

# International Relations, BA

A major in international relations focuses on economic relations between states, a crucial area of study in today's globalized world. Students are introduced to the politics of foreign countries. They develop an understanding of how countries interact and acquire a deep appreciation for the root causes of problems that transcend national boundaries.

Requirements for the major are the same for BA and BS students, except that the major for the BS requires a set of statistics, research, and experiential courses, while the major for the BA does not.

## Learning Outcomes

Graduates will:

- possess a broad understanding of international relations;
- be able to apply a theoretical approach in international relations to understand a specific area of international relations;
- have effective written and oral communication skills; and
- be able to conceptualize problems and apply analytical tools to solve them.

## Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in international relations requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 37 s.h. of work for the major. At least 18 s.h. of coursework for the major must be taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Students choose one of five tracks: conflict and foreign policy, international business and economic relations, regional politics and relationships, transnational issues, or a self-defined track.

The BA with a major in international relations requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
International Relations Core	12
Methods Course	3
Senior Seminar Courses	4
Track Courses	18-19

## International Relations Core

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
POLI:1500	Introduction to International Relations	3
POLI:3512	International Conflict	3
POLI:3516	The Politics of International Economics	3
One of these:		
HIST:1101	The Modern World	3

HIST:1403	The West and the World: Modern	3
HIST:3155	The World Since 1945	3

## Methods Course

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
POLI:2000	Designing Political Research	3
POLI:3000	Analyzing Political Data	3

## Senior Seminar Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:4802	International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation	1
One of these:		
POLI:4800	Senior Seminar in International Relations	3
POLI:4801	Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations	3

## Tracks

International relations students complete one of the following five tracks, each of which requires 18-19 s.h. of coursework. Students who would like to declare the major in international relations before deciding on a track may declare the open track for advising purposes. They should talk with an advisor and decide on a track as soon as possible.

- Conflict and Foreign Policy Track [p. 1]
- International Business and Economic Relations Track [p. 2]
- Regional Politics and Relationships Track [p. 2]
- Transnational Issues Track [p. 3]
- Self-Defined Track [p. 4]

## Conflict and Foreign Policy Track

The conflict and foreign policy track requires the following coursework (minimum of 18 s.h.).

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:1501	Introduction to American Foreign Policy	3
15 s.h. from these, including courses from at least two departments (minimum 3 s.h. per department):		
POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
POLI:3405	Authoritarian Politics	3
POLI:3411	Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles	3
POLI:3420	Southeast Asia: Politics and Development	3
POLI:3422	Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues	3
POLI:3423	The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy	3
POLI:3428	Statecraft, Diplomacy, and World Order	3

POLI:3450	Problems in Comparative Politics	3
POLI:3503	Politics of Terrorism	3
POLI:3505	Civil Wars	3
POLI:3506	Consequences of War	3
POLI:3509	International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics	3
POLI:3518	Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation	3
POLI:3527	Civil War Research Lab	3
POLI:3530	Diplomacy Lab	arr.
POLI:3550	Problems of International Politics	3
POLI:3603	War and Film	3
HIST:2156/ JSTU:2156	Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel	3
HIST:2420/ GRMN:2720	Germany in the World	3-4
HIST:2465	Europe Since 1945	3
HIST:2684/ ASIA:2684	Korean War: Local and Global History	3
HIST:2804	The Middle East Through Graphic Novels and Animated Film	3
HIST:2810	The Modern Middle East	3
HIST:3106	History Behind the Headlines	3
HIST:3108	History of Human Rights	3
HIST:3145	Europe and the United States in the Twentieth Century	3
HIST:3147	The Cold War	3
HIST:3155	The World Since 1945	3
HIST:3242	The United States in World Affairs	3-4
HIST:3494/ RUSS:3494	The Russian Revolutions and Their Legacies	3
HIST:4478	Holocaust in History and Memory	3

## International Business and Economic Relations Track

The international business and economic relations track requires the following coursework (minimum of 19 s.h.).

