

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

NIAS COURSE OFFERINGS

August - November 2018

(1) School of Conflict and Security Studies

(1) Course title: Global Politics: Contemporary World Affairs

Level of course: Post Graduate, MPhil and PhD Scholars

Number of credits: Four

Type: Online and Offline Lectures, Workshop Paper Presentations, Writings and Guest Lectures

Name of the instructor: D. Suba Chandran

Brief Description: The course provides an introduction to contemporary world affairs. Though there are numerous courses and lectures on theoretical and historical issues relating to international relations, there is a need to discuss, analyse and comprehend on what is happening today at the global level.

The primary objective of the course is two – first, to enhance the understanding of contemporary global developments, with an attempt to comprehend the larger picture. Second, to identify trends leading forecasts on contemporary world affairs.

The Course will also invite senior scholars within and outside NIAS – also from within and outside India to provide lectures on contemporary world affairs.

Research Questions on Global Politics

The course focus on providing an explanation, and expects the scholars to increase their understanding on the following:

1. **Contemporary World Order:** Policies of the US, China, EU and Russia and their implications on the global order
2. **Big Power Politics:** US-China, US-Russia, Russia-China, and India-China
3. **Regional Politics:** South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Middle East and Europe
4. **Maritime Order:** South China Sea, Indian Ocean, Arctic, Blue Economy etc
5. **Contemporary Global Issues:** Climate Change, International Trade, Outer Space, Nuclear Order etc

Special Focus on South Asia

The Course aims to create an understanding from a South Asian perspective. Given the enormity of literature, primarily from an international perspective, there is a substantial gap in terms of approaching contemporary global issues from a South Asian perspective.

The course also aims to create a pool of scholars, thereby build capacity that would help the region in understanding issues of global politics, regional and international conflicts and also regional security in South Asia.

Enhancing Presentation Style & Writing Skills

A common issue facing young scholars is the challenge of effective communication. This course aims to address the same in terms of building basic skills of research presentation.

On the basic research tools side, the course aims to pick up different contemporary issues and make presentations – oral and power point, with an objective to convert the same into short writings to be published in the Course Portal

Effective Use of Social Media for Dissemination

The course will also recommend its scholars to maintain their own individual blogs and also help improving their tweets and related social media communication; the objective of this endeavour is to create awareness about making effective use of the social media for research and dissemination.

The course also aims to create a group of young scholars working on issues relating to peace and conflict, and pool them together with an online identity.

Online Portal: Global Politics

The Course will also have an Online portal managed by the Course Instructor, where the writings of the scholars on contemporary world affairs will be published on a regular basis.

The Online portal of the Course will also have lectures by the international faculty uploaded.

II Course Outline

Global Politics: Identifying Contemporary Issues

The course focuses on providing an explanation, and expects the scholars to increase their understanding on the following:

- 1. Contemporary World Order:**
 - Policies of the US, China, EU and Russia
 - Contemporary role of Global and Regional Institutions
- 2. Big Power Politics:**
 - US-China
 - US-Russia
 - Russia-China
 - India-China
- 3. Regional Security:**
 - South Asia
 - Southeast Asia
 - East Asia
 - Middle East

- Europe
- 4. Maritime Order:**
- South China Sea
 - Indian Ocean
 - Arctic
 - Blue Economy
- 5. Contemporary Global Issues:**
- Migration
 - Climate Change
 - Global Economy
 - Outer Space
 - Nuclear Order
- 6. South Asia**
- US, China and South Asia
 - India and Pakistan
 - Pakistan and Afghanistan
 - India and its Smaller Neighbours

III Methodology

For the NIAS scholars, there will be regular classes, every Wednesdays between 1000 and 1300 hrs.

Online Lectures will be the primary mode of engagement for those scholars who are outside NIAS, and want to be a part of the Online Course held every Saturdays.

Every session would involve 45 minutes of lecture, followed by 45 minutes of interactions.

The above will be followed by students' presentations for 90 minutes

Student Presentations, followed by Short Commentaries will play a crucial role in deepening the understanding of students. Each student will be asked to make minimum two presentations and write two short commentaries every month.

The portal on Global Politics will engage the students of the course on a regular basis in following subjects on a daily basis and also prepare online databases.

