

International Relations

The major in international relations is administered by the International Relations Committee: Professors Ellis (history), Ferraro (politics), Hashmi (international relations, chair), Jones (Russian and Eurasian studies), Kebede (geography), Khory (politics), Lipman (history), Marquez (Latin American studies), Paus (economics); Associate Professors King (history), Western (international relations); Assistant Professors Adelman, Reiter, Schmeiser.

Contact Persons

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

The International Relations (IR) Program focuses on the myriad and complex interactions of human beings across state boundaries. It aims to provide students a global perspective on the origins of the current international system, the salient concerns in international relations today, and the emerging challenges humanity will face in the years ahead. These goals can best be achieved through an interdisciplinary approach, drawing upon the theoretical insights and empirical knowledge of several disciplines, including economics, geography, history, and political science. International relations majors are expected to complete a course of study that includes introductory core courses in each of these fields, a course in research methods, as well as advanced courses in a number of more focused tracks. They are expected to attain a level of proficiency in a foreign language that will allow them to do basic research in it. They are also encouraged to study abroad during their junior year. The IR Program strives to educate informed citizens and thoughtful leaders for our emerging global society.

Requirements for the Major

Note: The requirements specified below apply to students in the class of 2014 and beyond. Students in the classes of 2012 and

2013 are exempt from the required course IR 200, Research Methods. All other requirements apply to them.

Credits

- A minimum of 40 credits
- 12 credits must be at the 300 level and undertaken in at least two disciplines. These courses must be taken at Mount Holyoke or another of the Five Colleges. Only 4 credits of independent work can count toward the requirement for courses at the 300 level.

Courses

The following courses are required:

- One of the following: Economics 213, Economic Development or Economics 218, International Economics. Please note that the economics department requires both Economics 103, Introductory Microeconomics and Economics 104, Introductory Macroeconomics as prerequisites for Economics 213 and 218.
- One of the following: Geography 105, World Regional Geography or Geography 206, Political Geography. Students with high school preparation in geography should take Geography 206.
- One of the following: History 151, Modern and Contemporary European Civilization or History 161, British Empire and Commonwealth
- Politics 116, World Politics

These introductory courses provide the foundation for more advanced course work in the IR major. Therefore, they should all be completed within the first five semesters at Mount Holyoke.

- IR 200, Research Methods—intended for IR majors in their sophomore year.

Focus

- Each student's major must have a focus, consisting of at least 12 credits in two different disciplines, only 4 credits of which may be independent study. Students may

elect one of the following five foci: global commons, international institutions, international peace and security, international political economy, or international ethics. They may also design a focus, with the approval of their advisor and the chair.

Foreign Language Requirement

- Each student is expected to possess or acquire proficiency in a foreign language up to the intermediate level. This ordinarily requires two semesters of language study beyond the minimum requirements of the College, or four semesters in total.

Study Abroad

- Students are encouraged to spend at least one semester studying abroad during their junior year. A suitable program and course of study should be chosen with the help of the student's advisor.

Honors Work

- The IR Program reserves its honors for majors who successfully complete a thesis in their senior year. Seniors writing a thesis must enroll in IR 395, Independent Study for two semesters.

Other

- Students should read the IR Handbook for Students carefully for more information on all requirements listed above. The handbook is available online at the IR website and in the IR office.
- Soon after declaring their major, students should plan individual programs of study in consultation with one or more members of the faculty committee, one of whom will be designated the student's academic advisor.
- Exceptions to the requirements above will be made only in rare cases and require the approval of the chair.

The IR Program does not cross-list courses in other departments that satisfy the major's requirements. Generally, all courses taught by members of the IR Program Committee count toward the major. For courses offered by other faculty, 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 whose focus is global commons could conceivably count courses offered by the geology or biological sciences departments. Or a student focusing on international ethics could use certain courses in the religion or philosophy departments to satisfy her requirements in the major. Any questions concerning the appropriateness of a particular course can be answered by the advisor or the program chair. It is important for the student to verify that the course in question will count toward her major *before* she takes it.

The IR major focuses on global issues and institutions, and relationships across regions and nations. This does not preclude students from developing expertise in a particular region or nation; indeed, part of the study of international relations is how global issues find local expressions. But students whose primary interest is in a particular area of the world should elect a more appropriate major, such as Latin American or Asian studies.

International relations is an interdisciplinary major. Students who pursue an interdisciplinary major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement.

Course Offerings

200s Research Methods

Develops students' skills in writing expository essays and introduces basic quantitative and qualitative research methods used in the social sciences and history. The course provides a foundation for writing research papers in advanced courses, as well as an honors thesis.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
S. Hashmi

Prereq. International Relations majors; This course is limited to International Relations majors and should be taken in the sophomore year; 4 credits

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 inde-

pendent 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

K. Khory, J. Western

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

***224f 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

***241s Global Resource Politics**

An intensive examination of the international politics surrounding disputes over the ownership, extraction, and vital natural resources including fresh water, petroleum, arable land, timber, minerals, and oceanic fisheries. The course will assess the growing pressures being brought to bear on the world's resource base, including population growth, globalization, unsustainable consumption, and climate change. It will also examine the various ways (war, adjudication, conservation, innovation) in which various actors (states, regional and international organizations, multinational corporations, warlords, civil society groups, and so on) are responding to contemporary resource disputes.

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

M. Klare

Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits

***270fs 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.

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

J. Western, V. Ferraro, J. Ellis

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

307f The Changing Role of Diplomacy in the Twenty-first Century

This seminar examines changes in the ways U.S. foreign policy is implemented since the end of the Cold War. During the Cold War, U.S. foreign policy was made and implemented within established parameters of negotiation procedures with known international players. Today, it is adapting to more creative interactions with a range of new actors. This course analyzes specific

challenges to U.S. foreign policy, such as dealing with ethnically driven conflicts and creating "coalitions of the willing" to respond to crises. Classroom simulations of interagency/international policy procedures are important course components.

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

J. CarterPerry

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

337s International Human Rights Advocacy in Theory and Practice

(Writing-intensive course) This course examines how and why international human rights norms, laws, and institutions have emerged and how they are influencing global politics. The course will examine closely the practices and influence of human rights advocacy organizations and international courts. Students will be introduced to strategies for advocacy including reporting and monitoring of human rights violations and the legal theories and procedures by which cases are adjudicated before domestic and international tribunals.

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement
J. Western
Prereq. International Relations 237; 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

***342s Comparative Politics of North Africa**

This course applies theories of comparative politics to the countries of North Africa. It explores the similarities and differences in the political development of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya since the end of World War II. Specific topics include political culture, state-building, legitimacy, democratization, and political economy.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement
S. Hashmi
Prereq. 8 credits in international relations including Politics 116; 4 credits

347s Human Rights and Democracy in Africa

The seminar seeks to understand the complexity and diversity of African politics in the 21st century. Africa's varied and deeply rooted traditions are still in many ways alien to and misunderstood by the United States and its Western allies. This course reviews cultural traditions and how they support or challenge human rights and democracy. Special emphasis is on the role of women in light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions on the rights of women and children. We will examine cases of culturally based clashes that underlie contemporary conflicts. The course will include case studies and simulations.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement
J. CarterPerry
Prereq. Politics 116; 4 credits

***365f 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