



**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**

**BA FYUGP**  
**Political Science**

**SYLLABUS**

**2025–2026**

**Semester One**

# **INTRODUCTION TO OUR WORLD: GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, AND POLITICS**

**Course Instructors: Dr. Syed Jaleel Hussain/  
Dr. Athar Ud Din/Dr. Shahnawaz Mantoo**

**Semester: 1<sup>st</sup> (FYUGP)**

**Course Code: BACIR100MJ**

**L:T:P:S = 3 :1:0:0**

**Marks: 100**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the key forces that have shaped the modern world through the lenses of geography, history, and politics. It explores spatial dynamics and the role of geography in shaping power relations; traces global historical shifts from empire to colonialism and the modern state; examines core political concepts and ideologies; and analyses major contemporary transformations, including wars, globalization, and emerging global challenges.

Emphasizing both historical depth and global breadth, the course equips students with analytical tools to understand spatial dynamics, historical developments, and the political ideas that continue to influence contemporary societies.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the spatial, historical, and political forces that have shaped the modern world.
- Analyze the relationship between geography, power, and political structures.
- Examine major historical transitions, including empire, colonialism, and the formation of the modern state.
- Critically engage with contemporary global transformations, including wars, globalization, and emerging challenges.
- Integrate knowledge from geography, history, and politics to develop interdisciplinary analytical skills.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply key concepts in human geography to interpret political and social phenomena.
- Trace historical developments and their legacies in shaping contemporary societies.
- Analyze the impact of global events, such as wars and globalization, on societies and states.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills in evaluating complex geopolitical and socio-historical issues.
- Synthesize interdisciplinary perspectives to understand the interconnectedness of geography, history, and politics in the modern world.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Unit I –The World Around Us: A Geographical Perspective**

1. Key Concepts in Human Geography
2. Geography and Politics
3. Geography and Power

### **Unit II – The Evolution of Our World: A Historical Perspective**

1. The Age of Empires
2. Colonialism and Its Legacies
3. Birth of the Modern World

### **Unit III – The World of Power: A Political Perspective**

1. Foundational Political Concepts
2. Major Political Ideologies
3. The Rise of Modern States

### **Unit IV – The World in Transition: A Contemporary Perspective**

1. The World Wars and the Cold War
2. Globalization and Its Discontents
3. Contemporary Challenges

## READINGS

### UNIT I –THE WORLD AROUND US: A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE

#### ESSENTIAL READINGS

1. Agnew, J. (2003). The Three Ages of Geopolitics (pp. 85–114). In *Geopolitics: Re-Visioning World Politics* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
2. Fouberg, E. H., Murphy, A. B., & de Blij, H. J. (2009). Introduction to Human Geography (pp. 1–33). In *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture* (12th ed.). Wiley.
3. Painter, J., & Jeffrey, A. (2009). Politics, Geography and Political Geography (pp. 4–18). In *Political Geography* (3rd ed.). SAGE.
4. Wolch, J., & Dear, M. (1989). How Territory Shapes Social Life (pp. 3–18). In J. Wolch & M. Dear (Eds.), *The Power of Geography: How Territory Shapes Social Life*. Routledge

#### AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

5. Grimonprez, J. (Director). (2024). *Soundtrack to a Coup d'État* [Documentary]. Onomatopée Films.
6. Adra, B., Ballal, H., Abraham, Y., & Szor, R. (Directors). (2024). *No Other Land* [Documentary]. Yabayay Media; Antipode Films.
7. Pilger, J. (Director). (2016). *The Coming War on China* [Documentary]. Dartmouth Films.

#### SUGGESTED READINGS

8. Agnew, J. (2018). *Globalization and Sovereignty* (2nd ed.). Rowman & Littlefield.
9. Agnew, J. A. (2016). *Place and Politics: The Geographical Mediation of State and Society*. Routledge.
10. Agnew, J., Mercer, J., & Sopher, D. (Eds.). (2007). *The City in Cultural Context*. Routledge.
11. Flint, C. (2022). *Introduction to Geopolitics* (4th ed.). Routledge.
12. Foreign Affairs. (2025). *The New Scramble for Africa*.
13. Knox, P., & Marston, S. A. (2021). *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context* (8th ed.). Pearson.
14. Kobayashi, A., & Mackenzie, S. (Eds.). (2016). *Remaking Human Geography* (1st ed.; RLE Social & Cultural Geography). Routledge.
15. Ley, D., & Samuels, M. (Eds.). (2016). *Humanistic Geography: Problems and Prospects* (1st ed.). Routledge.
16. Marston, S. A., Knox, P. L., Liverman, D. M., Del Casino, V. J., & Robbins, P. (2022). *World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environments* (8th ed.). Pearson.
17. Ó Tuathail, G. (2019). *Critical Geopolitics: The Politics of Writing Global Space*. University of Minnesota Press.
18. Roca, Z., Claval, P., & Agnew, J. (Eds.). (2011). *Landscapes, Identities and Development*. Ashgate.
19. Sparke, M. (2021). *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*. Wiley-Blackwell.