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
ECON:1100	Principles of Microeconomics	4
ECON:1200	Principles of Macroeconomics	4
SEES:2910	The Global Economy	3
11-12 s.h. from these, including courses from at least two departments (minimum 3 s.h. per department):		
POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
POLI:3424	Global Development	3
POLI:3432	Agriculture Politics and Policy	3

POLI:3504	Globalization	3
ECON:3335	Money, Banking, and Financial Markets	3
ECON:3345	Global Economics and Business	3
ECON:3620	Economic Growth and Development	3
ECON:3625/ URP:3135	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3
ECON:4110	International Economics	3
ENTR:4460	Entrepreneurship and Global Trade	3
FIN:4240	International Finance (prerequisite required)	3
HIST:1115/ SEES:1115	The History of Oil	3
HRTS:3904/IS:3904	Business, Labor, and Human Rights	1-3
MGMT:3450	International Business Environment	3
MKTG:4300	International Marketing (prerequisite required)	3
SEES:3090/ GHS:3070	Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food	3
SEES:3780/ GHS:3780/ HIST:3240/ POLI:3431	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
SEES:3800	Environmental Policy	3
URP:3350/ ECON:3750/ SEES:3940	Transportation Economics	3

## Regional Politics and Relationships Track

The regional politics and relationships track requires the following coursework (minimum of 18 s.h.).

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:1400	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
15 s.h. from these, including courses from at least two departments (minimum 3 s.h. per department):		
POLI:1401	Introduction to Russian Politics	3
POLI:1449	Introduction to European Politics	3
POLI:2415	Latin American Politics	3
POLI:2500	Politics of Natural Disasters	3
POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
POLI:3405	Authoritarian Politics	3
POLI:3408	Chinese Politics and Society	3
POLI:3420	Southeast Asia: Politics and Development	3
POLI:3422	Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues	3
POLI:3423	The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy	3
POLI:3424	Global Development	3

POLI:3426	Outliers: Comparing Odd Countries	3	HIST:3685/ ASIA:3685	Modern Korean History	3
POLI:3428	Statecraft, Diplomacy, and World Order	3	HIST:3760/ AFAM:3760	The Making of Modern Africa	3
POLI:3430	Environmental Politics and Indigeneity	3	HIST:3810	History of the Modern Middle East	3
POLI:3432	Agriculture Politics and Policy	3	HIST:4433/ FREN:4433	France Under Nazi Occupation, 1940-1944	3-4
POLI:3450	Problems in Comparative Politics	3	HIST:4666/ ASIA:4166	Topics in Asian History	3
POLI:3527	Civil War Research Lab	3	<b>Transnational Issues Track</b>		
POLI:3530	Diplomacy Lab	arr.	The transnational issues track requires the following coursework (minimum of 18 s.h.).		
POLI:3550	Problems of International Politics	3	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
GWSS:3326/ GHS:3327	The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality	3	18 s.h. from these, including courses from at least three departments (minimum 3 s.h. per department):		
HIST:1602/ ASIA:1602	Civilizations of Asia: China from the 17th Century to the Present	3	POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
HIST:1604/ ASIA:1604	Civilizations of Asia: Japan	3-4	POLI:2500	Politics of Natural Disasters	3
HIST:1606/ ASIA:1606/ RELS:1606	Civilizations of Asia: South Asia	3-4	POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
HIST:1607/ ASIA:1607	Civilizations of Asia: Korea	3-4	POLI:3411	Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles	3
HIST:1609/ ASIA:1609	India Now! Surveying the World's Largest Democracy	3-4	POLI:3422	Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues	3
HIST:1708	Civilizations of Africa	3	POLI:3424	Global Development	3
HIST:2155/ JSTU:2155	Global Jewish History	3	POLI:3428	Statecraft, Diplomacy, and World Order	3
HIST:2156/ JSTU:2156	Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel	3	POLI:3430	Environmental Politics and Indigeneity	3
HIST:2420/ GRMN:2720	Germany in the World	3-4	POLI:3432	Agriculture Politics and Policy	3
HIST:2465	Europe Since 1945	3	POLI:3450	Problems in Comparative Politics	3
HIST:2804	The Middle East Through Graphic Novels and Animated Film	3	POLI:3509	International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics	3
HIST:3145	Europe and the United States in the Twentieth Century	3	POLI:3527	Civil War Research Lab	3
HIST:3289/ NAIS:3289	The Atlantic World c. 1450-1850	3	POLI:3530	Diplomacy Lab	arr.
HIST:3427/ GWSS:3427	Family, Gender, and Society in Early Modern Europe	3	POLI:3550	Problems of International Politics	3
HIST:3470	France From 1815 to Present	3	ANTH:1046/ GWSS:1046/ SEES:1046/ SJUS:1046	Environmental Politics in India	3
HIST:3501/ LAS:3501	Rebel Island: A History of Cuba	3	ANTH:2151/ GWSS:2151/IS:2151	Global Migration in the Contemporary World	3
HIST:3502/ LAS:3502/ NAIS:3502	History of Mexico	3	CRIM:3415	Global Criminology	3
HIST:3515/ LAS:3515	Introduction to Modern Latin America	3	ECON:3625/ URP:3135	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3
HIST:3522/ LATS:3522	Indigenous Women and Rural Unrest in Latin America	3	ECON:3760	Health Economics	3
HIST:3652/ ASIA:3652	Twentieth-Century China	3	GHS:2674/ GWSS:2674/ RELS:2674	Food, Body, and Belief: A Global Perspective	3
			GHS:3030/ CPH:3240	Global Health Today	1
			GHS:3036	Ethics, Policy, and Global Health	3

