

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

- 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

Stephen Jones, Chair

Linda Chesky Fernandes, Academic Department Coordinator

109A Skinner Hall

413-538-2381

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/internationalrelations>

Faculty

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

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

Stephen Jones, Professor of Russian Studies

Girma Kebede, Professor of Geography

Kavita Khory, Ruth Lawson Professor of Politics, Teaching Fall Only

Jeremy King, Professor of History

Eva Paus, Professor of Economics

Jon Western, Carol Hoffmann Collins '63 Professor of International Studies and Five College Professor of International Relations; Dean of Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Sarah Adelman, Associate Professor of Economics

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

Katherine Schmeiser, Associate Professor of Economics

Serin Houston, Assistant Professor of Geography and International Relations

Christopher Mitchell, Assistant Professor of International Relations and Politics

Peter Muller, Cyrus Vance Visiting Lecturer in International Relations

Bryan Nakayama, Visiting Lecturer in International Relations

Requirements for the Major

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.

Code	Title	Credits
ECON-213 or ECON-218	Economic Development: A Survey ^{1,2} International Economics	4
GEOG-105 or GEOG-206	World Regional Geography ^{1,3} Political Geography	4
HIST-151 or HIST-161	Modern and Contemporary Europe ¹ British Empire and Commonwealth	4
POLIT-116	World Politics ¹	4
IR-200	Research Methods ¹	4
At least 12 credits at the 300 level in two different disciplines (see Focus below)		12
8 additional credits in international relations		8
Total Credits		40

¹ 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.

² Please note that the Department of Economics requires ECON-110 Introductory Economics as a prerequisite for ECON-213 and ECON-218.

³ 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.

- Foreign language. Each student is expected to possess or acquire proficiency in a foreign language up to the intermediate level.

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 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 department 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.
- 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
Total Courses	7-11

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/international/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 (<http://www.fivecolleges.edu/international/certificate>).

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

S. Hashmi

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-348 The Art of Seeing Things

Fall. Credits: 4

Photography is the critical instrument of the curious," writes legendary *Magnum* photographer Larry Fink. When thoughtfully and responsibly employed, the photographic craft affords practitioners a passport to the world; an excuse to closely explore issues and spaces of interest. Photographer Pete Muller, who is based in Nairobi, Kenya and is a National Geographic Fellow, uses photography to examine relationships between conflict, masculine gender and broader social order. In this course, Muller will draw upon his extensive body of work, in conjunction with both fiction and non-fiction readings, to illustrate the connection between academic concepts and modern storytelling. Class discussions will focus largely on issues of masculinity, violence and contemporary armed conflict.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

P. Muller

Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors

IR-350CR Advanced Topics in International Relations: 'Russia's Conflicts with Its Neighbors'*Spring. Credits: 4*

The course will begin with an examination of why the USSR broke up, what contributed to the peaceful resolution of most issues among the successor states and why conflict developed in the South Caucasus, Moldova and later Ukraine. Readings on conflict resolution are included for their insights. Specific case studies will include the Nagorno-Karabakh war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the separatist wars of Georgia with South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the 2008 Georgian-Russian war, Transnistria and Moldova and the current Ukraine conflict. The course will conclude with a diplomatic simulation exercise in which the class will be given a hypothetical but realistic conflict resolution scenario.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**K. Yalowitz**Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors**Prereq: 8 credits in politics or international relations.***IR-395 Independent Study***Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8**The department**Instructor permission required.*

Courses in Other Departments Counting toward the Major in International Relations

Code	Title	Credits
Economics		
ECON-165	International and Development Economics	4
ECON-213	Economic Development: A Survey	4
ECON-307	Seminar in Industrial Organization	4
ECON-314	Economic Development in the Age of Contested Globalization	4
ECON-325	Economics of Health Care and Health Service Organizations	4
ECON-349DE	Advanced Topics in Economics: 'Advanced Economic Development'	4
Geography		
GEOG-105	World Regional Geography	4
GEOG-202	Cities in a Global Context	4
GEOG-204	Human Dimensions of Environmental Change	4
GEOG-206	Political Geography	4
GEOG-208	Global Movements: Migrations, Refugees and Diasporas	4
GEOG-217	The African Environments	4
GEOG-313	Third World Development	4
GEOG-319	Africa: Problems and Prospects	4
GEOG-325	Conflict and Displacement in Africa	4
GEOG-328	Climate Migration	4
History		
HIST-151	Modern and Contemporary Europe	4
HIST-230	History and Law	4
HIST-240	The Holocaust in History	4
HIST-244	European Public Policy, West and East	4
HIST-246	20th Century Europe	4

HIST-260HH	Topics in the Recent History of Europe: 'The Habsburgs, Hitler, and the Law'	4
HIST-262	Stalinism in Central Europe	4
HIST-365ST	Modern Europe: The Twentieth Century: 'The Other Europe since Stalin'	4
International Relations		
IR-200	Research Methods	4
IR-348	The Art of Seeing Things	4
Politics		
POLIT-116	World Politics	4
POLIT-208	Chinese Politics	4
POLIT-209	Contemporary Russian Politics	4
POLIT-216	Middle East Politics	4
POLIT-224	The United States and Iran	4
POLIT-226	The United States, Israel, and the Arabs	4
POLIT-228	East Asian Politics	4
POLIT-229	Propaganda and War	4
POLIT-230	Resistance and Revolution	4
POLIT-232	Introduction to International Political Economy	4
POLIT-242	Oil and Water Don't Mix: Geopolitics, Energy, and the Environment	4
POLIT-243	Introduction to Latin American Politics	4
POLIT-247	International Law and Organization	4
POLIT-255PA	Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'The Politics of Abortion in the Americas'	4
POLIT-255RP	Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Latin America'	4
POLIT-264	Russia, the West, and Putinism	4
POLIT-267	The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises	4
POLIT-269	Social Movements: Theory and Praxis	4
POLIT-270	American Foreign Policy	4
POLIT-272	Trade and American Foreign Policy	4
POLIT-305	International Society	4
POLIT-312	Silk Roads: Ancient and Modern Highways across the Eurasian Continent	4
POLIT-314	Political Violence: Causes and Solutions	4
POLIT-323	Comparative Politics of the Middle East	4
POLIT-324	Comparative Politics of N. Africa	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-350	Revolutions	4
POLIT-353	The Politics of Work	4
POLIT-357	War and Peace in South Asia	4
POLIT-359	Democratization and Civil Society in East Asia	4
POLIT-363	Political Economy of the European Union	4
POLIT-364	Human Rights Abuses and Accountability Mechanisms in the Southern Cone of Latin America	4
POLIT-365	Ethics and International Relations	4
POLIT-366	International Migration	4

POLIT-380	Nationalism in Global Politics	4
POLIT-382	Global Capitalism and Its Critiques	4
POLIT-384	Ending War and Securing the Peace: Conflict Mediation and Resolution in the 21st Century	4
POLIT-385	International Security	4
POLIT-387CW	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'The Other Cold War'	4
POLIT-387CY	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Cyberpolitics'	4
Russian & Eurasian Studies		
RES-241	Russia, the West, and the Challenge of Putinism	4
RES-350	Revolutions	4