International Relations (IR)

Courses

IR 010 Introduction to World Politics 4 Credits
Introduction to the major principles, concepts, and theories of international relations, along with a historical background focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics to be covered include the nature of power, balance of power theories, national interest, decision-making in foreign policy, theories of war and expansion, patterns of cooperation, and international political economy.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 019 Current Issues in World Affairs 3 Credits
This is a survey course designed primarily for non-IR majors or minors. The purpose is to acquaint students with some of the concepts and historical facts behind current global issues. The content of this course will, in part, be dictated by international events as they unfold.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 034 Society, Technology and War 4 Credits
This course explores the links between war and society in both directions: the impact of social, economic, and technological change on how wars are fought and the purposes for which they can be fought; as well as the impact of war mobilization needs and of war itself on how societies develop, including the rise of capitalism, democratization, economic planning and other modern institutions, and emancipation of disadvantaged groups in society, such as blacks and women in the United States. The American and French revolutions; the Civil War; World Wars I and II; Vietnam; Afghanistan and Iraq; the law of war; war propaganda; atrocities; the nuclear and information revolutions; the ongoing “revolution in military affairs;” and current trends in the status of military institutions in advanced societies.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 036 International Terrorism 4 Credits
Have we seen the peak of global terrorism, or is the worst still to come? This course examines psychological, religious, and political explanations of terrorism; legal and moral statuses of terrorism; explanations for the increasing scale of terrorism and the more frequent targeting of Americans; major terrorist organizations, structures, and means of operation; suicide terrorism; threats and vulnerabilities facing the United States and Western countries today; means of coping with terrorism as an individual and through national policy; possible future developments.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 040 United Nations Practicum 1 Credit
Only students participating in the UN Youth Representative program are eligible to register for this course. In addition to their regular activities in that program, students are required to maintain a journal of their experiences and write a brief reflective essay on how those experiences have affected their view of international activism, the UN, and the importance on international NGOs. Consent of department required.
Attribute/Distribution: ND

