

2015-2016 IR 4th Year Seminar List

All students majoring in International Relations are required to complete an IR seminar during their fourth year (Third-year students are not admitted to these seminars except with special permission of the Chair of the IR Program). Please note that all IR seminars must be taken for percentage grade.

Students may register for only one of these seminars, which will also meet the Arts Research Requirement.

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Term 1

Geography

GEOG 412 (3) 101

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: TBA

Interdisciplinary analysis of critical water issues, in Canada and internationally. Focus on social science perspectives. Emphasis on presentation, research, and essay-writing skills.

History

HIST 403H (3) 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations

Mon 11:00-13:00

Instructor: Jeffrey Byrne

In 2015W, the topic is TBA.

HIST 403H (3) 102

Seminar in the History of International Relations

Wed 11:00-13:00

Instructor: Jeffrey Byrne

In 2015W, the topic is TBA.

HIST 490G (3) 101

Seminar for Majors in History - The Great War: Commemoration and Causes

Tue Thu 11:00-12:30

Instructor: Michael, Lanthier

To register in this course, students must email irmajor.program@ubc.ca requesting to be added manually.

In 2015W, the topic for HIST 490G is The Great War: Commemoration and Causes. World War I was one of the great turning points of global history: the bloody, brutal birth of the 20th century, it was a watershed moment that gave birth to an epoch of imperial collapse and total war. The war itself, as well as its causes and ramifications, continue to fascinate both professional and armchair historians. In this course, we will study the continuing debates over the origins of the war: this apparently simple question still lies at the heart of an ongoing scholarly debate, and is now indicative of deep divisions within academic history itself. We will also study the way the conflict has been remembered and commemorated over the past century. We will delve into the historiography of memory and commemorative practices in order to understand how governments, the entertainment industry, civil society and individuals around the world have interpreted and instrumentalized the war.

Institute of Asian Research

IAR 515C (3) 001

Topics in Asia Pacific Policy Studies: Global China and World Order

Tue 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Paul Evans

To register in this course please contact Kerry Ross at maapps.iar@ubc.ca with your name and student number.

The world is being reshaped by the fourth rise of China, its dynamic integration into regional production networks and global value chains, its deepening influence in international institutions, its growing military capabilities and diplomatic influence, and the persistence of its particular form of authoritarian capitalism. Decisions of Chinese officials, citizens and consumers have impact globally.

An interdisciplinary and problem-oriented seminar focused on two sets of questions. First, what is global China and what are the implications of its rise for the international norms, rules and institutions related to issues including the use of force, global finance, climate change and cyber security. Is China willing and able to be a global or regional leader? Will its rise complement, supplement, supplant or undermine an American-anchored international system? Second, how is the world responding? What are the critical choices being made in China and by policy makers elsewhere to address China's rise and a shifting balance of power? What can be done to shape positive outcomes for China and the world?

Requirements: one analytic or review essay (maximum 4000 words) or policy brief (with accompanying materials) on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor (50%); participation in one debate or group project plus weekly preparation and leadership (50%).

Open to graduate students from across the university as well senior undergraduates in the International Relations program based on permission of the instructor.

IAR 515F (3) 002

Topics in Asia Pacific Policy Studies: Policy Project - Coordinating Compliance with International Trade and Human Rights Standards

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Pitman Potter

To register in this course please contact Kerry Ross at maapps.iar@ubc.ca with your name and student number.

This seminar is intended to provide students with opportunities for policy research, analysis and writing on issues on the coordination of international trade and human rights performance, with a view toward developing tools for program and policy development and analysis. The seminar will meet on weekly basis, with each session devoted to guided seminar discussion, student presentations, and lab assignments.

Class sessions will include the following topics, in addition to writing labs and paper presentations:

- Policy Research;
- Policy Writing
- Overviews of international trade
- Overview of human rights
- Overview of global governance.

Essays and Exams:

Weekly short reflections (pass/fail)

Participation (pass/fail)

Seminar Paper (100%).

Political Science

POLI 420C (3) 001

Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics

Thu 9:00-12:00

Jointly taught with Poli 516B

Instructor: Gyung-Ho Jeong

Pre-reqs: Two of [POLI 220](#), [POLI 320](#), [POLI 321](#), [POLI 322](#), [POLI 323](#), [POLI 324](#), [POLI 325](#), [POLI 326](#), [POLI 327](#), [POLI 328](#), [POLI 329](#), [POLI 330](#), [POLI 331](#), [POLI 332](#), [POLI 333](#), [POLI 350](#), [POLI 351](#)

This is a course on the politics of US foreign policy. This course introduces the policymaking processes and major issues of US foreign policy. There are two main objectives of this course.

First, its main goal is to provide students with conceptual tools that will allow students to engage in intellectual discussion on the politics of US foreign policy. For this reason, discussion will be a key part of this course. Reading assignments and my lecture will be prepared to help your intellectual discussion. Thus, you should do the readings before you come to class. Your active and intellectual discussion will be reflected in your final grade. Second, the best way to understand a theory or concept of political science is to see how the theory applies to real-world cases. Accordingly, we will frequently apply theories or conceptual tools to current or past events. Additionally, students will have an opportunity to do an independent research of their own. Writing a paper in this course is intended to make you experience the process of applying academic theories/concepts to real-world politics.