20. The Economist. (2025, June 15). *How Borders Shape Power*.

## UNIT II - THE EVOLUTION OF OUR WORLD: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

### ESSENTIAL READINGS

1. Bayly, C. A. (2004). *Passages From the Old Regimes to Modernity*. In *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780–1914: Global Connections and Comparisons* (pp. 49–85). Blackwell.
2. Hobsbawm, E. J. (1989). *The Age of Empire*. In *The Age of Empire: 1875–1914* (pp. 56–83). Vintage Books. (Original work published 1987)
3. Said, E. W. (1993). *Empire, Geography, and Culture*. In *Culture and Imperialism* (pp. 3–14). Knopf.

### AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

4. Marr, A. (Presenter). (2012). *Andrew Marr's History of the World* [TV documentary series]. BBC.
5. Oppenheimer, J. (Director). (2012). *The Act of Killing* [Documentary]. Drafthouse Films.
6. Peck, R. (Director). (2021). *Exterminate All the Brutes* [Documentary]. HBO Documentary Films.

### SUGGESTED READINGS

7. Bayly, C. A. (2004). Industrialization and the New City. In *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780–1914: Global Connections and Comparisons* (pp. 170–198). Blackwell.
8. Bhabha, H. K. (1994). *The Location of Culture*. Routledge.
9. Bhabra, G. K. (2014). *Postcolonial and Decolonial Dialogues*. *Postcolonial Studies*, 17(2), 115–121.
10. Césaire, A. (2000). *Discourse on Colonialism* (J. Pinkham, Trans.). Monthly Review Press. (Original work published 1955)
11. Chakrabarty, D. (2000). *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton University Press.
12. Chatterjee, P. (1986). *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse?* University of Minnesota Press.
13. Cooper, F. (2005). *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History*. University of California Press.
14. Darwin, J. (2007). *After Tamerlane: The Global History of Empire Since 1405*. Allen Lane.
15. Darwin, J. (2008). *After Tamerlane: The Global History of Empire*. Penguin.
16. Fanon, F. (1961). *The Wretched of the Earth* (R. Philcox, Trans.). Grove Press.
17. Fanon, F. (1963). *The Wretched of the Earth* (R. Philcox, Trans.). Grove Press.
18. Frankopan, P. (2018). *The New Silk Roads: The Present and Future of the World*. Bloomsbury.
19. Getz, T. R., & Streets-Salter, H. (2019). *Modern Imperialism and Colonialism: A Global Perspective* (2nd ed.). Pearson.

20. Loomba, A. (2015). *Colonialism/Postcolonialism* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
21. Mamdani, M. (1996). *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton University Press.
22. Mamdani, M. (2012). *Define and Rule: Native as Political Identity*. Harvard University Press.
23. Mbembe, A. (2001). *On the Postcolony*. University of California Press.
24. Nandy, A. (1983). *The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self Under Colonialism*. Oxford University Press.
25. Osterhammel, J. (2014). *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*. Princeton University Press.
26. Rodney, W. (1972). *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications.
27. Said, E. W. (1978). *Orientalism*. Pantheon Books.
28. Stoler, A. L. (2002). *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. University of California Press.
29. Stoler, A. L. (2008). *Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination*. *Cultural Anthropology*, 23(2), 191–219.
30. Stoler, A. L. (2016). *Duress: Imperial Durabilities in Our Times*. Duke University Press.
31. The Guardian. (2023, March 15). *Colonialism's Long Shadow Over Modern Politics*.

### **UNIT III - THE WORLD OF POWER: A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE**

#### **ESSENTIAL READINGS**

1. Agnew, J. (2003). A World of Territorial States (pp. 51–66). In *Geopolitics: Re-Visioning World Politics* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
2. Mann, M. (2012). A Theory of the Modern State. In *The Sources of Social Power* (pp. 44–91). Cambridge University Press.
3. Vincent, A. (2010). The Nature of Ideology (pp. 1–22). In *Modern Political Ideologies* (3rd ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.
4. Wimmer, A., & Feinstein, Y. (2010). The Rise of the Nation-State Across the World, 1816 to 2001. *American Sociological Review*, 75(5), 764–790.

#### **AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS**

5. Howarth, A., & Koff, D. (Directors). (2010). *The Black Man's Land Trilogy* [Documentary series]. Cinemagician Productions.
6. Morris, E. (Director). (2003). *The Fog of War* [Documentary]. Sony Pictures Classics.

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

7. S Bayly, C. A. (2004). Myths and Technologies of the Modern State. In *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780–1914: Global Connections and Comparisons* (pp. 247–283). Blackwell.
8. Berlin, I. (2002). *Liberty* (H. Hardy, Ed.). Oxford University Press.
9. Chomsky, N. (2017). *Who Rules the World?* Metropolitan Books.

