

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Overview and Contact Information

The Department of International Relations (IR) 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 department strives to educate informed citizens and thoughtful leaders for our emerging global society.

The Five College Certificate in International Relations serves as the minor in International Relations.

## 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 department 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.

## See Also

- Economics (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/economics/>)
- Geography (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/geography/>)
- History (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/history/>)
- Politics (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/politics/>)
- Law, Public Policy, and Human Rights (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/law-public-policy-human-rights/>)

## Contact Information

Sohail Hashmi, Chair

Linda Chesky Fernandes, Academic Department Coordinator

109A Skinner Hall

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<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/international-relations> (<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/international-relations/>)

## Learning Goals

By majoring in International Relations, students should gain an understanding of:

- The key concepts and approaches in the study of modern history.
- The key concepts and theories of international relations as a subfield of political science.

- The key concepts and theories of international economics.
- The key concepts and theories of world geography.
- How these disciplines inform the study of the evolution of the modern international system and particular issue areas in contemporary international relations, such as international security, international political economy, international law and organizations, and protection of the environment.
- Basic research methods in history and the social sciences, including both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Foreign language at the intermediate level of proficiency or above.

## Faculty

**This area of study is administered by the Department of International Relations:**

Sarah Adelman, Professor of Economics

Sohail Hashmi, Professor of International Relations on the Alumnae Foundation and Professor of Politics

Kavita Khory, Ruth Lawson Professor of Politics; Carol Hoffmann Collins Director of the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives

Jeremy King, Professor of History

Katherine Lande, Professor of Economics

Eva Paus, Professor of Economics on the Ford Foundation, Teaching Spring Only

Nieves Romero-Díaz, Professor of Spanish on the Alumnae Foundation

Desmond Fitz-Gibbon, Associate Professor of History

Serin Houston, Associate Professor of Geography and International Relations, On Leave 2023-2024

Andy Reiter, Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations, Teaching Spring Only

Dylan Shepardson, Robert L. Rooke Associate Professor of Mathematics, On Leave 2023-2024

Abhilash Medhi, Assistant Professor of History

Christopher Mitchell, Assistant Professor of International Relations and Politics

## Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 40 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
ECON-213	Economic Development	4
or ECON-218	International Economics	
GEOG-105	World Regional Geography <sup>1, 3</sup>	4
or GEOG-206	Political Geography	
HIST-151	Modern and Contemporary Europe <sup>1</sup>	4
or HIST-161	British Empire and Commonwealth	
POLIT-116	World Politics <sup>1</sup>	4
IR-200	Research Methods <sup>1</sup>	4
At least 12 credits at the 300 level in two different disciplines (see Focus below)		12

8 additional credits in international relations	8
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>40</b>

- <sup>1</sup> 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 is intended for IR majors in their sophomore year.
- <sup>2</sup> Please note that the Department of Economics requires ECON-110 Introductory Economics as a prerequisite for ECON-213 and ECON-218.
- <sup>3</sup> Students with high school preparation in geography should take GEOG-206.

Other Requirements

- 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.
- Independent study. Only 4 credits of independent work can count toward the requirement for courses at the 300 level.
- Foreign language. Each student is expected to possess or acquire intermediate-level or higher proficiency in a foreign language (usually four semesters).

Additional Specifications

- 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 Department of International Relations does not cross-list courses in other departments that satisfy the major’s requirements. Generally, all courses taught by members of the IR Committee count toward the major. For courses offered by other faculty, the policy of the department is to accept any course in any department that is directly pertinent to the student’s focus in the 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 the requirements of the major. Any questions concerning the appropriateness of a particular course can be answered by the advisor or the department chair. It is important for the student to verify that the course in question will count toward the major before enrolling.
- 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.
- Students who declare an international relations major automatically fulfill the College’s “outside the major” requirement.

Certificate Overview

The Five College International Relations Certificate Program offers students an opportunity to pursue an interest in international affairs as a complement to their majors. It prepares students to make interdisciplinary connections between their field of study and the complexities of global challenges such as globalization, regional and ethnic conflict, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, demographic stress, global climate change, wide disparities in global economic development, and challenges to global public health.

The Five College Certificate in International Relations serves as the minor in International Relations.

Requirements for the Certificate

A minimum of seven courses:

Code	Title	Credits
	One course on introductory world politics	1
	One course on global institutions or problems	1
	One course on the international financial and commercial system	1
	One course on the historical development of the international system since 1789	1
	One course on contemporary American foreign policy	1
	Two courses on the politics, economy, and/or society of foreign areas, of which one must involve the study of a third-world country or region outside of the United States and Europe	2
	Proficiency in a contemporary foreign language through the completion of two years of the language at the college level or its equivalent	0-4
<b>Total Courses</b>		<b>7-11</b>

Additional Specifications

- A complete list of the Five College courses for each of the seven areas of study is available from the IR certificate advisors and the program’s website (<https://www.fivecolleges.edu/academics/international-relations/#courses>).
- No more than four of these courses in any one discipline can be counted toward the certificate.
- No single course can satisfy more than one requirement.
- Students must complete the required courses (with the exception of the foreign language courses) with letter grades of B or better (no satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades).
- For further information consult with one of the Mount Holyoke College advisors. Additional information also can be found at the program’s website (<https://www.fivecolleges.edu/academics/international-relations/>).

