International Relations, B.S.

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 B.S. and B.A. students, except that the major for the B.S. requires a set of mathematics/statistics courses, while the major for the B.A. 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 Science with a major in international relations requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 48 s.h. of work for the major. At least 18 s.h. of course work for the major must be taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a g.p.a. 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.

No more than 12 s.h. of course work used to satisfy the requirements of any other major, minor, or certificate program may be used toward the minimum required course work for the international relations major.

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 B.S. with a major in international relations requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>International Relations Core</strong></td>
<td>12-13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Methods Course</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Senior Seminar Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mathematics/Statistics Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Track Courses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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International Relations Core

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1500</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3512</td>
<td>International Conflict</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3516</td>
<td>The Politics of International Economics</td>
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One of these:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1101</td>
<td>The Modern World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:1403</td>
<td>The West and the World: Modern</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3143</td>
<td>International Politics: The History of the Present</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3155</td>
<td>The World Since 1945</td>
<td>3</td>
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Methods Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:2000</td>
<td>Designing Political Research</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3000</td>
<td>Analyzing Political Data</td>
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Senior Seminar Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4802</td>
<td>International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:4800</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:4801</td>
<td>Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations</td>
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</table>

Mathematics/Statistics Courses

Students must complete one of the following approved sets of mathematics/statistics courses (11 s.h.) with a g.p.a. of at least 2.00. Substitutions must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

Set 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1380</td>
<td>Calculus and Matrix Algebra for Business (or equivalent or higher-level calculus course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT:4143/PSQF:4143</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT:6513/PSQF:6243</td>
<td>Intermediate Statistical Methods</td>
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Set 2

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<td>MATH:1850</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
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<td>MATH:1860</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT:4143/PSQF:4143</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Methods</td>
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</table>

Tracks

International relations students complete one of the following five tracks, each of which requires 18 s.h. of course work. 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. 2]
• International Business and Economic Relations Track [p. 2]
• Regional Politics and Relationships Track [p. 3]
• Transnational Issues Track [p. 3]
• Self-Defined Track [p. 4]

**Conflict and Foreign Policy Track**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:1501</td>
<td>Introduction to American Foreign Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:2416</td>
<td>Revolutions and Political Violence</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:2417</td>
<td>Comparative Environmental Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3126</td>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3405</td>
<td>Authoritarian Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3410</td>
<td>Russian Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3411</td>
<td>Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3420</td>
<td>Southeast Asia: Politics and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3421</td>
<td>Southern Africa: Development and Governance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3422</td>
<td>Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3423</td>
<td>The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3425</td>
<td>South Asia: Politics, Identity, and Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3503</td>
<td>Politics of Terrorism</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3505</td>
<td>Civil Wars</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3506</td>
<td>Consequences of War</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3514</td>
<td>Regional Peace and Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3518</td>
<td>Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3520</td>
<td>National Security Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3521</td>
<td>Twenty-first-Century Technology and Warfare</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>POLI:3522</td>
<td>Ending Wars and Keeping Peace</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>POLI:3523</td>
<td>Non-State Violent Actors</td>
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<td>POLI:3550</td>
<td>Problems of International Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3603</td>
<td>War and Film</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:2420/GRMN:2720</td>
<td>Germany in the World</td>
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<td>HIST:3106</td>
<td>History Behind the Headlines</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3242</td>
<td>The United States in World Affairs</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<td>HIST:4176</td>
<td>Vietnam War on Film</td>
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<td>HIST:4228</td>
<td>Cold War America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4230</td>
<td>The Political Culture of U.S. Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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**International Business and Economic Relations Track**

The international business and economic relations track requires the following course work (minimum of 18 s.h.).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:1100</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
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<td>ECON:1200</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
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<td>GEOG:2910</td>
<td>The Global Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Four of these, including courses from at least two</td>
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<td>POLI:2417</td>
<td>Comparative Environmental Policy</td>
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<td>POLI:3126</td>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3400</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3424</td>
<td>Global Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>POLI:3504</td>
<td>Globalization</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3524</td>
<td>Politics and Multinational Enterprises</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3345</td>
<td>Global Economics and Business</td>
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<td>ECON:3620</td>
<td>Economic Growth and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3625/URP:3135</td>
<td>Environmental and Natural Resource Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3750/GEOG:3940/URP:3350</td>
<td>Transportation Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENTR:4460</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship and Global Trade</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIN:4240</td>
<td>International Finance (prerequisite required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG:2410</td>
<td>Environment and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG:3070/GHS:3070</td>
<td>Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST:3126</td>
<td>History of Globalization</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS:3200</td>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS:3333/RELS:3333</td>
<td>Economics and Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT:3450</td>
<td>International Business Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKTG:4300</td>
<td>International Marketing (prerequisite required)</td>
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### Regional Politics and Relationships Track