IR 056 European International Relations 4 Credits
Examines the evolution of the modern states system in Europe. Conceptual, theoretical and historical topics include the transition from feudalism to the Westphalian system, nationalism, imperialism, the causes of war and attempted peace settlements, the Cold War, the European Union, and the impact of the collapse of the USSR on the political and strategic structure of Europe.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 061 (ASIA 061) East Asian International Relations 4 Credits
Introduction to East Asian international relations, with emphasis on post-1945 period: historical background of Asian international system; Cold War conflicts; China’s rise and regional responses; Japan’s changing international role; the two Koreas; ASEAN and Asian regionalism; U.S. and Russian policies; current and future issues.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 062 (ASIA 062) US-China Relations 4 Credits
Introduction and analysis of the historical context and key aspects of contemporary US-China relations: Korean War, Vietnam War, and US containment; rapprochement and diplomatic normalization; Taiwan controversy; post-Tiananmen twists and turns; economic interdependence and frictions; security relations; human rights and environmental issues.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 074 United States Foreign Policy 4 Credits
Addresses major themes and trends in U.S. foreign policy, including its historical evolution. Assesses the interests and values that underlie the goals of policy and the beliefs that shape decisions on how to achieve those goals. Also examines issues such as the constitutional division of authority, bureaucratic politics and processes, civil-military relations, and public opinion.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 082 Middle East in World Affairs Since 1945 4 Credits
Rise of Turkish, Iranian, and Arab nationalism; creation of Israel; decline of British and French power; growth of U.S. and Soviet influence; Middle East as the world’s major oil producer.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 086 The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 4 Credits
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 100 Methods and Research Design 4 Credits
The course has two principal aims - to introduce students to the logic of social scientific research and to equip them with the basic tools of research design. To that end the course 1) examines controversies surrounding the scientific method; 2) analyzes the logics of experimental, statistical, and case-study methods; 3) explores the most common methodological errors in social scientific research; and 4) gives students a hands-on experience in designing a study.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 104 (ES 104) Political and Environmental Geography 4 Credits
Geographical foundations of political phenomena and human impacts on the environment. Global focus on geographic influences on growth and development of states and empires, the nature and impact of borders, how people have altered pattern of climate, hydrology, land forms soils, and biota.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 105 Theories of International Relations 4 Credits
The role of theory in historical explanation, prediction, and policy. Issues of theory design and testing. Important theoretical approaches to international relations, including Realism; the Democratic Peace; the domestic politics of foreign policy; history and mythmaking; psychological explanations.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 106 Foreign Policy 4 Credits
Investigation of foreign policy processes and repeating patterns in the United States and other countries. Roles of political systems and cultures, permanent institutions and bureaucratic politics, and elite and mass psychology.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 118 Issues in International Relations 1-4 Credits
Readings on selected themes in world politics, with theme to change each semester. Offered on an occasional basis only.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS
IR 119 Issues in International Relations 1-4 Credits
Readings on selected themes in world politics, with theme to change each semester. Offered on an occasional basis only.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 120 (GCP 120) Globalization and World Politics 4 Credits
An exploration of the economic, political, cultural, and military manifestations of globalization and the effects on the internal order of states and the relations among them.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 121 Political Economy of Corruption 4 Credits
This course examines causes and consequences of various forms of corruption from the political-economic perspective; helps students better understand various sources, types, patterns, and consequences of corruption; considers corruption that exists in both the public and private sectors; evaluates how corruption affects economic growth and resource allocation; and assesses global and national strategies to reduce corruption.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 123 Evolution of International Order 4 Credits
Evaluates competing explanations for the origins of the modern states system, the development of capitalism, the rise of the West, and the nature of international order in non-Western subsystems.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 125 (POLS 125) International Political Economy 4 Credits
Principles governing the interaction between the economic and political components of international phenomena. Political aspects of trade, investment, and global economic order. Political underpinnings of international economic relations. Domestic and international political consequences of economic policy and international economic relations.
Prerequisites: IR 010 and ECO 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 127 Research in International Relations 4 Credits
Research skills in international relations. The role of theory, models and evidence in the explanation of international phenomena. Literature review; problem formulation; theory construction; research design, methods and measures; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; principles of hypothesis testing. Professional writing, either through individual research projects under faculty supervision or an apprenticeship in ongoing faculty research projects. Consent of instructor required.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 132 Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict 4 Credits
The ideal of nationalism exerts a powerful pull on almost all people everywhere. This course investigates the sources, spread, and possible future decline of nationalism and national identity, the manipulation of nationalist feelings for political purposes, and the sources of national and ethnic conflict. We will also consider proposals for managing ethnic conflicts and their records of success (or failure). We will study recent and current cases, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ethnic relations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Balkans, or others as current events demand. Prospects for the futures of nationalism, ethnic conflict, and ethnic conflict management. Simulations of decision-making of groups involved in ethnic conflicts.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 140 The United Nations 4 Credits
Provides overview of key issues and debates in the United Nations and helps students understand the formal and informal operations of this global organization. We will explore two major questions. First, what are the major obstacles to effective international cooperation in the United Nations? Second, what does globalization mean for UN efforts to promote democracy, development, and human rights? Includes a trip to UN Headquarters in NY and an in-class UN simulation exercise.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 142 International Law 4 Credits
This course deals with the nature and sources of international law and the major theoretical and historical developments that have created the legal system of states as it now stands. Topics include: armed conflict, international trade, human rights and international environmental law.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 169 The Politics of Eurasia 4 Credits
The course is an exploration of the most important issues and debates about the politics of the post-Soviet space. They include the collapse of communism, the collapse of the USSR, the problems of economic and political transition, the conflicts of the post-Soviet space, the problem of selective integration of post-Communist states into the Western integration, and many others.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 177 International Relations of Latin America 4 Credits
Survey of major international and domestic crises facing Central and South America. Examines factors affecting Latin American system of states such as international debt, involvement of foreign powers, and social and political instabilities.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 222 Political Economy of North-South Relations 4 Credits
Political economy of relations between developed and less developed countries. Issues arising from trade, investment, and foreign aid. Consequences of North-South transactions. Controversies over system structure and reform proposals for international institutions (e.g. World Bank, IMF, WTO).
Prerequisites: IR 125 or POLS 125
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 234 Great Power Politics 4 Credits
Overview of the dynamics of strategic interaction between great powers, including the causes of conflict, origins of alliances, logic of coercion, sources of order, and definition of national interests. Focus on the interwar period (multi-polarity), the Cold War (bio-polarity), and the post-Cold War period (uni-polarity).
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 235 International Security 4 Credits
Explanations of international wars, civil wars, genocides, and terrorism. Arms races, escalation, and conflict resolution. The nuclear revolution and ballistic missile defense. Tools of national grand strategy, including alliances, deterrence, coercion, and institutions and norms. Current issues and near future prospects. Case studies.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 245 International Organization 4 Credits
Examines how cooperation is achieved and sustained in world politics. Under what circumstances does cooperation take place? What role do formal international organizations play? What is the relative importance of power, ideas, and economic interests? Pursues questions theoretically and in practical terms across topical issues (e.g., humanitarian intervention, environmental protection).
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 263 (ASIA 263) Japanese Foreign Policy 4 Credits
This course explores Japanese foreign policy through its historical and international context; domestic determinants; foreign and security policymaking process; policy to major regional players; foreign economic policy; current grand strategic debates.
Prerequisites: IR 010 or IR 061
Attribute/Distribution: SS
IR 307 (ENTP 307, SDEV 307) International Social Entrepreneurship Practicum 4 Credits
International social entrepreneurship aims to change the world through innovation in solving social problems. Focus on the nexus between social entrepreneurship and development practice, especially in relation to NGOs. Emphasis on acquiring tools and conceptual frameworks to launch new social ventures through real hands-on international fieldwork and team-oriented learning by doing. Exposure to best practices of how to affect meaningful social change in poor countries, to generate and evaluate innovative ideas to develop them into concrete on-the-ground startups.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 321 Economic Relations of Advanced Industrial Societies 4 Credits
Foreign economic policies of advanced industrial nations. Bilateral and multilateral economic relations; international economic regimes and institutions; interdependence and Cooperation; managing conflict. Consent of department required.

