Course:	**PhD**
Course No:	Course Number: SA 667N
Course Title:	**Politics and Security of the Pacific Island Countries**
Course Type:	**Core Course**
Semester	**Monsoon**
Course Teacher & Contact Details:	**Name:** Dr. Shubhamitra Das, **Room No: 331**, SIS-II **Email:** shubhamitra70@gmail.com shubhamitra@mail.jnu.ac.in **Tel No: 9871385692**
Credits:	**4**
Instruction Method	Lectures/Seminars **4 hours/week**
Course Duration	One Semester
Course Hours	4 Hours per week

Course Statement

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) or Oceania have been one of the last to become independent from the colonial rule. After UN declared decolonisation in 1960s, most of these countries became independent while some countries chose to be freely associated with their former colonisers. South PICs continued to hold a special position in the geopolitics of Indo-Pacific, which urges one to look deeply into the social, historical, political and economic background of these islands, their vulnerabilities, strengths and major security issues that is not just traditional but mostly Non-Traditional Security issues. Climate Change, illegal fishing, economic crisis making most of the islands aid dependent and with severe governance issues in the domestic front requires deeper insight. Looking at the growing issues of security and the rise of new style of regionalism among the SPICs is an interesting subject of study. Moreover, SPICs relation with Australia and New Zealand is a dichotomous one- both as partner and as patron. The impact of other players in the region like Japan, South Korea, US, UK, France, China and India makes the region both fragile and dynamic at the same time thus furthering the region's prominence in the international platform. The role of the Pacific Islands in the present Indo-Pacific politics is fast evolving and making the remote countries become political and diplomatically sought by the regional as well as the extra-regional players.

 The PICs are diverse and complex in both security and governance issues. South Pacific

comprising of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia has become the focus in the recent past due to a) the increased strategic presence of bigger countries like US, China, Japan and recently India, b) the economic powers of ASEAN, its institutional strengths and its allies playing a crucial role for the South Pacific region, c) issues on human security since these countries are one of the first to be affected by climate change, waste management and also trans-border crime, d) internal conflict leading to instability in governance structures and limited resources and capacity for law enforcement and aid dependence on the one hand and the possibility of the region to be the latent hub for terrorist activities, drug-trafficking and piracy on the other, since the region has become the transit point for global trade routes. These multiple issues have created urgency in deciphering the perspectives and equations that require a re-look and re-designing of the foreign policies of the countries, regional groupings and multilateral ties for security and economic cooperation.

Course Objectives

1. Understanding Colonialism and Post Colonialism in Small States

2. Assess Small Powers diplomacy and their geopolitical significance in the World Order

3. To evaluate the involvement of big powers' with the Microstates of the Pacific Ocean

4. Understand how human security becomes more pressing an issue than traditional security

5. Evaluate and understand the difference between small power regionalism and big or middle powers regionalism

6. Asses the strategic consequence of the economic/infrastructural vulnerabilities among the microstates to be the reason for insecurity to the regional powers

Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the politics of Small Powers in the world power game
2. Helps in analysing the ways and means of major power involvement in the Pacific region since World War II
3. Helps in emphasising on human security and issues of survival and sustainability of the most vulnerable islands and their existential crises
4. Helps in increasing the critique on power politics and peace processes
5. Gives clarity on disaster management issues; adaptation, mitigation and resilience

Evaluation Methods

Sessional work including term papers and its presentation in the class, book reviews and mid semester exam of 50 marks and End Semester Exam for 50 marks

Students will be required to maintain a high degree of academic integrity; i.e. abstaining from copying and plagiarism.

Course Outline:

Module I: History and Geopolitical Significance of Pacific Region

- Process of Colonisation
- Methods of mainstreaming the remote Pacific Island Countries
- The geopolitical understanding of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia
- The reasons for geo-strategic and geo-economic issues gaining importance in the regional perspective

Module II: Political Institutions of Pacific Region (Independent states)

- Governance Patterns of Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, New Caledonia
- Reasons for political turmoil and rebellion – history, society and politics
- Challenges faced due to poor governance- Corruption, crime, drug and women trafficking and violence against women
- Colonial governance and traditional governance patterns in all 14 Island States
- Politics of dependence and independence in the post-colonial era
- Internal governance mechanisms and foreign intervention and involvement

Module III: Politics and Diplomacy of Small States

- Small States Diplomacy
- Diplomacy of the Small or Micro States vis-à-vis great powers
- Dependence on Economic aid and its impact on diplomacy
- Trading partners of the Pacific Island countries; in the pre and post-Cold War era
- Diplomacy on Climate Change

Module IV: Role of Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific Region

- Geopolitical Significance of the Pacific Region to Australia's and New Zealand's foreign Policy
- History and politics of Australia and New Zealand- Colonisation and Post Colonisation

- Foreign Policy Making of Australia and New Zeland

- Relations of Australia and New Zealand with SPICs as partner and/or patron

- Australia's emphasis on Australasian security

- Australia, India, Japan and US Quadrilateral Group and its emphasis on PICs

Module IV: Security Challenges of the Pacific Island Countries

- Political dynamics in the region, the interplay of security and diplomacy by PICs, leaders in the region, cooperation, conflict and confrontation due to ethnic violence, political instability and foreign intervention

- Non-Traditional Security (NTS) and global challenges like climate change and its direct and first impact in the South Pacific, migration, sustainable tourism, urbanisation, natural disasters and environmental issues and Illegal Fishing

- Human security- Emphasis on Regionalism

- Gender mainstreaming for nation building and regional cooperation

Module V: Regional Cooperation of the PICs

- Regionalism in the Pacific- Emergence of the'Pacific identity' in the region, enhancing the "Pacific Way"

- Blue Pacific – Methods for Regionalism and Diplomacy

- Pacific Community

- Role of Pacific Island Forum (PIF) in the promotion of regional cooperation through its sub-committees like FFA (Forum for Fisheries Agency etc)

- Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)

- Regionalism and Pacific Agency at the United Nations Organisation (UNO)

- Trade Agreements like Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) and Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)

- Regional cooperation on climate change like SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme), SPICE (South Pacific Ocean Circulation and Climate Experiment)

Module VI: Role of Resident and External Powers

- US, France, UK

- Japan, China, South Korea, Indonesia

- Pacific Islands and India

Module VII: Pacific Island Countries and Indo-Pacific

- Indo-Pacific- Issues and Prospects for the PICs
- Understanding of Indo-Pacific Construct by the PICs
- PICs understanding of security and great power rivalry
- Pacific Islands regional diplomacy of Blue Pacific within the Quad's security agenda

Readings

Essential Reading

1. Azizian, Rouben and Cramer, Carleton (2015), "Regionalism, Security and Cooperation in Oceania" Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii

2. Baker, Richard.W, (1992) "International Relations in the South Pacific: New Visions and Voices", Honolulu: East-West Centre

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