

**Course: M A (PISM)**

**Course Number:IS 581**

**Course Title: Southwest Pacific Foreign Relations**

**Course Type: Optional**

**Course Teacher: Dr Shubhamitra Das**

**Credits: 3**

**Contact Hours: 3 hours per Week**

**Evaluation Method:** Sessional work including term papers, book reviews and mid semester exam of 50 marks and End Semester Exam for 50 marks

**Course Duration:** One Semester

**Course Aims and Objectives**

1. To learn about foreign policy of small or micro states
2. To understand Aid Dependency and Micro states diplomacy
3. To know about the security issues of remote island countries and their strategy
4. To understand the strategies adopted by the big powers to control, exploit and govern the micro states
5. To know the inter-play of regional and extra-regional powers

**Learner's Outcome**

1. Learning the issues and challenges and the ability of successful diplomacy by micro states is an intellectual stimulation for better understanding of weak and so-called powerless states in the world of power strife between big and powerful countries.
2. The course can also provide better understanding of Colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism that also leads to aid dependency, corruption and being almost at the verge of bankruptcy and bad governance. These issues help to analyse, evaluate and examine, and discuss the socio-economic and political issues of the present world.

**Course Content**

Pacific Island Countries or Oceania also known as Southwest Pacific region is geographically divided into Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. It is one of the most vibrant regions, since all the islands in the region are micro or small islands with a population of less than 1 million; except for Papua New Guinea. Australia and New Zealand being geographically a part of Oceania have been the major regional players in enhancing security, political and economic aid

to almost all the islands. The impact of World War II, Cold War and the Post-Cold War on the islands has shaped the politics of the region quite interestingly; especially due to its presumed remoteness and geographic isolation. The Pacific Islands have gained unique strategic importance in the present world where the extra-regional players like China, Japan, UK, US and France and India are considering the Pacific region to be a part of the Indo-Pacific. Regional Cooperation and regionalization of these islands has been the game changer in making the small islands to gain international recognition due to its diplomacy at UN with regard to Climate Change in the present times and South Pacific Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (SPNWF) earlier.

1. **Pacific Islands and Geopolitical framework-** the ethno-geographic understanding of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, role of Micro-states in politics, diplomacy and security
2. **Second World War and its impact on the Pacific Islands-** The unit surveys the strategic, political and economic environment of the Southwest Pacific after the Second World War, the impact of Colonisation in the Pacific
3. **Cold War and the Military Alliance System-** Features of Cold War, military alliances in the Pacific region- ANZUS, FPDA, SEATO
4. **The end of the Cold War and its impact-** The foreign policy choices of the Southwest Pacific nations will be discussed in view of the global changes and challenges faced by them in the post Cold War era.
5. **Role of Regional Powers-** The unit examines Australia's and New Zealand's foreign relations in the wake of new trends emerging in the region.
6. **Regionalism in the Pacific-** Role of Pacific Island Forum, Pacific Commission, Pacific Island Development Forum, South Pacific regional Environmental Programme. multiculturalism are explored.
7. **Ethno – nationalism-** Rise of rebellion, Self- Determination in Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia.
8. **Regional Issues-** The biggest challenge of Climate Change and environmental diplomacy of small states, Nuclear issues with special focus on the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone (SPNFZ) Treaty

9. **Pacific in the Indo-Pacific-** Role of Japan, US, UK, France, China and India in the region

**Essential Reading**

- Baker, Richard.W, (1992) “International Relations in the South Pacific: New Visions and Voices”, Honolulu: East-West Centre
- Brady, Annie-Marie (ed), (2010), “Looking North, Looking South: China, Taiwan and the South Pacific”, Singapore: World Scientific
- Babbage, Ross, A Coast too Long: Defending Australia Beyond the 1990s (Sydney 1990)
- Baker, Richard.W, (1992) “International Relations in the South Pacific: New Visions and Voices”, Honolulu: East-West Centre
- Balakrishnan, Bhaskar (Oct-Dec 2015), “India’s Engagement with the Pacific Islands” *Indian Foreign Affairs Journal*. Oct-Dec2015, Vol. 10 Issue 4, p353-367
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- Brij Lal, Kate Fortune (eds), (2000), “The Pacific Islands. An Encyclopedia”, Honolulu, (Encyclopedia)
- Carleton Cramer, 2015 “Regionalism, Security and Cooperation in Oceania” Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Honolulu
- Cheeseman, Graeme and Grant, Bruce (ed.) (1996), “*Discourse to Danger and Dread Frontier: Australia’s Defence and Security Thinking after the Cold War*”, pp 157, Allen& Unwin and RSPAS, the ANU, Canberra
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- Christian Wirth (2019) Whose ‘Freedom of Navigation’? Australia, China, the United States and the making of order in the ‘Indo-Pacific’, *The Pacific Review*, 32:4, 475-504, DOI:10.1080/09512748.2018.1515788
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- Droessler, Holger (Fall 2013) “Whose Pacific? US Security Interests in American Samoa from the age of Empire to the Pacific Pivot” *Pacific Asia Inquiry*, Vol 4 No 1
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- Fairbairn Teo I.J, et al, *The Pacific Islands: Politics, Economics and International Relations*( Honolulu, 1991)
- Feigenbaum, Evan A (Spring 2011) “Why America No Longer Gets Asia,” Centre for Strategic and International Studies, *Washington Quarterly*, 34:2, p 25-43, DOI: 10.1080/0163660X.2011.562
- Feigenbaum, Evan A (Spring 2011) “Why America No Longer Gets Asia,” Centre for Strategic and International Studies, *Washington Quarterly*, 34:2, p 25-43, DOI: 10.1080/0163660X.2011.562
- Fry, Greg Sandra Tarte (ed) “The New Pacific Diplomacy, ANU Press,
- Fry, Greg, *Australia’s Regional Security* (Sydney 1991).
- Hanson, Fergus 2008: *The Dragon Looks South*, Sydney, Lowy Institute for International Policy, June.

- Hegarty, David and Peter Polomka (eds.), the Security of Oceania in the 1990s: Views from the Region Vol I (Canberra, 1990).
- Hollingsworth, J. (2019). “Why China is Challenging Australia for influence over the South Pacific Islands”, CNN News, 22nd July 2019.
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- Ikenberry, G John (May-June 1996) “The Myth of Post-Cold War Chaos” *Foreign Affairs*, Council of Foreign Affairs, p79-91
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