Prerequisites: (IR 125)

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 322 Poverty and Development 4 Credits
Patterns and causes of poverty in poor countries. Diagnosis of development problems and evaluation of development planning. Explanations for choices of development policy, especially issues of trade, foreign aid, and foreign direct investment. Written and oral presentation of individual country research.

Prerequisites: (IR 125)

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 323 Political Economy of Industrialization and Development 4 Credits
Political foundation and consequences of economic development and growth. Global inequality in the rates and levels of economic development. Analysis of the differences between the development strategies adopted in different parts of the world. Explanations for patterns of success and failure. Origins of underdevelopment; the politics of failed development strategies; the challenge of the increasingly competitive world economy and relations with the U.S. and other developed nations.

Prerequisites: IR 125 and IR 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 333 (ES 333) International Environmental Law & Policy 4 Credits
This course examines the basic international legal setting for the protection and management of the global environment. It examines how international law concerning nature is made and applied, the role of international environmental regimes or institutions, enforcement strategies, and compliance mechanisms. Emphasis will be placed on a review of various regulatory regimes for the protection of the global commons, including the history and legal sources of the Global Climate Change Convention.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 334 Prospects for Peace in the 21st Century 4 Credits
Will the 21st century be more or less peaceful than the “terrible 20th?” This course examines: globalization as a force both for and against peace, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, nationalism and communal conflict, humanitarian intervention and peacekeeping, climate change and other issues affecting prospects for peace in the near future. We will also consider the special situation of American as the world’s sole superpower, choices in U.S. policy between unilateral and multilateral approaches to preserving global and regional peace, and decision-making processes of the U.S. and other important actors. Consent of department required.

Prerequisites: IR 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 335 Intervention 4 Credits
Strong states frequently intervene in the affairs of weaker societies. Since 1945, the most frequent intervener has been the United States. International norms cut both ways—sovereignty opposes intervention while an emerging “responsibility to protect” sometimes favors it. This course explores why and by what means states and international organizations intervene and what factors influence the success of interventions. We focus mainly on two types—counterinsurgency and humanitarian intervention—that have been and are likely to remain the most common. Consent of department required.

Prerequisites: IR 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 337 Conflict and Cooperation 4 Credits
The course is designed as an advanced undergraduate seminar to students, who are interested in getting deeper familiarity with the rational choice literature on conflict and cooperation. Its primary focus is on socially suboptimal outcomes in situations that can be modeled as a prisoners’ dilemma, collective action problems, bargaining failures due to incomplete information and commitment problems, etc. The applied material deals with issues like crisis bargaining, alliance politics, revolutions, interventions, trade, democratic transitions, etc.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 339 (ES 339) Global Security and the Environment 4 Credits
This course examines the links between international security and the environment. Topics include the effects of military actions on the environment; the environment contributing to international conflict; environmental conditions as security issues; the relationship between public health and security; bioterrorism, eco-terrorism, and biological threats; environmental remediation and conflict resolution.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 340 (ES 340) International Environmental and Science Policy 4 Credits
The politics of science behind global climate change, trans-boundary environmental pollution, international regulatory standards, and environmental risk assessment. How international/global science communities operate, how to communicate scientific research across cultures, and how to translate scientific data into international policy. Case studies include climate change, the ozone hole, avian influenza, and HIV/AIDS. Consent of department required.

