

Regional Integration Process
Department of International Relations
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Instructor Detail

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http://southasianuniversity.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=233&staff_id=28

Course Description

Regionalism is not a new phenomenon but in the twenty-first century this progression intensified. This process remained untouched even after the fall of Berlin Wall, which is generally regarded as beginning of new world order predominated by actors promoting globalisation. The best example is European Union, which has not only consolidated its position but also expanded its boundary by including East and Central European countries of erstwhile Soviet bloc. Presently, every region of the world has some umbrella organisation at different levels of integration. As witnessed, European Union excelled in this process, ASEAN proved its viability and SAARC still struggling to gain momentum. Briefly, regional integration is a dynamic process involving a number of nation states and several interconnected issues, ranging from politics to socio-economic compositions, thus, attracting the attention of academia, particularly of those interested in international relations.

The objective for the course is primarily to make students well versed in concepts and theories of regional integration. Several case studies are also included in the course for comprehensive understanding of the subject. Among the case studies, South Asia will be the main focus. Apart from regular teaching hours, group discussions and project work is also the part of course structure. It is expected that students should actively participate and for this purpose, groups will be made in the beginning of the course.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Unit I: Concepts and Theories

Concepts and theories of regional integration will help us to understand the process from different perspectives. In this part, we will first cover different meanings of regions, sub-regions, maritime regionalism and of new regionalism. Both political and economic theories of regional integration will be covered in this part. All the major concepts pertaining to the regional integration will also be explained in this unit.

Required Readings

Schiff, Maurice & L. Alan Winters (2003), *Regional Integration and Development*, Washington: World Bank Publication.

Farrell, Mary, Hettne & Langenhove (eds) (2005), *Global Politics of Regionalism: Theory and Practice*, London: Pluto Press.

Breslin, Shaun, Christopher W Hughes (et al) (eds), (2002), *New Regionalism in Global Political Economy*, London: Routledge Publication.

Warleigh- Lack, Alex (2006), "Towards and Conceptual Framework for Regionalisation: Bridging 'New Regionalism' and 'Integration Theory'" *Review of International Political Economy*, Vol. 13 (5), pp.750-771.

Mitrany, David (1966), *A Working Peace System*, Chicago: Quadrangle Books

Unit II: Techniques and Tools of Measurement

With the increase in the regional integration process several conflicting analyses were put forth underlining its advantages and disadvantages. Looking for an absolute answer in this context is impossible without applying some method to quantify the merits, demerits and level of regional integration. Number of international institutions applies these measurements for analysing the impact of regionalism. This unit will cover these tools, methods and techniques to measure regional integration, which will help us to understand its success and failures.

Required Readings

Lombaerde, De, Philippe (ed) (2006), *Assessment and Measurement of Regional Integration*, Oxon: Routledge Publication

Lombaerde, De, Phillippe and Luk Van Langenhove (2004), "Indicators of Regional Integration: Conceptual and Methodological Issues", UNU-CRIS Occasional Papers – 0-2004/15

Unit III: Case Studies: Europe, East Asia and Latin America

European Union, ASEAN, AU and MERCOSUR are some of the most noteworthy outcomes of the regional integration process. This unit will cover political history, development and functional structures of these organisations and will also compare them to formulate a clear understanding. Issues pertaining to regional security organisations will as well be covered in this unit. Example of NATO will be discussed in detail.

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation will also be introduced in this unit as a case study for maritime regionalism

Required Readings

Severnio, C, Rodolfo (2008), *ASEAN*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

El-Agraa, M, Ali (1989), *Regional Integration: Experience, Theory and Measurement*, London: Macmillan Press Ltd.

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

Manzetti, Luigi (1994), "The Political Economy of Mercosur", *The Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*, 35(4). pp 101-141.

Checkel, Jeffrey, T & Peter Z Katzenstein (eds) (2009), *European Identity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Buzan, Barry & Ole Weaver (2003), *Regions and Power: The Structure of International Security*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grieco, M, Joseph (1988), "Anarchy and Limit of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism" *International Organisation*, Vol 42. (3), pp. 485-507.

Bose, Sugata (2006), *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in Age of Global Empire*, London: Harvard University Press.

Sakhuja, Vijay (2012), *Reinvigorating IOR- ARC*, New Delhi: Pentagon Press.

Unit IV: South Asian Integration and SAARC

This unit will cover different approaches, theories and methods of measurement to understand the prospects and challenges of regional integration in South Asia. For this purpose derivatives of first two units will be used. Group discussions, simulations and mock summits will be organised as a method to develop concrete understanding about the South Asian integration process.

Required Readings

Bose, Sugata & Ayesha Jalal (2004) (2nd Edition), *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy*, New York: Routledge Publication.

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

Muni, SD and Rajshree Jetly (2008), "SAARC: The Changing Dimensions", UNU- CRIS Working Paper, URL: http://www.cris.unu.edu/fileadmin/workingpapers/W-2008-8_01.pdf