

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 other departments, including Criminology, Human Rights, and History.

Honours

Students wishing to complete the Honours program in IREL will satisfy the requirements for the Major and complete the following courses:

IREL-4013	Honours Thesis in International Relations
POLS-3903	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Political Science
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	Topics in 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

POLS-2623 International Relations II

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 five 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.

Courses

Year 1

POLS-1603. Topics in 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.)

Introductory-level courses in Spanish, French, and Japanese are available at St. Thomas University. Introductory-level courses in German and Russian are available at the University of New Brunswick.

Year 2

A.) *International Relations Core (6 credit hours)*

POLS-2613. International Relations I

This course introduces students to International Relations theory, with a focus on the main-stream theories in the field, namely realism and its variants, liberalism and constructivism. These theories are illustrated and developed through the use of case studies and examinations of the institutions and structures of the international system. Prerequisite: POLS 1603, or permission of the instructor.

POLS-2623. International Relations II

This course introduces students to the critical and non-mainstream variants of International Relations theory. These include Marxism, Gramscianism, feminist theories of IR, and other 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 subfield 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.

POLS-3523. International Relations in the Asia Pacific Region

This course will focus on how the relations of the regional powers (China, Japan, and the United States) intersect and affect the shape of Asia Pacific's politics and economics. The course will also provide an overview of the interactions between the other regional states and the various efforts to build Asia Pacific-wide economic and security institutions.

POLS-3533. Canadian Foreign Policy

This course is a study of Canada and its role in the world. It will focus, in particular, on the historical development of Canada's foreign policy and the continuities between the past and the present. Is Canada a "principal power" or is it highly constrained by the imperatives of its relationship with the United States? A significant component of the course will be spent in evaluating Canada's role in a post-Cold War and post-9/11 world. Particular attention will be paid to issues related to the question of multilateralism and Canada's evolving approach to this tradition. Prerequisites: POLS 2613, or 2623, or permission of the instructor.

POLS-3543. The Reemergence of China

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the political, economic and security issues related to the rise of China as an emerging superpower in the modern world. The course examines China's domestic economic, social and security policies and issues connected to human rights. The course examines how China's domestic considerations affect its international relations and vice versa. The course analyzes China's relations with its neighbours in the Asia Pacific and its increasingly difficult relationship with the United States. It also examines Canada's evolving interactions with China. The key question considered in the course is how does China's rise affect the organization and nature of the organizing structures that govern the world in the 21st century? Pre-requisites: POLS 2613 or POLS 2623 or permission of the instructor.

POLS-3553. The Global Politics of Israel-Palestine

This course reviews the modern history and politics of the Israel-Palestine conflict. It pays particular attention to the events leading up to and following the Israel-Palestine conflict of 2023 and the effects of that struggle on numerous areas of international relations, including the impact on international human rights law, the Western world's political influence in the world, and the global hegemonic role of the United States. The course also considers Canada's response to the conflict and the domestic and international implications. Prerequisites: POLS 2613, 2623, or permission of the instructor.

POLS-3603. The United Nations

This course will examine the UN as an international political institution, its structure and processes in the context of contemporary and enduring issues of world politics, including peace, security, development, and environmental sustainability.

POLS-3613. Model United Nations

This course will prepare students for participation in a Model United Nations, either Canadian or American sponsored. In a model UN simulation, students represent an assigned country's foreign policy on assigned issues on the UN agenda. The course will begin with an examination of the UN and its procedures. Subsequent topics will include researching the assigned UN issues and the assigned country's policy on them; preparation of working papers and motions, and strategies for effective conference participation. Fund raising for the trip required; half-credit course, but sometimes meets first and second terms; limited enrolment.

POLS-4603. Seminar in International Relations

This is a seminar directed primarily at senior Political Science Majors and Honours students. The specific topic of the seminar will change from year to year, but will consider, in depth, an issue or issues in international relations. Students will be expected to do advanced research and to present and defend their work in class. Prerequisite: POLS 2613, POLS 2623, or permission of the instructor.

The University of New Brunswick offers courses that may be counted towards the 15 credits required in Advanced International Relations courses. Please consult the Chair of the Department of Political Science for a current listing.

*B.) Area Studies (6 credit hours)***POLS-3306. US Government and Politics**

This course examines the national political institutions of the United States of America – Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, and the Federal bureaucracy. Political parties, interest groups, elections, and the role of the media will also be studied. Issues surrounding the modern presidency, as well as those involving social and moral issues.