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

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<td>POLI:1400</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
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<td>POLI:1401</td>
<td>Introduction to the Politics of Russia and Eurasia</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:1445</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian Politics: China</td>
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<td>POLI:1449</td>
<td>Introduction to European Politics</td>
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<td>POLI:2415</td>
<td>Latin American Politics</td>
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<td>POLI:3405</td>
<td>Authoritarian Politics</td>
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<td>POLI:3408</td>
<td>Chinese Politics and Society</td>
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<td>POLI:3410</td>
<td>Russian Foreign Policy</td>
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<td>POLI:3413</td>
<td>Russian Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3420</td>
<td>Southeast Asia: Politics and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3421</td>
<td>Southern Africa: Development and Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3422</td>
<td>Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues</td>
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<td>POLI:3423</td>
<td>The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3424</td>
<td>Global Development</td>
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<td>POLI:3425</td>
<td>South Asia: Politics, Identity, and Conflict</td>
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<td>POLI:3450</td>
<td>Problems in Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3514</td>
<td>Regional Peace and Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:1602/ASIA:1602</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: China from the 17th Century to the Present</td>
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<td>HIST:1604/ASIA:1604</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: Japan</td>
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<td>HIST:1604/ASIA:1606/RELS:1606</td>
<td>Civilizations of Asia: South Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:1607/ASIA:1607</td>
<td>Civilizations of Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:1708</td>
<td>Civilizations of Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:2420/GRMN:2720</td>
<td>Germany in the World</td>
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<td>HIST:3145</td>
<td>Europe and the United States in the Twentieth Century</td>
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<td>HIST:3289/NAIS:3289</td>
<td>The Atlantic World c. 1450-1850</td>
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<td>HIST:3416</td>
<td>Modern Britain: War and Empire in the Twentieth Century</td>
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<td>HIST:3475</td>
<td>Germany’s Twentieth Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3501/LAS:3501</td>
<td>Rebel Island: A History of Cuba</td>
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<td>HIST:3515/LAS:3515</td>
<td>Introduction to Modern Latin America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3652/ASIA:3652</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century China</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:3685/ASIA:3685</td>
<td>Modern Korean History</td>
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<td>HIST:3810</td>
<td>History of the Modern Middle East</td>
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<td>HIST:4433/FREN:4433</td>
<td>France Under Nazi Occupation, 1940-1944</td>
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<td>HIST:4438</td>
<td>Modern European Imperialism</td>
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<td>HIST:4460</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century Europe: The Nazi Era</td>
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<td>HIST:4461</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century Europe: The Cold War and After</td>
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<td>HIST:4464</td>
<td>Modern France 1789-1871</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIST:4465</td>
<td>Modern France 1870-Present</td>
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<td>HIST:4493</td>
<td>Soviet Union 1917-1945</td>
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<td>HIST:4502/LAS:4502/NAIS:4502</td>
<td>History of Mexico</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIST:4615/JPNS:4615</td>
<td>Modern Japan</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4616</td>
<td>Japanese History and Society: World War II to the Twenty-First Century</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4640</td>
<td>Imperialism and Modern India</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4666/ASIA:4166</td>
<td>Topics in Asian History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST:4815</td>
<td>Topics in the Modern Middle East</td>
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### Transnational Issues Track

The transnational issues track requires the following course work (minimum of 18 s.h.).

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:2417</td>
<td>Comparative Environmental Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3126</td>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3411</td>
<td>Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3421</td>
<td>Southern Africa: Development and Governance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3422</td>
<td>Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3424</td>
<td>Global Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3501</td>
<td>International Organization and World Order</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3509</td>
<td>International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM:3415</td>
<td>Global Criminology</td>
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</table>
ECON:3625/URP:3350 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics 3

ECON:3750/GEOG:3940/URP:3350 Transportation Economics 3

ECON:3760 Health Economics 3

ECON:3750/GEOG:3940/URP:3350 Transportation Economics 3

ECON:3760 Health Economics 3

GEOG:1020 The Global Environment 3

GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues 3

GEOG:1090 Globalization and Geographic Diversity 3

GEOG:2110/GHS:2110 Seven Billion and Counting: Introduction to Population Dynamics 3

GEOG:2410 Environment and Development 3

GEOG:3070/GHS:3070 Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food 3

GEOG:3110/GHS:3111 Geography of Health 3

GEOG:3331 Human Dimensions of Climate 3


GEOG:4770/GHS:4770 Environmental Justice 3

GHS:3030/CPH:3240 Global Health Today 1


GHS:3110/ANTH:3110/NAIS:3110 Health of Indigenous Peoples 3

GHS:3120 Global Maternal and Child Health 3

GHS:3500/CPH:3500 Global Public Health 3

GHS:3720 Contemporary Issues in Global Health 3

GHS:3850/HHP:3850 Promoting Health Globally 3

GHS:4162/HIST:4162 History of Global Health 3

GHS:4180 Climate Change and Health 3

GHS:4600 Global Health and Human Rights 2-3


GWSS:2151/ANTH:2151/IS:2151 Global Migration in the Contemporary World 3


GWSS:2650/GHS:2650 Global Reproduction 3

GWSS:3010/GHS:3015 Transnational Sexualities 3

GWSS:3157/HIST:3157 Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights 3

HIST:3008/GHS:3058/LAS:3508 Health in Latin America 3

HIST:4101 History of Human Rights 3

HIST:4438 Modern European Imperialism 3

HIST:4640 Imperialism and Modern India 3

HIST:4725/GWSS:4725 Women and Gender in African History 3

HRTS:3905/IS:3905 Topics in Human Rights 1-3

HRTS:3906 Global Crises and Human Rights 3

HRTS:3910/IS:3910 Human Rights Advocacy 3

IS:2151/ANTH:2151/GWSS:2151 Global Migration in the Contemporary World 3

IS:3116/JMC:3116 Media and Global Cultures 3

IS:3200 Sustainable Development 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 course work, which must include 3 s.h. of credit earned in courses from each of three departments.

Honors

Honors in the Major
Students majoring in international relations have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Honors students must maintain a UI and major g.p.a. of at least 3.50. They must complete POLI:4000 Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics in addition to the minimum major requirements. Honors students complete an honors thesis through their enrollment in POLI:4801 Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations.

National Honor Society
The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Students who have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.30, have attained junior standing, and have completed 15 s.h. of course work in political science are considered for membership. 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.

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 two of the mathematics/statistics courses, at least 12 s.h. in the track, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

**Before the eighth semester begins:** all core courses, the methods course, the remaining mathematics/statistics course, and all track requirements

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

**Sample Plans 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, B.S.**

- Conflict and Foreign Policy Track [p. 5]
- Transnational Issues Track [p. 6]

**Conflict and Foreign Policy Track**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:1500</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<td>Introduction to American Foreign Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td>16-19</td>
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**Spring**

| POLI:3512  | International Conflict                     | 3     |
| Major: calculus or statistics course f            | 3 - 5 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level        | 4 - 5 |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
|            | **Hours**                                  | 16-19 |

**Third Year**

**Fall**

| Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered POLI:XXXX f | 3     |
| GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture d                  | 3     |
| POLI:3516  | The Politics of International Economics    | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
|            | **Hours**                                  | 15-16 |

**Spring**

| Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered HIST:XXXX d | 3     |
| GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts d                | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
|            | **Hours**                                  | 15    |

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

| POLI:4802  | International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation | 1     |
| Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered POLI:XXXX f | 3     |
| GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives d                 | 3     |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab            | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 2     |
|            | **Hours**                                  | 15    |

**Spring**

| POLI:4800  | Senior Seminar in International Relations      | 3     |
| Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered HIST:XXXX d | 3     |
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab d             | 4     |
| Elective course c                                 | 3     |
| Elective course c                                 | 2 - 3 |
|            | **Hours**                                  | 15-16 |

**Degree Application:** apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

|            | **Hours**                                  | 15-16 |

**Total Hours**

123-135

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

b Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

c 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.
Transnational Issues Track

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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.

The conflict and foreign policy track requires POLI:1501 and at least five additional approved courses (18 s.h. total). This must include at least 6 s.h. in courses from each of two departments.

Students must complete one of the approved sets of mathematics/statistics courses.

Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.

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 requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor. For more information visit http://commencement.uiowa.edu. If applicable search for "Early and Late Participation" to find this page (e.g. walk in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).
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 the J.D., M.A., or Ph.D.

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