GHS:3037	Technology to Improve Global Health	3	SEES:1020	The Global Environment	3
GHS:3050/ ASP:3135/ SSW:3135	Global Aging	3	SEES:1070	Contemporary Environmental Issues	3
GHS:3110/ ANTH:3110/ CBH:4200/ NAIS:3110	Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity	3	SEES:1090	Globalization and Geographic Diversity	3
GHS:3120	Global Maternal and Child Health	3	SEES:2110/ GHS:2110	Eight Billion and Counting: Introduction to Population Dynamics	3
GHS:3150/ CBH:3150/JMC:3150	Media and Health	3	SEES:3090/ GHS:3070	Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food	3
GHS:3230	Health Experience of Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees	3	SEES:3110/ GHS:3111	Geography of Health	3
GHS:3325	Global Epidemics	3	SEES:3300/ GHS:3300	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives	3
GHS:3500/ CPH:3500	Global Public Health	3	SEES:3331	Human Dimensions of Climate	3
GHS:3560	Global Garbage and Global Health	3	SEES:3780/ GHS:3780/ HIST:3240/ POLI:3431	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health	3	SEES:3800	Environmental Policy	3
GHS:3850/ HHP:3850	Promoting Health Globally	3	SEES:4770/ AFAM:4770/ GHS:4770	Environmental Justice	3
GHS:4003	Case Studies in Global Health Inequities	3	URP:3350/ ECON:3750/ SEES:3940	Transportation Economics	3
GWSS:2190/ ANTH:2190/IS:2190	Love Rules: Law and the Family Across Cultures	3			
GWSS:2650/ GHS:2650	Global Reproduction	3			
GWSS:3010/ GHS:3015	Transnational Sexualities	3			
GWSS:3118/ ANTH:3118/ COMM:3118	Politics of Reproduction	3			
GWSS:3157/ HIST:3157	Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights	3			
GWSS:3350/ ANTH:3125/IS:3350	Transnational Feminism	3			
HIST:1115/ SEES:1115	The History of Oil	3			
HIST:3108	History of Human Rights	3			
HIST:3128	Topics in Global Environmental History	3			
HIST:3131/ SEES:3131	Unnatural Disasters: A Global History	3			
HIST:3171	Slavery in World History	3			
HIST:3427/ GWSS:3427	Family, Gender, and Society in Early Modern Europe	3			
HIST:3508/ GHS:3508/LAS:3508	Disease and Health in Latin American History	3			
HIST:3755/ GHS:3555/IS:3555	Understanding Health and Disease in Africa	3			
HRTS:3905/IS:3905	Topics in Human Rights	1-3			
HRTS:3906	Global Crises and Human Rights	3			
HRTS:3910/IS:3910	Approaches to Advocacy: From Theory to Practice	3			
IS:3116/JMC:3116	Media and Global Cultures	3			
IS:4131/ COMM:4131	Globalization and Culture	3			