Guest Lectures and International Faculty:

Since the course is also designed as an online one, this would give flexibility to invite faculty from across the world.

Academics, Think Tankers, former government officials will be requested to take guest lectures on specific subjects.

Probable starting date and schedule/ timings

8 August 2018, Wednesday, 1000-1300 hrs

(2) Course Title: Theoretical Constructs of Conflict

Subject/Discipline: Conflict Studies and Conflict Resolution

Level of Course: Post-Graduate, PhD

Number of credits: Three

Name of Instructor: Dr. Anshuman Behera

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Shyam Hari P.

Type: This is primarily a lecture based course. The course will also involve seminars and guided readings.

Brief Description: The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of theoretical positions on understanding various aspects and dynamics of conflict. It includes major theoretical/philosophical positions, debates on the subject of conflict. The first portion of the course brings together theoretical positions, both Western and Indian, to have better understanding in conceptualising conflict. The second portion deals with major internal conflicts in India. This course will help to understand the interface between larger conceptualisation of the subject and individual conflicts.

Course Outline

Understanding Conflict: An introduction

- Incompatible Goals
- Hostility
- Conflict Actions
- Conflict Environment
- Issues and Contenders in a Conflict

Philosophical Foundations of Understanding Conflict

- Social Conflict Theories: Marxist Perspectives
- Associative and Dissociative Conflicts
- Social Conflicts and its Functions
- Theories of Violence and Conflict
- Aspects of Greed and Grievance in Conflict
- Aspects of Power Elite
- Gandhian Perspectives
- Caste and Social Identity in Conflict

Internal Conflicts in India

- Conflict over identity and ethnicity issues (Northeast India: Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya)
- Conflict over Regionalism
- Conflict over ideology, language and religion (Maoist conflict, communal violence, linguistic conflicts)
- Conflict over autonomy (Kashmir)
- Conflict over resources (Cauvery water, land acquisition, development)

Reading List (Select)

- Barbanti. 2004. Development and Conflict Theory. Online.
http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/development_conflict_theory/?nid=1158
- Bhargava, Rajeev, ed. 2005. *Secularism and Its Critics*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Burton, John and et.al. 1993. *Conflict: Practices in Management, Settlement and Resolution*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Chandhoke, N. 2003. *The Concept of Civil Society*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Collier, Paul and Hoeffler Anke, *Greed and Grievance in Civil War*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, 56 (2004), 563-595.
- Coser, Lewis. 1956. *The Functions of Social Conflict*. New York: Free Press.
- Galtung, J. 1965. 'On the Meaning of Nonviolence.' *Journal of Peace Research*, 2(4).
- Galtung, Johan. 1985. 'Twenty-five Years of Peace Research: Ten Challenges and Some Responses.' *Journal of Peace Research* 22(2): 141–158.
- Galtung, Johan. 1996. *Peace by Peaceful Means: Peace, Conflict, Development and Civilization*. New Delhi: Sage Publication.
- Gandhi, M.K. 1927. *An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, Reprint, Ahmedabad: Navajivan Publishing House.
- International Conflict*, Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.
- Jayaram, N, et al. 1996, *Social Conflict*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Johnson, Linda. 2005, *Narrative Analysis*. In *Doing Research: Methods of Inquiry for Conflict Analysis*, edited by Druckman, Daniel. London: Sage Publications.
- Kakar, Sudhir. 1996. *The Colours of Violence*. New Delhi: Penguin Books.
- Kaviraj, S., and S. Khilnani, eds. 2002. *Civil Society: History and Possibilities*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press.
- Kothari, C.R. 200. *Research Methodology: Methods & Techniques*. New Delhi: New Age International Publishers.
- Lederach, John Paul. 1995. *Preparing for Peace: Conflict Transformation Across Cultures*. New York: Syracuse University Press.
- Lederach, John Paul, 2003, *Little Book of Conflict Transformation: Intercourse*. PA: Good Books.
- Pani, Narendar, 2001, *Inclusive Economics Gandhian method and contemporary policy*, New Delhi, Sage.
- Parekh, Bhikhu. 1989. *Gandhi's Political Philosophy: A Critical Examination*. Basingstoke: Macmillan.
- Pruitt & Kim. 2004. *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement*. 3rd Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