POLS-3363. Latin American Politics & Government

This course offers a comparative introduction to Latin American politics, with a particular focus on the themes of democracy, state-building, and political institutions. It examines the way in which past authoritarian regimes continue to influence democratic progress in Latin America, as well as the other challenges that contemporary regimes face from factors such as state capacity, corruption, inequality, and violence. In this way, the course emphasizes the ways in which Latin America has pushed us to rethink theories based on the European experience and to redefine our understanding of democracy. Pre-requisites: At least 6 credit hours in Political Science or permission of the instructor.

POLS-3413. The European Union and “Europe”

This course examines the formation and present politics of the European Union, a unique community of democratic countries that agreed to delegate some of their sovereignty to common institutions. The course will look at the history of European integration, the key institutions and policies of the European Union, and ongoing debates about European identity, European Union enlargement, and economic developments in the Euro zone.

POLS-3423. Politics and Society in Russia and Eurasia

This course examines politics and society in Russia and Eurasia, focusing on the post-communist transitions, Russia's relations with other post-Soviet states, and the nexus between domestic and international politics of the region. Prerequisite: POLS 2303, or permission of the instructor.

POLS-4303. Seminar in Comparative Politics

Designed as an upper-level seminar for students of Political Science, this course will focus on theories of comparative politics and their application to a major issue of interest to the discipline. Prerequisites: POLS 2303 and POLS 2313, or permission of the instructor.

Special

IREL-4003. Independent Study

This course is an independent study course that is designed to encourage students enrolled in the International Relations Program to seek international experience for credit. The course is flexible with respect to what international experiences will count as part of the course. It is geared towards promoting student exchanges between St. Thomas students and STU-affiliated institutions around the world, but summer internships, student working-abroad programs, and similar endeavors may be considered acceptable examples of international exposure. The final determination of the acceptability of a program will be made by the International Relations Program Director. The course is also designed to allow students to do a separate writing project for credit, if that is their preference. The IR Program Director or another, suitable member of the faculty, will supervise any written projects. Prerequisite: Course is restricted to students who are enrolled in the International Relations Program.

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.

POLS-3003. Special Topics

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and particular needs of students.

POLS-3913. Honours Thesis Proposal

The purpose of this course is to afford students who seek to write the Honours thesis an opportunity to develop a thorough thesis proposal, including a substantial annotated bibliography. A small number of classes will be held at the beginning of the course in order to show students how to prepare the proposal. Thereafter, the class will meet only occasionally.

POLS-4903. Capstone Seminar - Problems in Political Inquiry

This course is intended to serve as a capstone seminar for Majors and Honours students in Political Science. The course is an investigation of the perennial issues involved in the study of politics. We shall examine critically the dominant approaches in Political Science with the aim of understanding how the method utilized affects the substance of any account of political phenomena.

Other Courses

Below is a list of classes offered in other departments that can be counted as Advanced International Relations and/or Area Studies. This is not an exhaustive list and does not include courses from the University of New Brunswick that may also qualify. All of these courses will not be offered every year. Before including one of these classes as part of your International Relations program, please confirm and get permission to use the course from the Director of the IR program.

CRIM 3643-Terrorism: An Introduction
 ECON 2303-Gender in the Global South
 ENVS 3143- Theories of Sustainability and Change
 ECON 3153-Political Economy II
 ECON 3333-Perspective on Underdevelopment
 ECON 3343-Banking and International Finance
 ENGL 3433-World Literature in English: West Indies and Africa
 ENGL 3443-World Literature in English: India
 ENVS 3013- Power, Politics and the Planet (POLS)
 HIST 3113- Modern and Revolutionary China
 HIST 3123- Student Movements in East Asia
 HIST 3163-Gandhi, India and the World
 HIST 3203-The British Atlantic World
 HIST 3343-Europe Since 1945
 HIST 3373- The Germanies Since 1945
 HIST 3373-Slavery in World History
 HIST 3603-Disney and World History
 HIST 3613-Gender and Power in Latin America
 HIST 3643-Race and Racism in Modern History
 HIST 3743-Contemporary US History
 HIST 3943-Genocide in World History
 HMRT 3063-Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity
 HMRT 3123-International Human Rights (note that this course can be taken in place of PS 3503 but a student cannot take both courses and have them counted separately in the program)
 HMRT 3213-Environment and Society III
 HMRT 3543-Human Rights and Foreign Policy
 NATI 3703-Indigenous and Western Economics and the Idea of Development
 NATI 3713-Are Aboriginal People Human? Human and Aboriginal Rights
 NATI 3923-Territorial Claims: Theory and Practice
 NATI 3933-Treaties and International Law (HMRT)
 SOCI 3223-Globalization and Gender

The University of New Brunswick offers courses that may be counted towards the Advanced International Relations and Areas Studies requirement. Please consult the Chair of the Department of Political Science for a current listing.