

India in International Relations

Prof. Devika Misra (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)

Prof. Dr. Responsável pela disciplina Guarda-chuva

Period: 2026.1

Credits : 4

Timings: Tuesday 1:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Summary: Over the last few decades, given its fast growing economy, nuclear and space programme successes, long standing history of diplomatic participation in international affairs and the impetus given to south-south cooperation, India has emerged as a player of some significance in the international arena. However, it remains a land of near incomprehensible diversities and simultaneously operational binaries – like its long standing civilizational past with its less than a century old existence as an independent state, its shared cultural congruities in its region which remains politically unstable, its modernizing and active diplomacy with vastly different domestic realities. Given the salience of India as an international actor, especially in the twenty first century, this course hopes to demystify its foreign policy behaviour in the international realm, discuss its aims and priorities as well as analyze its cooperation and partnerships across the globe.

Objectives:

- 1.) To introduce undergraduate students to salient features of the Indian polity and foreign policy.
- 2.) To identify and analyze significant partnerships of the Indian state in the developed and developing world.
- 3.) To promote comparative discussions between domestic socio-political realities in India that inform its status as an international actor and Brazil.

Assessment:

The course material hopes to promote active engagement and enrichment of the depth of student understanding and knowledge about Indian foreign policy behaviour beyond the general.

It proposes two assessments over the duration of the course:

- 1.) An analytical essay discussing parallelisms in Indian foreign policy behaviour and consonances in the Brazilian scenario. Students may use any one of the prescribed texts from the course modules and find a complementary reading from Brazil of their choice which may be in Portuguese, though the written assessment should be submitted in English after the completion of the third module.
- 2.) A group project towards the end of the course on Indian films and student perception of how these depictions present India as an international actor.

Session 1 (March 3rd):

Introductory Session

Session 2 (March 10th):

Module 1: Indian Foreign Policy: History, Goals and Priorities

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. (2009) “Still Under Nehru’s Shadow? The Absence of Foreign Policy Frameworks in India” *India Review*, Vol. 8, pp. 209-233

Quinn, Alison. (2018) “How History Shaped India’s Foreign Policy Goals” available at: <https://www.e-ir.info/2018/08/04/how-history-shapes-indias-foreign-policy-goals/>

Session 3 (March 17th)

Module 2: India and its Particularities: Caste, Gender and Religion

Valmiki, Omprakash (2003) *Joothan: A Dalit’s Life* Translated from Hindi by Arun Prabha Mukherjee (excerpt)

Ambedkar, B.R. (1946) *Who were the Shudras? How They Came to be the Fourth Varna in Indo-Aryan Society* (excerpt)

Tagore, Rabindranath (2002). The Exercise Book. *Rabindranath Tagore: Selected Short Stories* edited by Sukanta Chaudhuri, Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Wojczewski, Thorsten. (2019) “Populism, Hindu Nationalism, and Foreign Policy in India: The Politics of Representing the People” *International Studies Review* (2019) 0, pp.1-27

Suggested Readings

(2020) The politics of Hindutva in India, Strategic Comments, 26:7, ix-xi.

Michael, Arndt (2019) "The "Hindutva Face" of Foreign Policy? Reflections on Indian Foreign Policy 2014-19" available at <https://casi.sas.upenn.edu/iit/arndtmichael2019>

Films: Article 15 (available on NETFLIX)

Sessions 4 & 5 (March 24th and March 31st)

Module 3: Space and Nuclear Programme

Pant, Harsh and Yogesh Joshi. (2018) "Introduction" in *Oxford India Short Introductions Indian Nuclear Policy* New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Aliberti, Marco (2018) "Space Activities in India: The Current Landscape" in *Space: Between Utility and Geopolitics* Springer.

Suggested Readings

Aliberti, Marco (2018) "India's Path in Space: A Brief History of an Evolving Endeavour" in *Space: Between Utility and Geopolitics* Springer.

Films: Mission Mangal, Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran (available on Netflix)

Session 6 & 7 (April 7th and April 14th)

Module 4: India and its Neighbourhood

Krishna, Sankaran (1994). "Cartographic Anxiety: Mapping the Body Politic in India" *Alternatives* 19 (1994), pp. 507-521

Manto, S.H. "The Dog of Tetwal" *Manto: Collected Short Stories*

Malone, David M. (2011) "India and Its South Asian Neighbours" in *Does the Elephant Dance? Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Suggested Readings

Hagerty, Devin (2020). "India-Pakistan Crises: 1999-2016" in *Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence Stability in South Asia* Springer: Ebook

Films: Roja, Border, Bajrangi Bhaijaan (available on Amazon Prime)

April 21st Holiday - Tiradentes

Session 8 (April 28th)

Module 5: India-China Relations

Malone, David M. (2011) “The Sino-Indian Relationship: Can Two Tigers Share a Mountain?” in *Does the Elephant Dance? Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Shivshankar Menon (2020) “India-China Ties: The Future Holds 'Antagonistic Cooperation', Not War” available at <https://thewire.in/external-affairs/india-china-ties-expect-antagonistic-cooperation-future-not-war>

Session 9 (May 7th)

Module 6: India-US Relations

C RahaMohan (2020) “How the coronavirus pandemic and border conflict with China pushed India closer to the US” available at <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3103506/how-coronavirus-pandemic-and-border-conflict-china-pushed-india>

Tellis, Ashley J. (2016). “US–India Relations: The Struggle for an Enduring Partnership” in David M. Malone, C. Raja Mohan and Srinath Raghavan (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Indian Foreign Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Session 10 (May 14th)

Module 7: India and Africa

Xavier, Constantino (2015). “Unbreakable Bond: Africa in India’s Foreign Policy” in David M. Malone, C. Raja Mohan and Srinath Raghavan (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Indian Foreign Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Session 11 (May 21st)

Module 8: India and Latin America

Sahni, Varun (2015). “BRAZIL: *Fellow Traveler on the Long and Winding Road to Grandeza*” in David M. Malone, C. Raja Mohan and Srinath Raghavan (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Indian Foreign Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Misra, Devika (2020). “Relaciones entre India y América Latina: potencial y práctica” in Andrés Serbin y Wolf Grabendorff (eds.) *Los actores globales y el (re) descubrimiento de América Latina*, CRIES.

Session 12 (May 28th)

Module 9: India and Soft Power: Bollywood and Changing Representations of India in the West

Group projects on Bollywood films in order to unearth congruities and consonances in Indian foreign policy behaviour discussed over the duration of the course.

June 4th - Holiday - Corpus Christi

Module 10: India in the Post-Pandemic World (June 11st)

To be decided.