

# Course Description

## Programme Compulsory Courses:

### **POL 611 - Political Analysis and Scientific Research Methods**

This is an advanced course in scientific research methodology and political analysis. The course introduces students to in-depth concepts of political analysis, how to build theoretical frameworks and the relationship of scientific research to theory, the latter's relationship to hypothesis and how to build theory. The student also delves into possessing advanced skills in reviewing previous studies, preparing a research plan and report, and defending both. The course addresses quantitative, qualitative and mixed political analysis and their use by focusing on particular tools such as case studies, focus groups, discourse analysis, and political ethnography. The course also demonstrates how to process political data, honesty and stability test, and quantitative curriculum applications in political science, including samples, measurement and computer applications. The student studies the philosophy of scientific research, its role in the renaissance, the ethics of scientific research, and the common mistakes of researchers. (Prerequisite: None)

### **INT 611- International Relations Theories**

This course provides an in-depth examination of the theoretical frameworks associated with the field of International Relations. It focuses on the evolution of IR theorization and the major critiques directed at it, as well as the analysis of theoretical propositions and their capacity to explain patterns, regularities, and transformations in the structural characteristics, processes, and stages that shape international relations and its primary actors. The course also assesses the ability of these theories to classify events within identifiable trends and patterned behaviors. The course covers major theoretical paradigms, including Neorealism, Postmodernism, and Neoliberalism, in addition to partial theories such as Integration Theory, International System Theory, and Decision-Making Theory. It further examines key concepts whose interpretations and impacts on the behavior of international actors have evolved over time, including interest, power, values, and nationalism. (Prerequisite: None)

### **POL 641 - International Political Economy**

This course addresses the interaction and mutual influence between economics and politics in the international arena through the study of the foundational theories of the international political economy such as capitalism, socialism and nationalism, and modern theories such as the dual economy, the new world order and dominant stability. The course also addresses transformative production and its role in the international economic system, foreign direct investment (FDI) - case study, poverty and inequality issues, the political economy of the environment and energy, current global financial imbalances: causes, consequences and solutions, globalization of the economy: consequences and disagreements. The course also deals with the future of the international political economy (forward-looking vision). (Prerequisite: None)

### **INT 612- Studies in International Relations**

This course examines a range of contemporary topics in International Relations that have become increasingly significant in the modern era. It provides an in-depth conceptual framework for understanding the importance of these issues and the ongoing developments within the international environment. The course also addresses objective realities relevant to scholars of political science—particularly those concerned with international relations, such as diplomats—enabling them to interpret and analyze these realities in a rigorous and scientific manner. Furthermore, the course

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emphasizes methodologies and analytical approaches in contemporary International Relations, as well as the study of variables influencing patterns of interaction among international actors. It also focuses on applying this knowledge within specialized fields and on developing analytical projections and scenarios regarding the trajectories of political, social, and economic phenomena shaping relations between states. Building on this foundation, the course explores the nature, characteristics, and current realities of International Relations, along with the developments that have shaped their contemporary features—particularly those grounded in conflict dynamics and their implications for the distribution of power in the international system. The course also includes applied case studies drawn from contemporary international relations. (Prerequisite: None)

## **INT 621- Public International Law**

This course provides an in-depth examination of key topics in Public International Law, including international treaties, the law of the sea, international river law, airspace law, and the law of state succession. It also offers a comprehensive analysis of applied issues in international disputes and their peaceful settlement in accordance with the rules of international law. The course further explores diplomatic methods of dispute resolution, the Charter of the United Nations, and major international conventions, alongside analytical studies of selected cases and decisions issued by the International Court of Justice (The Hague). In addition, the course addresses various mechanisms for resolving international disputes through diplomatic, political, and legal means, including international arbitration. (Prerequisite: None)

## **INT 631- Regional and International Security**

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of key concepts related to regional and international security. It covers state security and sovereignty, as well as contemporary dimensions of security including health security, food security, environmental security, emergency response, human security, and the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at both regional and international levels. The course also examines the role of international and regional organizations in maintaining peace and security, with particular emphasis on warfare, the ongoing proliferation of nuclear weapons, arms trade, and human security concerns. In addition, it addresses selected topics such as nuclear weapons in the Middle East, the rise of extremist groups in the region, and the major challenges confronting international security. (Prerequisite: None)

## **POL 642 - Diplomatic and Consular Relations E**

This course addresses critical issues and topics in diplomatic studies, focusing on the historical development and definition of contemporary functions and practices. The course also deals with the forms and characteristics of consular practice in light of diplomatic and commercial transformations. The course provides an overview of the challenges in diplomatic and consular affairs in light of the complex international environment. (Prerequisite: None)

## **INT 699 - Thesis**

This course is a supervised research project based on an approved topic within the field of International Relations. It represents the cornerstone of the Master's Program in International Relations. The course involves conducting rigorous academic research on a specialized topic of relevance to the Kingdom of Bahrain and its regional context, under the supervision of a qualified faculty member in accordance with the University's postgraduate regulations. The course provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research grounded in a systematic methodological framework. It emphasizes

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advanced-level academic skills, including the formulation of a research problem, selection of appropriate research methodologies, critical literature review, data analysis, and the development of research findings and recommendations. The final thesis must be defended in a public oral examination, and assessment is based on both the written dissertation and the oral defense. (Prerequisite: Completion of 21 credit hours)

### **INT 698 – Applied Project**

The Applied Project is an independent research-based endeavor aimed at applying the knowledge and skills acquired by students in the classroom to support a relevant host organization. Students are required to engage with the host entity, their academic supervisor, and effectively manage the relationship between both parties. Research topics may vary but must address an approved issue within the field of International Relations, focusing on real-world challenges relevant to Bahrain and the Arab region. The project includes a literature review and the application of appropriate analytical models and data analysis tools to derive findings and formulate practical recommendations. (Prerequisite: Completion of 24 credit hours)