## Self-Defined Track

Students may create their own track with permission from the director of undergraduate studies. A self-defined track may not duplicate an existing track or another academic program of study at the University of Iowa. It must consist of at least 18 s.h. of coursework, which must include 3 s.h. of credit earned in courses from three different departments (9 s.h. total).

## Honors

### Honors in the Major

Students majoring in international relations have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a UI grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a major GPA of at least 3.50. In addition to maintaining the minimum GPA requirements and minimum major requirements, honors students must complete a final honors thesis, POLI:4801 Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations.

### National Honor Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Students who have met the expectations for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha are invited to join. Contact the Department of Political Science honors advisor for more information.

### University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the international relations major.

## Career Advancement

Because international relations and the international community are so important, a major in international relations is an excellent choice for any student considering a career in either the public or private sector, including the diplomatic service, intelligence organizations, multinational corporations, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, think tanks, public health agencies, the media, and numerous other professions. The international relations major also prepares students to pursue postbaccalaureate degrees such as a JD, MA, or PhD.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

## Academic Plans

### Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

**Before the third semester begins:** POLI:1500 Introduction to International Relations.

**Before the fifth semester begins:** all core courses and the methods course.

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least 12 s.h. in the track and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

**Before the eighth semester begins:** all track requirements.

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

### Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

## International Relations, BA

### International Business and Economic Relations Track

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Academic Career</b>		
<b>Any Semester</b>		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability <sup>a</sup>		
<b>Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
POLI:1500	Introduction to International Relations <sup>b</sup>	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4

GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>c</sup>	4 - 5
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa	1
Elective course <sup>d</sup>	3

**Hours 14-16**

#### Spring

HIST:3155 or HIST:1403 or HIST:1101	The World Since 1945 or The West and the World: Modern or The Modern World	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4

GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives <sup>e</sup>	3
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GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>c</sup>	4 - 5
Elective course <sup>d</sup>	3

**Hours 16-18**

#### Second Year

##### Fall

POLI:3000 or POLI:2000	Analyzing Political Data or Designing Political Research	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning <sup>e, f</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>c</sup>		4 - 5
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3

**Hours 16-17**

##### Spring

ECON:1100	Principles of Microeconomics <sup>b</sup>	4
POLI:3512	International Conflict	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab <sup>e</sup>		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>c</sup>		4 - 5

**Hours 15-16**

#### Third Year

##### Fall

ECON:1200 or SEES:2910	Principles of Macroeconomics or The Global Economy	3 - 4
POLI:3516	The Politics of International Economics	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society <sup>e</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab <sup>e</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3

**Hours 15-16**

##### Spring

Major: international business and economic relations track course <sup>g</sup>		3
Major: international business and economic relations track course <sup>g</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts <sup>e</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3

**Hours 15**

**Fourth Year****Fall**

POLI:4802	International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation	1
Major: international business and economic relations track course <sup>g</sup>		3
Major: international business and economic relations track course <sup>g</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives <sup>e</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16</b>

**Spring**

POLI:4800 or POLI:4801	Senior Seminar in International Relations or Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations	3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>d</sup>		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) <sup>h</sup>		
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>122-129</b>

requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

c Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

d Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

e GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

f STAT:1010 or STAT:1020 recommended.

g Students complete 11-12 s.h. from approved international business and economic relations track elective courses, including courses from at least two different departments (minimum 3 s.h. per department). See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

h Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all