

# International Relations

The major in international relations is administered by the International Relations Committee: Professors Ellis (history), Ferraro (politics), Jones (Russian and Eurasian studies), Kebede (geography), Khory (politics), Lipman (history), Paus (economics), Stewart (politics); Associate Professors Hashmi (international relations, *chair*), King (history), and Western (international relations); Visiting Assistant Professor Ahmed (geography).

## Contact Persons

Linda Chesky-Fernandes,  
*senior administrative assistant*  
Sohail Hashmi, *chair*

The study of international relations is an important field of intellectual inquiry. Although the formal analysis of the relationships of people who do not share a common political, economic, social, or cultural heritage is a relatively recent phenomenon, there is little question that these relationships have been supremely important in human history. Since the end of World War II, public awareness of the importance of these relationships has grown substantially, due largely to the dramatic effects of international relations on daily life.

International relations, however, is not a discipline; rather, it is a study of a particular level of human action whose comprehension requires the insight and methods of a number of disciplines. The field is therefore interdisciplinary, relying primarily on the study of economics, geography, history, and politics. International relations also requires a thorough and sensitive understanding of the diverse interests and cultures in the world, and students are expected to take courses on the modern societies of Asia, Africa, Latin America, or Russia and Eastern Europe. Students may include courses available through Five College cooperation.

## Requirements for the Major

### Credits

- A minimum of 40 credits
- 20 credits must be at the 300 level and undertaken in at least two disciplines.
- Only 4 credits of independent work can count toward the requirement for courses at the 300 level.

### Courses

Normally the following courses are required:

- History 151, Modern and Contemporary European Civilization
- Geography 105, World Regional Geography
- Politics 116, World Politics
- One of the following: Economics 213, Economic Development; Economics 216, International Trade; or Economics 217, International Finance

### Other

- Each student is expected to possess or acquire proficiency in a foreign language beyond the minimum requirements of the College and sufficient to do research in primary source materials. Specific courses that satisfy this requirement vary according to the language. This information is available from the department chair.
- Each student's major must have a particular focus. The elected courses should revolve on a central issue of international relations. Courses from any discipline can count toward the international relations major, as long as the course is relevant to a student's focus. Possible issues or foci include international political economy, foreign policy analysis, diplomatic history, Third World development, international law and organization, or arms control and strategic studies. This list is by no means exhaustive and is meant merely to be suggestive. All concentrations must focus on the relationships

among nations; students who wish to concentrate on particular areas of the world without detailed study of the foreign relations of those areas should adopt a more appropriate major such as Latin American or Asian studies.

Students should plan individual major programs in consultation with one or more members of the faculty committee, one of whom will be designated the student's academic advisor.

*International relations is an interdisciplinary major. Students who pursue an interdisciplinary major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement (see p. 8).*

## Requirements for the Minor

The minor in international relations is the Five College Certificate in International Relations. Students who wish to minor in international relations should consult the requirements for the certificate program (see the Five College Consortium chapter).

The international relations program does not cross-list courses in other departments that satisfy the major's requirements. Such cross-listing would be almost inevitably misleading and inaccurate.

The policy of the program is to accept any course in any department that is directly pertinent to the student's focus in her major. Thus, for example, a student concentrating on global environmental problems could conceivably count courses offered by the geology or biological sciences departments. Or, a student focusing on ethical issues in international relations could use certain courses in the religion or philosophy departments to satisfy her requirements in the major. All such decisions, however, must be made by the student in consultation with her advisor. Any questions concerning the appropriateness of a particular course can be answered by the student's advisor or the program chair.

## Course Offerings

### 211f Middle East Politics

Introduction to the cultures and politics of the Middle East. Includes the situation of the region at the time of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire; the emergence of independent states before and after World War II; the rise of Arab and Zionist nationalism; the Arab-Israeli conflicts; and the superpower rivalry and its influence on regional politics. Other topics include the Iranian revolution, the domestic and regional role of Islamic movements, and the political economy of oil. *Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*  
S. Hashmi

*Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits*

### \*214s War and Propaganda

This course analyzes propaganda techniques and war mobilization strategies. We present comparative, cross-cultural analyses of recent and historical examples of the influences of the state, state-society relations, the media, and information control and distortion in the mobilization for war. Case studies are selected to address the following questions: Why is propaganda necessary? What is the media's relationship to state propaganda efforts? How do citizen groups and protest movements contest state propaganda efforts? We conclude by examining key trends in the development of mass media forms and technologies and their implications for global politics.

*Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

J. Western, K. Khory

*Prereq. Politics or International Relations 116; 2 meetings (75 minutes) (occasional evening meetings for screenings); 4 credits*

### \*222s The United States, Israel, and the Arabs

Surveys the constants and variables in U.S. foreign policy toward Israel and the Arabs since the end of World War II to the present. Analysis of domestic determinants of U.S. policy, including lobbies, ideology, and the international system. Consideration of U.S. policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict, intra-Arab disputes, and the Gulf War.

*Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*S. Hashmi*

*Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits*

**\*224s The United States and Iran**

Explores America's relationship with Iran from the end of World War II to the present. Examines America's close ties to the Shah and the political, social, and economic causes of the Iranian revolution, with emphasis on the role of Shi'ite Islam. Concludes with analysis of politics and society in the Islamic Republic under Khomeini and his successors.

*Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*S. Hashmi*

*Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits*

**237f International Human Rights**

This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of, and issues in, international human rights. Prior to World War II, there was very little focus on the question of human rights within the international system and within the discipline of international relations. Since that time we have seen a significant expansion of human rights theory, practice, and institutions. This course outlines the historical ideational and institutional developments of human rights. It exposes students to a range of theoretical propositions and empirical findings to understand the role (and limits) of human rights in the international system today.

*Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*J. Western*

*Prereq. Politics 116 or permission of instructor; 4 credits*

**270s American Foreign Policy**

(Same as Politics 270) In this examination of American foreign policy since 1898, topics include the emergence of the United States as a global power, its role in World War I and II, its conduct and interests in the cold war, and its possible objectives in a post-cold war world. Particular attention is paid to the relationship between domestic interests and foreign policy, the role of nuclear weapons in determining policy, and the special difficulties in implementing a democratic foreign policy. See <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/afps98.htm> for a more detailed description.

*Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*J. Ellis, V. Ferraro*

*Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits*

**295fs Independent Study**

*Does not meet a distribution requirement*

*The department*

*Prereq. soph, jr, sr, and permission of instructor; 1-4 credits*

**\*305s International Society**

An intensive reading course in theories of international society: the idea that states and peoples are or should be linked to each other through a web of shared values and institutions. It focuses on the work of Hedley Bull, Immanuel Kant, and John Rawls. How did these three men understand international society? What are or should be the values and institutions that give rise to it and support it? What implications do their visions of international society have for war and peace, state sovereignty, religion, democracy, capitalism, distributive justice, human rights, and international law? What responses and criticisms have their arguments engendered?

*Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*S. Hashmi*

*Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits*

**319s The United States and the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights**

This course examines American foreign policy concerning the promotion of democracy and human rights abroad. The course begins by examining how and why these policies are developed within the U.S. political, economic, institutional, and geostrategic context. Through the use of case studies, we will then evaluate how these policies have influenced events in Latin America, East Asia, Eastern Europe, and sub-Saharan and southern Africa.

*Does not meet a distribution requirement*

*J. Western*

*Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits*

**\*323s Comparative Politics of the Middle East**

This course presents the rise (and sometimes collapse) of modern states in the Middle East; the nature of legitimacy, modernization, state-civil society relations, and political culture and economy; and the role of religion with specific reference to Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey.

*Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social*

*Sciences III-A requirement*

*S. Hashmi*

*Prereq. 8 credits in politics, including Politics 106 or International Relations 211 or permission of instructor; 4 credits*

**\*324s Islamic Political Thought**

This course examines Islamic political thought from the origins of Islam to the present. It considers how Muslim thinkers over the past 14 centuries have understood such fundamental political concepts as the state, leadership, and law. The seminar also includes modern Muslim reflections on political concepts of Western origin, such as democracy, nationalism, and civil society.

*Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*The department*

*Prereq. Politics 116, 8 credits in international relations or politics; 4 credits*

**\*333f Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace**

Why do we moralize about war? When is war justified, if ever? What restraints should soldiers accept? This course examines these issues within the context of Western and Islamic thought. Study of the origins and evolution of both traditions is combined with consideration of important topics of current concern, such as intervention, weapons of mass destruction, and women and war.

*Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*S. Hashmi*

*Prereq. 8 credits in politics including 116 or permission of instructor; 4 credits*

**\*341f Political Islam**

This course covers Islamic responses to European imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly the emergence of Islamic modernism; the growth of Islamic movements in the Arab world and South Asia and their responses to secular nationalism and socialism; and a survey of the ends to which religion is applied in three types of regimes: patrimonial Saudi Arabia, revolutionary Iran, and military-authoritarian Pakistan.

*Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*S. Hashmi*

*Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits*

**365s Ethics and International Relations**

Do ethical considerations matter in international relations? Should they? These questions are examined from the perspective of Western writers on these specific issues: just war, intervention, human rights, weapons of mass destruction, and distributive justice. The course also considers challenges to the international system posed by the critiques and responses of non-Western states and peoples.

*Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement*

*S. Hashmi*

*Prereq. Politics 116, 8 credits in international relations; 4 credits*

**395fs Independent Study**

Students must receive the approval of the International Relations Committee to pursue independent work in international relations. Each student must submit a prospectus of her project to the administrative director of the program during registration prior to the term in which the study will be conducted. The prospectus will be reviewed by the faculty committee and must include the name of a member of the faculty committee who has agreed to work with the student. For further information, please contact a member of the International Relations Committee or Linda Chesky-Fernandes, the administrative director of the program.

*Does not meet a distribution requirement*

*The department*

*Prereq. jr, sr, and permission of committee; 1-8 credits*