Course: **Research Design in International Relations and Politics**

Course Instructor: **Professor Rajendra K. Jain**, Visiting Professor, University of Warsaw

Short Description:
The aim of the course is to increase the practical competences of students in designing research (including literature review, formulating hypotheses) and preparing texts of scientific nature (articles in scientific journals, chapters in scientific books in the field of poltiical science and international relations. This course is especially suitable for students interested in an academic career and those aiming for a professional career in research and analysis.

Full Description
The aim of the course is to facilitate the development of a broad understanding of the principles, techniques and processes that are fundamental to successful research in international relations and politics. The course seeks to enhance practical skills of students in designing research (including literature review, formulating hypotheses) and preparing academic papers (articles in scientific journals, chapters in scientific books) in international relations through practical insights from the instructor's extensive research and publications. The course will begin with an overview of the basic elements of research strategy. The issues will include: selection and formulation of a research problem, review of research literature, formulating research questions and hypotheses, arranging the structure of the argument. The course will then go on to present the methodoogical, substantive, editorial and technical aspects. This course is especially dedicated to students interested in an academic career as well as those planning a professional career in research and analysis. Completion of the course by the student will be based on the assessment of the appropriate type of academic text written and edited by him (an opinion piece or a policy brief and a journal article or a book chapter) in English.

Course Topics
1. Introduction: Research Methods and Design
2. Key Elements of Successful Academic Writing
3. Optimising Research Strategies
4. Major Types of Academic Writing
5. Key Elements of Successful Professional and Popular Writing
6. Effective Argument and Style in Academic Writing
7. Fundamentals of Successful Academic Writing
8. Mastering the Technicalities
9. Student Presentations and Reflections

Literature

Detailed course description and specific readings will be given during lectures.

Assessment Criteria

	Assessment items and workload per item	%	Due date
1	Op-ed *or* policy brief (800-1,000 words)	25%	16 April 2022
2	Scholarly article (2,500-3,000 words) and its presentation	75%	4 May 2022

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:
Knows and understands:
- the fundamental skills and capabilities necessary for successful research, writing, editing and publication in international relations
- the research processes (including reading, evaluating, developing ideas, formulating research questions, research strategies, literature review), writing well developed arguments and explaining how such arguments ought to be supported by using academic sources on diverse topics in international relations
- how to apply various types of writing styles in international relations including academic papers and policy analysis

Skills:
Is able to:
- acquire practical experience in improving research and writing skills in the preparation of academic articles, book chapters, policy briefs and Op-eds in English
- recognize, distinguish, and assess the differences between well and poorly constructed arguments as well as good and poor academic writing
- use electronic sources and databases to undertake independent research
- understand the use, role and usage of key academic conventions such as referencing
- effectively communicate ideas in written and oral public presentations

Social competences:
Is able to:
- develop foundational research skills in international relations
- undertake independent documentation search and retrieval strategies
- design and conduct independent research
- marshal evidence to make a strong and coherent argument
- understand the importance of research ethics and their integration into the research process