Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : **POLS235**	Course Title : Systems Thinking
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : None
Catalog Description:. A general approach to the logical foundations of system thinking. The analysis of human organizations as systems and systems management in general. Essential properties of open systems and differences between open and closed systems	Textbook / Required Material : F.E. Emery, eds., *Systems Thinking*, Maryland, Baltimore;Penguin Books, 1970.

Course Structure / Schedule : **(3+0+0) 3 / 5 ECTS**

Extended Description : The course is divided into three groups of arguments. The first group relates to the basic principles and the properties inherent to the logic of systems. The second group will be organized within the comprehensive framework of the environmental and the operational characteristics of the conception of the systems logic. The final set of arguments will be arranged on the premises of the application of the systems logic to the specific fields of the studying international relations in general and international political process in particular.

Design content : None	Computer usage: Basic office word skills for student term papers

Course Outcomes: [relevant program outcomes in brackets]:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- to understand the nature and the essential features of "a logic of system" as it applies open systems; [1, 2, 3, 4, 5,].
- to explain the structure and the nature of environment and the causal texture of organizational environments; and [1, 4, 5, 14].
- to establish a scientific link between the systems logic and international political process. [1, 3, 13, 14].
- acquire writing and research skills [19, 20, 25].

Program Outcomes for the International Relations Program:
1. Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the fields of Political Science and International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events
2. Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions
3. Be able to follow the world political conjuncture
4. Grasp the structures and functions of organizations (international/regional/intergovernmental organizations, multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations)
5. Grasp those dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena.
6. Understand the international legal framework
7. Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)
8. Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)
9. Grasp the causes and consequences of economic developments
10. Think independently, creatively, and objectively
11. Take the initiative
12. Have self-confidence
13. Think critically, analytically, and systematically
14. Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences

15. Be prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups
16. Be an open-minded individual free from prejudices
17. Be aware of social responsibilities
18. Be aware and a follower of political rights and freedoms
19. Internalize the work ethic and behave accordingly
20. Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report
21. Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research
22. Understand and interpret statistical data
23. Be prone to team work
24. Be able to speak and make presentations in front of public
25. Understand, read, and write in English
26. Have computer and technological literacy

Teaching methods:

Lectures, class discussion

Assessment methods:
Class participation: 5%
Term Project:25
Midterm exam: 30%
Final exam: 40%

Student workload:

Reading	67 hrs
Lectures	33 hrs
Class discussion	12hrs
Examinations (Midterm and Final)	8 hrs
TOTAL ………………………	**125 hrs**

Prepared by : Staff	Revision Date : 18.3.2010