoretical frameworks to interpret real-world examples of diplomacy, power politics, and foreign policy decision-making among states.</p> <p>4. Analyse: historical developments and policy shifts in international relations, distinguishing how states adapt strategies in response to changes in the global order.</p> <p>5. Evaluate: the strengths and limitations of various IR theories and approaches, applying them to complex international issues and debates.</p>	

6. Create: comparative or thematic projects that synthesize theoretical insights and historical cases to address contemporary challenges in international relations, such as conflict resolution, global governance, and foreign policy analysis

Prerequisites: *Basic knowledge about any prior course*

SYLLABUS

UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I	1. International Relations as an academic discipline – nature & scope.	26	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2, K3,K4, K5, K6
	2. Major theories in International Relations: Realism, Liberalism, World Systems			
	3. Select key concepts: Balance of power, National Interest, Diplomacy, Propaganda, War			
II	4. Cold War – Nonalignment - Post-Cold War Period	26	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6
	5. The United Nations: Purposes and Principles; Major Organs			
	6. Post Cold War Foreign policies of the USA, PRC and India: An Overview			

Text Books

1. Heywood, A. Global Politics. Palgrave Macmillan. 2011.
2. Heywood, A. Politics. Palgrave Macmillan. 2013.
3. Baylis, J., Owens, P., Smith, S. The Globalization of World Politics. Oxford University Press. 2014.

Suggested readings

1. Calvocoressi, P. World Politics Since 1945. Routledge. 2013.
2. Blanton, Shannon L., Kegley, Charles K.W., World Politics: Trends and Transformations, Wadsworth Publishing, 2016.

Evaluation: CIA: 30 (mid-semester exam 20 + 5 assignment) + 5 Attendance 30

END SEMESTER: 35+35

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module:

Module I and II each: 3 Qs x 5 Marks out of 5 = 15 + 2 Qs x 10 Marks out of 4 = 20

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Remember: foundational concepts, leading theories (Realism, Liberalism, World Systems), and key institutions in international relations, with relevant historical and contemporary contexts.	K1
CO2	Understand: how major events (Cold War, Nonalignment) and global actors (United Nations, USA, China, India) have shaped global politics and influenced international dynamics.	K2
CO3	Apply: core theoretical frameworks to interpret real-world examples of diplomacy, power politics, and foreign policy decision-making among states.	K3
CO4	Analyze: historical developments and policy shifts in international relations, distinguishing how states adapt strategies in response to changes in the global order.	K4
CO5	Evaluate: the strengths and limitations of various IR theories and approaches, applying them to complex international issues and debates.	K5
CO6	Create: comparative or thematic projects that synthesize theoretical insights and historical cases to address contemporary challenges in international relations, such as conflict resolution, global governance, and foreign policy analysis	K6