- Roy, Beth. 1994. *Some Trouble with Cows: Making Sense of Social Conflict*. Berkley: University of California Press.
- Sen, Amartya. 2006. 'Globalization and Voice.' In *Identity and Violence*, 120-148. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
- Smock, David R. 1995. *Perspectives on Pacifism: Christian, Jewish and Muslim Views on Non-violence and*
- Sponsel, Leslie E and Thomas Gregor, eds. 1994. *The Anthropology of Peace and Non- Violence*. Bouldert, Colo: L.Rienner.
- Upadhyaya, P. 2009. 'Peace and Conflict: Reflections on Indian Thinking.' *Strategic Analysis*, 33(1).
- Upadhyaya, Priyankar. 2010. 'Communal Peace in India: Lessons from Multicultural Banaras.' In *Religion and Security in South and Central Asia* edited by Warikoo, K. London: Routledge.
- Upadhyaya, Priyankar. 2010. 'Hinduism and Peace Education.' In *Spirituality, Religion and Peace Education*, edited by Jing Lin, Edward J. Brantmeier: Charlotte: Information Age
- Weber, Thomas. 1991. *Conflict Resolution and Gandhian Ethics*. New Delhi: Gandhi Peace Foundation.
- Weber, Thomas. 1996. *Gandhi's Peace Army: The Shanti Sena and Unarmed Peacekeeping*. New York: Syracuse University Press.
- Weber, Thomas. 2006. *Gandhi, Gandhism and the Gandhians*. New Delhi: Lotus Publication.

(3) Course Title: Geospatial Technology for Strategic Studies.

Course Instructor(s): Amit Mukherjee

Number of Credits : Two (Learning Course, 1 contact hours / week)

Course Description: Since almost all planetary activities acquire dimensions of time, event and location, the all permeating and ubiquitous technology of GIS has found its application in most of these areas that requires location based information and analysis. As such it has also found its application within the discipline of Strategic Studies. Strategic Studies as a discipline developed from the conduct and constructs of military campaigns and warfare over the past centuries. Strategy by itself forms the basis for achieving goals through implementation of certain methods there-by maximizing the chances of success. The implementation of these methods with the integration of Geospatial technology in the realm of Strategic Studies provides a scope for understanding, presenting and analyzing the fast changing dimensions of modern day Strategic and Security environment. This course is designed to give fundamental knowledge and orientation for integrating Strategic Studies and GIS.

Learning Objective: The main objective of this course is to provide lessons on integrating two distinct disciplines with each other through a multidisciplinary approach. It would include learning, training and understanding basics of Strategic Studies and Geo-Spatial Technology.

Pre-Requisites: Interest in Security and Strategic Studies would be preferred. Systems PC or Laptop is expected to be with the participants for GIS practical work. Open Source Software will be provided by the instructor.

Course Structure:

Module I. Introduction to Strategic Studies : Concepts and Methods - The making of Modern Wars and Strategy, Grand Strategy, Strategic Thought, Strategy in Action.

Module II. Geospatial Concepts, Geospatial Applications for Strategic Studies, GIS and Strategies for Business.

Basis for Final Grades:

In class participation: 50 %

Project Work: 20 %

Presentation of Project Work: 10%

Term Paper: 20 %

Course would commence tentatively from: 2nd Week of August.

Reference Material / General Reading

1. On War by Carl Von Clausewitz.
2. Arthashastra by Chanakya
3. The Art of War by Sun Tzu.
4. Strategy by B.H Liddle Hart.
5. Influence of Sea power upon History by AT Mahan
6. 33 Strategies of War by Robert Green.

7. Modern Strategy, Strategy Bridge: Theory for Practice, Theory of Strategy, Nuclear Strategy, Perspectives of Strategy, Future of Strategy, By Colin S Gray
8. People, States and Fear, Strategic Studies Military Technology & International Relations. By Bary Buzan
9. Game theory and strategy of conflict By Thomas Schelling.
10. Strategy: A History, Security Studies, by Lawrence Freedman
11. The Clash of Civilization and the remaking of world order, Samuel P Huntington

12. Geographic Information Systems An Introduction by Tor Bernhardsen
13. An Introduction to Geographical Information Systems by Ian Heywood
14. Remote Sensing and Image interpretation by Thomas Lillesand, Ralph W. Keifer, Jonathan Chipman.
15. GIS for Homeland Security Mike Kataoka.
16. Strategic GIS planning and Management in Local Government.
17. Geographic Information Systems in Business by James Pick.
18. GIS based studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

