The Modern Commonwealth was formed in 1949 and currently has 53 member states. Some commentators argue that post-Brexit the Commonwealth could serve as a potential replacement for the EU. This course will help to understand and discuss some key features of the current and future bilateral and multilateral potential of the Commonwealth.

This course explores the Commonwealth’s background and structure, policy-making and the Commonwealth ‘in action’. The course will also include matters of particular relevance to the UK: the Commonwealth and Brexit, and the 2018-2020 UK Chair in Office.

**Week 1: Introduction**

- A brief history of Post-World War II International Relations
- Organisational structure of the Commonwealth: Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, and Commonwealth of Learning
- Notions of ‘Commonwealth Family’ and ‘People’s Commonwealth’

**Week 2: Policy making in the Commonwealth**

- Commonwealth Charter
- Senior Officials’ Meetings
- Ministerial Meetings
- Conferences of Heads of Government (CHOGMs):
  - Meetings of civil society and professional organisations in different fora - Youth, People’s, Women’s and Business
  - Meeting of the Committee of the Whole (COW): Commonwealth Secretariat
  - Foreign Ministers’ meeting
  - Retreat of Heads
  - Communique.

**Week 3: Commonwealth in action**

- Commonwealth Games (Commonwealth Games Federation)
- Articulating the voice of ‘small’ states; equal status with ‘large’ states
• Pursuing global goals and agendas (opposing Apartheid; climate change; the Blue Charter)
• Building democratic institutions - Election Monitoring, Parliamentary work, and enforcing norms through the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group
• Promoting prosperity: trade facilitation, ‘Commonwealth Premium’, technology-enabled skills development, educational development, Youth development, Gender mainstreaming, and nurturing Civil Society resilience
• Building networks and a network of networks – professions, advocacy groups, (semi) official organisations;
• Promoting local, national, regional and Commonwealth-wide interactions

Week 4:
• Commonwealth and Brexit: pre- and post-Referendum debates, current trajectories and potential future developments
• Discussion of potential legacy institutions (2018-20 UK Chair in Office)
• Commonwealth Development Bank for projecting Commonwealth’s ‘hard power’ (economic resilience)
• Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation/House to project its ‘soft power’ (democracy, culture and sports)
• End of Course Overview

Suggested reading

Week 1:
https://commonwealth-opinion.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2018/is-it-too-early-to-wish-for-a-phoenix/
http://thecommonwealth.org/
https://commonwealthfoundation.com/
https://www.col.org/

Week 2:
http://thecommonwealth.org/our-charter
https://www.chogm2018.org.uk/

Week 3:
https://www.gc2018.com/
http://thecommonwealth.org/

Civil Paths to Peace: Report of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding
https://read.thecommonwealth-ilibrary.org/commonwealth/development/civil-paths-to-peace_9781848590014-en#page1
Week 4:
https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/eu-referendum
https://www.britannica.com/topic/development-bank
https://www.bbc.co.uk/
http://www.skysports.com/

General Resources
https://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/
https://www.commonwealthroundtable.co.uk/

Additional information
This course is suitable for all, no prior knowledge is required. It allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment.

Intended learning outcomes
On completing the course, the participants will

- become familiar with the history and organisation of the Commonwealth
- develop a good understanding of International Relations
- enhance their inter-cultural understanding of different cultures, communities and countries
- advance their personal skills in analysing data and arguments, and
- be able to engage with debates on Brexit and the Commonwealth based on facts and figures.

About the tutor
Dr Balasubramanyam (aka Bala) Chandramohan is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, and has previously taught extra-mural/continuing education, undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students at different universities in Britain, Continental Europe, Asia and Africa.

Dr Chandra has served as a consultant to Commonwealth Secretariat, and as a member of the Civil Society Advisory Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation. He has also contributed his expertise to other Commonwealth organisations, including the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Royal Commonwealth Society. Additionally, he served as a Regional Assessor on the Chevening (UK) Scholarships Reading Committee.
Short Course Programme
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.
- **Online Booking is preferred.** Please visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge)
- **By post** to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:
- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:
- a) exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
- b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge).
- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk). No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

*Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.*

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