10. Das, P. (2021). The Trajectory of Indian State: A Theoretical Understanding. *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 66(4), 481–491.
11. Easton, D. (1953). *The Political System: An Inquiry Into the State of Political Science*. Alfred A. Knopf.
12. Freedman, M. (2015). *Ideologies and Political Theory: A Conceptual Approach*. Oxford University Press.
13. Fukuyama, F. (2011). *The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
14. Gellner, E. (1983). *Nations and Nationalism*. Cornell University Press.
15. Harari, Y. N. (2018). *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*. Jonathan Cape.
16. Heywood, A. (2021). *Politics* (5th ed.). Red Globe Press.
17. Mann, M. (2012). Theoretical Conclusions: Classes, States, Nations, and the Sources of Social Power. In *The Sources of Social Power* (Vol. 2, pp. 723–739). Cambridge University Press.
18. Narayan, S. S. (2014). Theoretical Approaches to the Role of the State. In *Globalization and Television: A Study of the Indian Experience, 1990–2010*. Oxford Academic.
19. O'Neil, P. H. (2020). *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (7th ed.). W. W. Norton & Company.
20. Schmitt, C. (2007). *The Concept of the Political* (Expanded ed.). University of Chicago Press.
21. Schreuer, C. (1993). The Waning of the Sovereign State: Towards a New Paradigm for International Law? *European Journal of International Law*, 4(1), 447–471.
22. Skocpol, T. (1979). *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China*. Cambridge University Press.
23. Spruyt, H. (1994). *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: An Analysis of Systems Change* (Vol. 176). Princeton University Press.
24. Spruyt, H. (2014). *The Emergence of Nation-States*. In M. Sasaki, J. R. Blau, & J. S. Michalski (Eds.), *Concise Encyclopedia of Comparative Sociology* (pp. 311–320). Brill.
25. The Oxford Political Review. (2023). *The Future of the Nation-State* [Special issue].
26. Tilly, C. (1992). *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990–1992*. Blackwell.
27. Vincent, A. (2010). *Modern Political Ideologies* (3rd ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.
28. Weber, M. (2019). *Politics as a Vocation*. Routledge. (Original work published 1919)

## **UNIT IV - THE WORLD IN TRANSITION: A CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE**

### **ESSENTIAL READINGS**

1. Adamson, F. B. (2006). Crossing Borders: International Migration and National Security. *International Security*, 31(1), 165–199.
2. Cox, M. (2020). From the End of the Cold War to a New World Dis-Order? (pp. 70–83). In J. Baylis, P. Owens, & P. Smith (Eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (8th ed.). Oxford University Press.
3. Nye, J. S., Jr. (2017). Globalization and Interdependence (pp. 204–228). In *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History* (9th ed.). Pearson.

## AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

4. BBC. (2025). *GCSE History Podcasts: The Cold War and Vietnam* [Audio podcast series]. BBC Sounds.
5. Morgan, A. (Director). (2015). *The True Cost* [Documentary]. Bullfrog Films.
6. Noujaim, J. (Director). (2013). *The Square* [Documentary]. Noujaim Films
7. Orłowski, J. (Director). (2017). *Chasing Coral* [Documentary]. Exposure Labs
8. Rowley, R. (Director). (2013). *Dirty Wars* [Documentary]. Sundance Selects; IFC Films.

## SUGGESTED READINGS

9. Borstelmann, T. (2001). *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena*. Harvard University Press.
10. Burton, K. D. (2025). *Cold Conflict*. The National WWII Museum.
11. Freedom House. (2023). *Freedom in the World 2023: The Annual Survey of Political Rights and Civil Liberties*.
12. Friedman, T. L. (2005). *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* (1st ed.). Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
13. Gaddis, J. L. (2005). *The Cold War: A New History*. Penguin Press.
14. Garbus, L. (Director). (2020). *All In: The Fight for Democracy* [Film]. Amazon Studios.
15. Gray, J. (1998). *False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism*. Granta Books.
16. He, Y. (2022). Impact of the World Wars and the Cold War on Langston Hughes. *Alea: Estudios Neolatinos*, 24(3), 30–55.
17. Hobsbawm, E. J. (1994). *The Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914–1991*. Michael Joseph.
18. Hoover Institution. (2025, March 15). *Debating Globalization's Trade-Offs: A Policy Analysis* (Report No. 2025-03).
19. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2023). *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*.
20. Judt, T. (2005). *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*. Penguin Books.
21. Kissinger, H., Schmidt, E., & Huttenlocher, D. (2021). Security and World Order. In *The Age of AI: And Our Human Future* (pp. 133–154). Hachette Books.
22. Mann, M. (2012). The Rise of the Modern State: II. The Autonomy of Military Power. In *The Sources of Social Power* (pp. 402–443). Cambridge University Press.
23. Moyo, D. (2009). *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa* (Chs. 1–3, pp. 19–55). Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
24. Morgan, A. (Director). (2015). *The True Cost* [Documentary]. Life Is My Movie Entertainment.

25. Mazower, M. (1998). *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*. Penguin Books.
26. Sagan, S. D. (1996). Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb. *International Security*, 21(3), 54–86.
27. Sen, A. (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Alfred A. Knopf.
28. Steger, M. B. (2020). *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.
29. Stiglitz, J. E. (2002). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W. W. Norton & Company.
30. Thakur, R. (2018). Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect. In T. G. Weiss & S. Daws (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* (2nd ed., pp. 461–478). Oxford University Press.