Course Offerings

**IR-200 Research Methods**  
*Spring. Credits: 4*  
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.  
*Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement*  
*A. Hilton*  
*Notes: This course should be taken by International Relations majors in their sophomore year.*

**IR-295 Independent Study***Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4**The department**Instructor permission required.***IR-395 Independent Study***Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8**The department**Instructor permission required.*

## Courses Approved for International Relations Focus Fields

### Global Commons

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Economics</b>		
ECON-325	Economics of Health Care and Health Service Organizations	4
ECON-352	Advanced Economic Development	4
<b>Environmental Studies</b>		
ENVST-346	Global Inequality, Smart Earth Technology, and Environmental Governance	4
ENVST-347	Environmental Geopolitics and Security	4
<b>Geography</b>		
GEOG-105	World Regional Geography	4
GEOG-202	Cities in a Global Context	4
GEOG-204	Human Dimensions of Environmental Change	4
GEOG-208	Global Movements: Migrations, Refugees and Diasporas	4
GEOG-313	Third World Development	4
GEOG-319	Africa: Problems and Prospects	4
GEOG-328	Climate Migration	4
<b>History</b>		
HIST-249	The Environment and South Asian Lifeworlds	4
HIST-257	City Life in Modern Europe, 1750-1914	4
HIST-258	Travel, Self, Identity between Europe and South Asia	4
HIST-277	History of Energy	4
<b>Politics</b>		
POLIT-232	Introduction to International Political Economy	4
POLIT-366	Global Migration	4
POLIT-380	Nationalism and Ethnic Politics	4
<b>Spanish</b>		
SPAN-330SL	Advanced Studies in Identities and Intersections: 'Spain and Islam'	4
SPAN-350MG	Advanced Studies in Concepts and Practices of Power: 'Spanish Migrations'	4

### International Institutions

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Environmental Studies</b>		
ENVST-346	Global Inequality, Smart Earth Technology, and Environmental Governance	4
<b>History</b>		
HIST-124	History of Modern South Asia, 1700 to the Present	4

HIST-239EN	Topics in Asian History: 'Empire, Nation, and the Making of Tribes in South Asia'	4
HIST-244	European Public Policy, West and East	4
HIST-246	20th Century Europe	4
HIST-252	History of Money	4
HIST-260HH	Topics in the Recent History of Europe: 'The Habsburgs, Hitler, and the Law'	4
HIST-323	Germans, Slavs, and Jews, 1900-1950	4
HIST-357	History of British Capitalism	4
<b>Politics</b>		
POLIT-208	Chinese Politics	4
POLIT-247	International Law and Organization	4
POLIT-267	The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises	4
POLIT-341	Political Islam	4
POLIT-363	Political Economy of the European Union	4
<b>Russian &amp; Eurasian Studies</b>		
RES-240	Contemporary Russian Politics: From Lenin to Putin	4
<b>Spanish</b>		
SPAN-230GV	Identities & Intersections: An Introduction: 'Gendered Violence from Medieval to Contemporary Spain'	4
SPAN-330SL	Advanced Studies in Identities and Intersections: 'Spain and Islam'	4

### International Peace and Security

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Economics</b>		
ECON-325	Economics of Health Care and Health Service Organizations	4
<b>Environmental Studies</b>		
ENVST-347	Environmental Geopolitics and Security	4
<b>Geography</b>		
GEOG-319	Africa: Problems and Prospects	4
<b>History</b>		
HIST-240	The Holocaust in History	4
HIST-246	20th Century Europe	4
HIST-262	Stalinism in Central Europe	4
<b>Politics</b>		
POLIT-209	Contemporary Russian Politics	4
POLIT-216	Middle East Politics	4
POLIT-218	Israel/Palestine: Fact/Fiction	4
POLIT-224	The United States and Iran	4
POLIT-226	The United States, Israel, and the Arabs	4
POLIT-270	American Foreign Policy	4
POLIT-314	Political Violence: Causes and Solutions	4
POLIT-319	War: What Is It Good For?	4
POLIT-327	Transitional Justice	4
POLIT-357	War and Peace in South Asia	4
POLIT-366	Global Migration	4
POLIT-380	Nationalism and Ethnic Politics	4

POLIT-384	Ending War and Securing the Peace: Conflict Mediation and Resolution in the 21st Century	4
POLIT-385	International Security	4

## International Political Economy

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Economics</b>		
ECON-213	Economic Development	4
ECON-215	Economics of Corporate Finance	4
ECON-314	Globalization and Development	4
ECON-352	Advanced Economic Development	4
<b>Environmental Studies</b>		
ENVST-346	Global Inequality, Smart Earth Technology, and Environmental Governance	4
<b>Geography</b>		
GEOG-313	Third World Development	4
<b>History</b>		
HIST-208	The Consumer Revolution: A History of Shopping	4
HIST-252	History of Money	4
HIST-257	City Life in Modern Europe, 1750-1914	4
HIST-277	History of Energy	4
HIST-301CS	Colloquium: 'Capitalism in South Asia'	4
HIST-357	History of British Capitalism	4
<b>Politics</b>		
POLIT-232	Introduction to International Political Economy	4
POLIT-267	The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises	4
POLIT-272	Trade and American Foreign Policy	4
POLIT-312	Silk Roads: Ancient and Modern Highways across the Eurasian Continent	4
POLIT-363	Political Economy of the European Union	4

## International Ethics

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Economics</b>		
ECON-314	Globalization and Development	4
<b>Geography</b>		
GEOG-313	Third World Development	4
<b>History</b>		
HIST-230	History and Law	4
<b>Politics</b>		
POLIT-247	International Law and Organization	4
POLIT-272	Trade and American Foreign Policy	4
POLIT-305	International Society	4
POLIT-319	War: What Is It Good For?	4
POLIT-327	Transitional Justice	4
POLIT-333	Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace	4
POLIT-341	Political Islam	4
POLIT-342	Islamic Political Thought	4
POLIT-343	Law and Religion	4
POLIT-365	Ethics and International Relations	4