## **Programme Elective Courses:**

### **POL 644 - Contemporary International Politics**

This course addresses the basic concepts related to contemporary international policy which has become vital in today's world through an in-depth knowledge of the significance of international policy and contemporary developments in the international environment. The course addresses key topics and objective facts that scholars of political science and international relations such as diplomats shall understand and interpret scientifically and objectively. The course focuses on methodologies and methods of analysis in contemporary international policy and the study of variables affecting international relations interactions, utilizes this knowledge in specialized fields, develops perceptions and possibilities for the paths of political phenomena. The course handles the international environment, its nature, characteristics, and developments that have resulted in their essential features, based on excellence, collaboration, conflict and the resulting phenomena of peace and war, all of which are linked to the basic concept of "power" in this science. The course also includes a study of applied models of contemporary international policy. (Prerequisite: None)

### **INT 613 – Middle Eastern Studies**

This course provides advanced knowledge and analytical skills in Middle Eastern Studies, covering a range of key topics including the concept of the Middle East, processes of democratic transition, and a critical analysis of the Palestinian issue as a central axis of regional conflicts. It also offers forward-looking perspectives on the future of the region in light of ongoing developments. The course examines the American vision of the "Middle East Project" and its complexities, as well as the influential roles of key factors such as Turkey and the European Union. It further explores the political, economic, social, and cultural implications of this project. In addition, the course evaluates the roles and policies adopted by various states in relation to this project and analyzes current political dynamics in the region. It also seeks to deepen understanding of international conflict, the limits of declining U.S. influence in the Middle East, and the transformations of major powers and their effectiveness within the international system. (Prerequisite: None)

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## **INT 614 – Media and Political Communication**

This course examines the core concepts of media and political communication, with a strong focus on the theoretical approaches used in analyzing this field. It provides an in-depth intellectual foundation on the emergence, definition, and key concepts of political communication, including the political environment, political propaganda, political advertising, political participation, and political marketing. The course emphasizes the relationship between media and political communication on one hand, and the political system on the other, through key communication elements such as source, channel, audience, and message. It also explores the types, functions, and objectives of political media. Furthermore, the course introduces major theories used in the study and analysis of media and political communication. These include audience-centered theories such as Uses and Gratifications Theory and Information Processing Theory; communicator-centered theories such as Cultivation Theory and Agenda-Setting Theory; and theories related to media effects, including direct (short-term) effects and cumulative (long-term) effects. Additionally, the course examines internal and external factors influencing media and political communication and incorporates case studies at both regional and international levels to assess their impact on political processes, thereby linking theory with practice. (Prerequisite: None)

## **INT 622 – The Art of Negotiation**

This course offers an advanced study of negotiation as both a concept and an art, highlighting its role in understanding political phenomena and responding effectively through appropriate behaviors, strategies, and decision-making processes to maximize gains in various situations. The course covers the definition, historical evolution, functions, and contemporary practices of negotiation. It also examines the forms, characteristics, and core elements of the negotiation process, including persuasion, communication, strategic planning, contingency planning, and foresight. Moreover, the course sheds light on international experiences in managing conflicts and crises, exploring both theoretical frameworks and practical approaches to negotiation. It also provides an overview of the key challenges facing negotiation processes within the increasingly complex international environment. (Prerequisite: None)

## **POL 645 - International Organization and Agencies**

The course thoroughly addresses the topics of international regulation and international bodies through studying international organizations and international bodies as effective units in the international system, besides other units. The course focuses on the concept of international regulation, its historical emergence, objectives, membership conditions, and institutional structure. The course also thoroughly examines the personality of international organizations, international bodies and general rules, from both legal and functional, at the international and regional levels. The course focuses on studying the general rules of international organizations, the powers and sources of international organizations, the methods of decision-making in international organizations, and the international organization's legal status. The course also addresses studying global organizations, and international bodies and the criteria for distinguishing between them. The course evaluates the functions and work of international and regional organizations, and their effectiveness in the international system. The course analyses the influence of globalization and international variables on the effectiveness of international regulation. The course focuses on a number of international organizations and bodies. (Prerequisite: None)

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### **POL 646 - International Political Crisis Management**

This course addresses the most significant concepts relevant to international political crises and their management by providing in-depth knowledge of the significance of international political crises management, causes, types, characteristics and management stages. The course also focuses on scenarios for dealing with international political crises and how to measure the efficiency of crisis management, analyze the role of the media in facing international political crises and how to make political decisions in times of crisis. The course also includes the study of applied models for the management of international political crises. (Prerequisite: None)

### **POL 643 - Foreign Policy Analysis**

This course addresses the essence and analysis of foreign policy, using the historical development to study this field as a basic framework for analysis, the objectives of foreign policy in its comprehensive dimensions, and the foreign policy patterns, focusing on rational and sensible behaviour, violent and coercive behaviour, and the various levels in between in a comparative applied study. The course also addresses the dimensions of foreign policy, external effects related to fundamental theories of international relations, societal sources of foreign policy related to the country's depth as internal influences, and its role in influencing the behaviour of political elites. The course deals with regulatory processes in foreign policy-making based on decision-making perspectives such as institutional regulation procedures and bureaucratic policy. The course also thoroughly examines the psychological factors of decision-makers, including subjective perceptions, conceptual and behavioural differences, and personal factors, through the psychological curriculum in the study of foreign policy. This part addresses the topic of international crisis resolution. The course addresses change and consistency in foreign policy using the comparative approach to foreign policy study in two concluding parts. The course considers the diversity of levels of analysis in the future study of foreign policy at the level of the individual, the country and the international system. (Prerequisite: None)