(2) School of Humanities

(1)Course Title: TRACING THE SELF - LOCAL PHENOMENOLOGIES AND INDIGENOUS HEALING TRADITIONS OF KERALA

Course Instructor: Sangeetha Menon, Professor & Head, NIAS Consciousness Studies Programme, and Guest Faculty

No of Credits: Three

Course Description:

The course will focus on the Local Phenomenologies of Indigenous Healing Traditions, Practises and Rituals of Kerala, with the help of classical, contemporary, and folk Malayalam literature; classical and contemporary Malayalam movies; classical and folk medicine, beliefs and metaphysics. Using the basic concepts of medical anthropology and cultural psychology, but also critiquing the notions of binaries that emerge from employing the non-local frameworks, a-personal, and a-contextual approaches to interpret the local philosophies and experiences of body-mind health, the course will include exercises in self-reflective and creative writing. One of the goals is to bring in the discussion on relevant Malayalam literature, cinema, and indigenous ritual art and healing practises and traditions to a common space of the self that explores its wellness and settlement within a context.

Course Level and Type: Advanced.

The Course with the help of multiple ways of reading texts, traditions, practises, and rituals will outline the local phenomenologies to trace the nature, both philosophical and psychological, of the self that defines, designs and experiences the sense of healing. The medium of Course will be primarily class lectures, supplemented by guided group and individual reading, thematic discussions based on chosen frames, symbology, and storylines of select movies, novels, and ritual art practises.

Assignments:

Converging class notes to conceptual essays, writing reviews, film analysis, individual and group presentations, creative writing and phenomenological exercises.

Pre-requisites:

Since the Course will be based heavily on the vernacular sources, the ability to read, speak and write in Malayalam will be very helpful, though it need not be a restricting factor to take the Course. Students interested to take the course are expected to be passionate in the interdisciplinary studies connecting philosophy, psychology and literature. Auditing the course is permissible only after a discussion with the Supervisor stating the reasons.

For more information or to join the Course, email your intent to niasconsciousnessprogramme@gmail.com

(2) Course Title: THINKING EXPERIENCES, AND EXPERIENCING THOUGHTS: FOUNDATIONS OF PHILOSOPHY IN FRAMING OUR MINDS, BELIEFS AND ACTIONS

(Mandatory Course For The Tata Trust Project Phd Scholars
And Research Associates, Of The Nias Consciousness Studies Programme)

Course Instructor: Sangeetha Menon

Guest Lectures by: Nithin Nagaraj, Srikumar M Menon and Binoy VV

No of Credits: Two

Course Description:

This Course is mandatory for the doctoral scholars and research associates of the NIAS Consciousness Studies Programme. The intend of the Course is to equip the researcher with the basic concepts and structures of philosophical thinking, and, using philosophical frameworks in approaching research problems relating to mind, body, consciousness and action. The goal of the Course is to also bring back the original intent of philosophical exercise – which is to practise philosophy in daily living, transforming the agentic self, and choice making. The list of the foundational philosophical themes that will be presented and discussed will include:

- a. Thought and Thinking
- b. Body, Behaviour and Action
- c. Body-Mind and Beyond
- d. Self and Experience
- e. Image of an Idea and Idea of the Image
- f. Symbols in Hindu and Buddhist art, their depictions, and meanings
- g. Commonly encountered symbols in prehistoric art and their lost meanings
- h. The Subject and the Objective
- i. Separating the Personal from the Self space
- j. Reason, Rational thinking and Intuition
- k. Detachment and Engagement
- l. Society and Cognition
- m. Foundations of modelling
- n. Philosophical Values in Research thinking and Writing

Course Level and Type: Advanced.

Assignments: Essay writing, Book reviews, Film analysis, Group discussions, Individual and Group presentations.

Pre-requisites: Passion for using philosophy in self-engagement, field work, and phenomenological interventions in research. The Course cannot be audited.

For more information or to join the Course, email your intent to niasconsciousnessprogramme@gmail.com

(3)Course Title: KASHMIR SAIVISM, CAUSALITY AND THE SEARCH FOR THE SELF

Course Instructors: Shankar Rajaraman, Nithin Nagaraj, Sangeetha Menon, and guest faculty with expertise in the relevant disciplines.