Prerequisites: IR 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 342 (ES 342) International Law and Policy 4 Credits
Beginning in the 13th Century, this course traces the various philosophical, historical, and policy design arguments that have been used to explain, justify, and influence the evolution of the rule of law between states (ius gentium).

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 343 (ES 343) Comparative Environmental Law & Policy 4 Credits
This course studies the different ways in which domestic legal systems handle the regulation of humanity’s relationship to the natural world. The first part of the course concentrates on comparative law that examines the evolution of distinct types of legal systems from their origins in the ancient world. The second part of the course specifically and comparatively examines environmental law as it has developed in Canada, China, the European Union and the United States. Ranges of alternatives for environmental law and policy as practiced in various parts of the world will be explored.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 344 International Politics of Oil 4 Credits
Historical influence of oil in international politics and the role it plays today. Focus on differing views of producers, such as Middle Eastern and Latin American states, and consuming nations, largely the economically developed Western states. Consent of department required.

Prerequisites: IR 010 or ECO 001

Attribute/Distribution: SS
IR 345 Democratization 4 Credits
Interdisciplinary analysis of international and transnational influences on regime transitions. Addresses the role of war, trade, colonial legacies, waves of democratization, socializations, demonstration effects, and international law; the policies of the United States, EU, OAS, UN, World Bank, and NGOs; and the efficacy of different instruments of democracy promotion. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 346 Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas in World Politics 4 Credits
This course is designed to explore, challenge, and re-conceptualize the boundaries of moral community and ethical responsibility through such current dilemmas in world politics as famine, terrorism, torture, genocide, weapons of mass destruction, organized crime and more. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 347 Non-State Actors in a Globalized World 4 Credits
Role of non-state political groups (e.g. international advocacy organizations, multinational corporations, news media, terrorists, etc.) in world affairs. Thematic focus on globalization, the relationship between non-state and state actors, and the implications of non-state actors for the future of world order. Themes explored through past and current events (e.g., the WTO demonstrations, 911, the CNN effect, AIDS, anti-sweatshop campaigns.) Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: IR 010
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 364 (ASIA 364) Chinese Foreign Policy 4 Credits
Research oriented seminar focusing on the sources of Chinese foreign policy preferences and goals, foreign policy decision making process; international implications of the rise of China, and the pressing regional and global issues that China is facing now and in the future. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: IR 010 and IR 061
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 367 International Relations of Russia and other Post-Soviet States 4 Credits
Analysis of foreign relations of Russia and the other fourteen states that emerged after the collapse of the USSR. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: (IR 010 or IR 169)
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 388 Honors Thesis in International Relations 4 Credits
International relations majors with senior standing may undertake an intensive, two-semester project under the direct guidance of a faculty member in the student’s special area of interest. Students who successfully complete the thesis and whose GPA in the major at the time of graduation is 3.5 or higher receive Departmental Honors. Department permission required. See the Department or IR website http://cas.lehigh.edu/ir for additional information.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 389 Honors Project 1-6 Credits
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

IR 390 Readings in International Relations 1-4 Credits
Directed course of readings intended for students with special competence or interest in fields of international relations not fully covered by regular course offerings. Department permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 391 Internship in International Relations 1-4 Credits
Internship in public or private agency. Departmental permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 392 Independent Study 1-4 Credits
This course enables students to work with faculty on individual projects and material not covered by the current course offerings. Department permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 393 Seminar in International Relations 3,4 Credits
Advanced seminar, comparable to other 300-level seminars, that focuses on discussion and research on specialized subjects in international relations. Variable subject matter. Junior standing and department permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

IR 394 Special Topics in International Relations 1-4 Credits
Intensive, research oriented study for students with a special competence or interest in fields of international relations not fully covered by regular course offerings. Department permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS