

International Relations

The program in International Relations allows students to develop specific subject-area expertise in the complex matter of state-to-state relations within the international system. This multidisciplinary program draws on courses in Political Science, Economics and foreign languages, and can include electives from Criminology, Human Rights, and History.

Honours

Students who wish to do an Honours degree in International Relations must complete 48 credit hours for their degree, including:

IREL-4003	Independent Study
IREL-4013	Honours Thesis in International Relations
POLS-3913	Honours Thesis Proposal
POLS-4903	Capstone Seminar - Problems in Political Inquiry
POLS-4603	Seminar in International Relations

Major

Students majoring in International Relations are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours in courses specified by the program. It is suggested that they do 3 credit hours in their first year of study, 12 in their second, and a total of 21 credit hours in their third and fourth years. In addition, students are required to complete either a Minor in Economics (18 credit hours) or 12 credit hours in a foreign language. Students are encouraged to do both.

Year 1

POLS-1603	Global Politics
ECON-1013/1023	Introduction to Economics (Micro) and Introduction to Economics (Macro) or 6 credit hours in a foreign language

Year 2

POLS-2303	Comparative Politics of the Developed World
POLS-2313	Comparative Politics of the Developing Areas
POLS-2613	International Relations I
POLS-2623	International Relations II

Years 3 and 4

15 credit hours in designated advanced courses in International Relations

6 credit hours in designated advanced courses in Area Studies

In Years 2-4, students will also complete the requirement of 12 credit hours in a second language or a Minor in Economics.

Minor

The requirements for a Minor in International Relations are:

POLS-2613	International Relations I
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An additional 12 credits from the list of “advanced international relations courses” approved for the Major

Double Major with Political Science

The Major in International Relations and the Major in Political Science both require the completion of the following POLS courses: 1603, 2303, 2313, 2613, and 2623. Students who have completed those six courses in order to meet the requirements for the Major in International Relations may count them toward the Major in Political Science as well. No other courses taken for the Major in International Relations may be counted toward a second Major in Political Science.

Course

Year 1

POLS-1603. Global Politics

This course provides an introduction to the concepts of nation and state, sovereignty, forms of government, and political conflict. It does so through consideration of issues in world politics, such as human rights and social justice, ecological imbalance, economic inequalities, war, global governmental institutions and organizations.

ECON-1013. Introduction to Economics (Micro)

This course, which is equivalent to one half of ECON 1006, examines the behaviour of consumers and producers in a market economy. Among the issues discussed will be environmental protection, wealth and poverty, and the extent of corporate power. (Credit will not be given for both ECON 1006 and ECON 1013.)

ECON-1023. Introduction to Economics (Macro)

This course, which is equivalent to one half of ECON 1006, analyzes the Canadian economy and how it works. It includes a discussion of output, unemployment, growth, money, international trade, and finance. (Credit will not be given for both ECON 1006 and ECON 1023.)

forms of critical theory. These theories are illustrated and developed through the use of case studies and examinations of the institutions and structures of the international system. They are also contrasted with mainstream IR theories. Prerequisite: POLS 1603, or permission of the instructor.

B.) Comparative Core (6 credit hours)

POLS-2303. Comparative Politics of the Developed World

This course introduces students to the comparative study of governments in the industrial and post-industrial societies. It examines the question of how various political systems are classified, dealing with such issues as organization of the state, governance and policy-making, representation, and political legitimacy. Prerequisite: 3 credits in Political Science, or permission of the instructor.

POLS-2313. Comparative Politics of the Developing Areas

This course introduces students to the comparative study of governments in the developing world. It focuses on such issues as the politics of development, modernization, and the interplay of political and social forces in selected developing nations. Prerequisite: 3 credits in Political Science, or permission of the instructor.

Years 3 and 4

A.) Advanced International Relations (15 credit hours)

POLS-2603. Political and Economic Integration in the Americas

This course will examine economic and political integration theory in relations to theories of globalization, using the European Union and the Americas as central cases. The course will analyze, in depth, the issues of social justice, labour and environmental standards, poverty, gender issues, capitalism, and social democracy. This course will have online interactive features and may be taught in collaboration with other universities.

POLS-3313. US Foreign Policy

This course examines the foreign policy of the United States of America. It examines the roles of the Presidency, bureaucracy, and Congress in the making of foreign policy. The history of American foreign policy will be studied to contextualize present foreign policy and likely future scenarios. The impact of US economic policy in an era of globalization will be explored. Central to the course will be an investigation of the relationship of the US to other major powers and to international institutions.

POLS-3333. Introduction to Political Economy

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of political economy as a sub-field of political science. The first part of the course examines main conceptual frameworks in the study of the relationship between states and markets on the basis of classic readings. The second part of the course covers topics in market regulation, politics of development, and international political economy. Prerequisite: ECON 2153, or POLS 1603, and permission of the instructor.

POLS-3503. Human Rights in International Relations and Foreign Policy

This course considers human rights in International Relations. It focuses on how the emerging human rights regime is affecting the practice of traditional state sovereignty. Special attention will be paid to the political and philosophical arguments around such issues as universal human rights versus cultural relativism, and the problems associated with humanitarian intervention.

POLS-3513. Canadian Perspectives on International Law

The course covers the major topics of international law: the law creation process, the law application process, participants in international law, territory and resources, and international dispute settlement. The lectures on each topic focus on particular Canadian economic, political, or geographic characteristics that raise legal questions, and discuss how Canada has interpreted and tried to influence the law in question.

IREL-4013. Honours Thesis

The Honours Thesis is an extended scholarly paper on a topic related to international relations, written under the supervision of a faculty member who agrees to serve as thesis Director. A booklet entitled Guidelines for the Honours Thesis, produced by the International Relations Program, will serve to provide answers to the technical questions involved in writing the thesis. Prerequisite: Course is restricted to students who are enrolled in the International Relations Program.

The University of New Brunswick offers courses that may be counted towards the 6 credits required in the Areas Studies requirement. Please consult the Chair of the Department of Political Science for a current listing.