No of Credits: Three

Course Level and Type: Advanced.

Course Description: Several concepts from philosophies of Kashmir Saivism will be covered with focus on mind, body and consciousness, and in the context of contemporary interdisciplinary dialogues on consciousness, self and causality. Theories of Indian aesthetics with special reference to Abhinavagupta and Anandavardhana will also be discussed. In addition to a refreshingly new approach to consciousness, Kashmir Monistic Saivism also provides one of the strongest philosophical foundations for understanding aesthetic experience (rasānubhava) as formulated by Bharata. The focal topics will include:

- Kashmir Monistic Saivism in the context of contending schools of philosophical thought as exemplified by the dualistic Sāṅkhya, the monistic Vedānta, and the nihilistic Bauddha traditions; the interface of Kashmir Monistic Saivism and Rasa aesthetics, including the Abhivyaktivāda of Abhinavagupta.
- The Pratyabhijñā school of Indian philosophy and its importance for understanding consciousness and aesthetic experience. Though long relegated to a secondary position, the Pratyabhijñā school of Indian philosophy, popularly known as Kashmir Monistic Saivism, has found renewed interest among academicians, thanks to the recent surge in studies on consciousness.
- Introduction to causality based neuroscientific theories of consciousness, capacity vs. activity debate, integrated information & causality, causal emergence in systems, causal power of brain networks and its relation to subjectivity as per integrated information theory.
- The nature of Self, and its relationship with body, mind and consciousness: philosophical and psychological challenges and interdisciplinary questions. Focus will be on Indian philosophical texts, and some of the contemporary literature on Self-Mind-Consciousness relationships particularly that brings in the importance of self-reflection and self-engagement.

Assignments:

Book reviews, individual and group presentations, annotations; Reading assignments of research papers; Critical analysis and writing a term report based on discussions in the class.

Pre-requisites:

Background knowledge of Kashmir Saivism; Basic ability to read and write Sanskrit, Interest to engage with interdisciplinary discussions on consciousness and causality.

For more information or to join the Course, email your intent to niasconsciousnessprogramme@gmail.com

(4)Course Title: TOPICS IN INFORMATION THEORY, LEARNING AND CAUSAL INFERENCE

Course Instructor: Nithin Nagaraj, NIAS Consciousness Studies Programme

No of Credits: Two (2 contact hrs/week)

Course Level and Type: Advanced, Guided Reading.

Course Description: How does learning happen? Is there a difference in how we learn and how a machine learns? The central aim of physical, social, behavioural and biological sciences is to learn cause-effect relationships. But, what are the ways in which causal relationships can be learnt, in a sound and robust manner? In this reading course, we will explore research articles/books/papers that address these fundamental questions. We will specifically focus on the conceptual, mathematical and computational advances in learning and causal inference, employing the rich tools of Information Theory. Unearthing causal relationships is useful in statistics, artificial intelligence, economics, philosophy, cognitive science, health and social sciences.

Pre-requisites: Basics of probability theory. Since the papers that will be discussed are quite mathematical, the student is expected to be comfortable with mathematical thinking and arguments. Term project will involve writing computer programs, hence familiarity with programming in any one of MATLAB/Python/C/C++ is a must.

Assignments & Evaluation Criteria:

Reading assignment of research articles, book chapters, journal papers; In-class interactions and discussions, individual and group presentations; Critical analysis and writing a term report on a research topic/project. Evaluation will be based on all of the above.

Reading List:

This is not a complete list, but only indicative. Full list will be given once the course begins.

1. MacKay, D. J. (2003). *Information theory, inference and learning algorithms*. Cambridge university press.
2. Pearl, J. (2009). *Causality*. Cambridge university press.
3. Pearl, J. (2014). *Probabilistic reasoning in intelligent systems: networks of plausible inference*. Elsevier.
4. Pearl, J., & Mackenzie, D. (2018). *The Book of Why: The New Science of Cause and Effect*. Basic Books.
5. Tishby, N., Pereira, F. C., & Bialek, W. (2000). The information bottleneck method. *arXiv preprint physics/0004057*.

For more information or to join the Course, email your intent to niasconsciousnessprogramme@gmail.com