Course Title: Regional Integration Process (MA, Optional)

Number of Credits: Four

Course Objectives:
Regional integration is not a new phenomenon and in the twenty-first century, this process has intensified. The relevance of regional integration was not questioned even after the fall of the Berlin Wall when the world politics entered into a phase of hyper-globalisation. The best example is the European Union (EU) that has not only consolidated its position but also expanded its boundary by including East and Central European countries of the former socialist bloc. At present, almost every region of the world has its regional organisation. The EU excelled in this process, ASEAN proved its viability and the SAARC still struggling to gain momentum. Briefly, regional integration is a dynamic process involving many nation states, actors and several interconnected issues ranging from politics to economics. Therefore, regional integration draws the attention of academia, particularly of those interested in International Relations. This course covers theories and concepts of regional integration. Several essential case studies are part of the course for developing a comprehensive understanding of the regional integration process. In the case studies section, South Asia is the primary focus. Along with regular class lectures and general discussions, group discussions and project work is also a part of the course structure. It is expected that students will actively participate in the class and group discussions.

Course Structure:

Unit I: Introduction: Concepts & History
In this part, we will cover different concepts - regions, regionalism, regional integration, sub-regions, and old & new regionalism. All major concepts pertaining to regional integration will be discussed in this unit. History of regional integration is also covered in this unit.

Week 1 Why Regional Integration?
Week 2: Basic Concepts & History
Week 3: New and Old Regionalism

Unit II: Theories & Approaches
Theories of regional integration will be introduced in this part. Different approaches related to the study of regional integration will also be discussed in this unit.

Week 4: Federalism & Functionalism
Week 5: Neo- Functionalism
Week 6: Marxist & Constructivist Approach
Week 7: Economic Approaches
Unit III: Case Studies: Europe, South East Asia and Latin America

European Union, ASEAN and MERCOSUR are some of the most noteworthy outcomes of regional integration process. This unit will cover political history, development and functional structures of these organisations. Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation will also be introduced in this unit as a case study for maritime regionalism.

Week 8: Europe

Week 9-10: South East Asia

Week 11: Latin America

Week 12: Maritime Regionalism: Indian Ocean

Unit IV: South Asian Integration and SAARC

In this unit, we will discuss prospects and challenges of South Asian regional integration.

Week 13: History

Week 14: Challenges

Reading Suggestions:


Nesadurai, E.S. Helen (2003), *Globalisation, Domestic Politics and Regionalism: The ASEAN Free Trade Area*, London: Routledge Publication. (Chapter, 2)


Dash, C, Kishore (2008), *Regionalism in South Asia Negotiating Cooperation, Institutional Structures*, Oxon Routlede Publication. (Chapter 4)