POLI 440B (3) 001

Contemporary Political Theory - Human Rights in Theory and Practice

Thu 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Samuel LaSelva

Pre-reqs: Any 6 credits from [POLI 240](#), [POLI 340](#), and Poli 349.)

Essays and Exams:

- Two oral presentations with short essays
- Participation mark
- Major research essay

This course examines some of the most important modern and contemporary political thinkers and their contributions to the theme of “human rights in theory and practice.” It considers the historical origins and philosophical significance of human/natural rights as well as the challenges posed by their critics and by their implementation in a culturally heterogeneous world. Topics include: the moral, legal and philosophical foundations of contemporary human rights; Burke, Bentham and Marx as critics of natural rights; Rawls, Dworkin, Hart and Waldron on the role of rights in liberal constitutional theory; arguments for and against of socio-economic rights such as the right to welfare; Sandel and Pateman on the communitarian and radical feminist critique of rights; religious persecution and religious toleration as issues of human rights; and the fate of human rights in an increasingly violent world. The methodological orientation of the course is normative and analytical. In the seminars, the conversation is dialectical and critical (including self-criticism).

Please Note: the above information is intended to provide some general guidelines about the course and is subject to revision.

POLI 460A (3) 001

Foreign Policy Analysis – The Canadian Military at Home and Abroad

Wed 12:00-13:00

Instructor: Allan Craigie

Pre-reqs: Two of [POLI 260](#), [POLI 360](#), [POLI 361](#), [POLI 362](#), [POLI 363](#), [POLI 364](#), [POLI 365](#), [POLI 366](#), [POLI 367](#), [POLI 368](#), [POLI 369](#), [POLI 370](#).

This course explores how Canada, a global middle power, uses its comparatively limited military resources as an instrument of domestic and foreign policy. The role of the military in modern societies will be addressed, before moving on to the complexities of the Canadian Forces. Canadian contributions to international military and humanitarian interventions such as Afghanistan, Haiti, East Timor, the First and Second Iraq Wars, Libya, and the Former Yugoslav Republics will be discussed. Domestic and counter-terror operations will also be explored to better understand civil-military relations in Canada. As well, the relationship between military procurement and regional and industrial development in Canada will be examined focusing on recent topics such as the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy and the debates surrounding the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The course will be comprised of student led discussions, debates, and presentations; as such it is vital that students come prepared to each and every class. Accordingly, a sizable portion of student evaluation will be based on class participation and student presentations.

Students who enroll in the class should be aware that guest speakers and class excursions may be arranged. A small fee may be required to support these activities and attendance will be mandatory.

POLI 461 (3) 001

Peace and Conflict Studies

Thu 9:30-12:30

Instructor: Jen Peterson

Pre-reqs: Two of [POLI 260](#), [POLI 360](#), [POLI 361](#), [POLI 362](#), [POLI 363](#), [POLI 364](#), [POLI 365](#), [POLI 366](#), [POLI 367](#), [POLI 368](#), [POLI 369](#), [POLI 370](#).

Through an exploration of both orthodox and critical approaches to peace, this course will provide students with a range of conceptual tools that can be used to analyze both the nature of peace itself and the various policy interventions aimed at creating it. Students will begin by exploring the supposed differences between 'problem solving' vs 'critical approaches'. Following this, a range of ideas from the sub-field of critical peace studies will be explored, including critiques of liberalism, non-violent resistance, hybridity, 'the everyday', radical disagreement, agonistic politics, the narrative turn in IR and indigenous perspectives. Each week students will apply these ideas to a range of case studies (both local and global) with the aim of exploring the relevance of critical perspectives in analyzing different modes of peacebuilding.

POLI 464B (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Tue 9:00 – 12:00

Instructor: Paul Evans

A research seminar examining the dimensions and dynamics of the increasing presence of Asia in world affairs and what this means for Canada and Canadian policy. The focus will be on five connective flows: commerce, security, environment, people and values. China will be the main focus but students are free to bring in other countries as case studies in their papers.

The first eight weeks will feature readings and materials on each of the flows and their impact on Canada and Canadian policy choices. The final five weeks will concentrate on student-led discussions linked to their research papers.

Requirements: one short analytic paper (1000 words) based on initial readings (20%); one major paper (maximum 15 pages) or video (50%); participation and leadership in weekly discussions (30%).

Open to Political Science majors and minors and senior undergraduates from across campus including in the International Relations Program.

POLI 464C (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Wed 9:30-12:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

This course studies the relationship between politics and economics in order to understand the process of late development -both theoretically and empirically. Specifically, we will study questions such as: How important are political institutions to economic development and what role do they play? How does economics affect political institutions and government policies? Why do inefficient and/or harmful institutions survive? Topics include the role of the state in alleviating or exacerbating poverty, the politics of industrial policy and planning and the relationship between institutional change and growth. We will also examine the economic effects of different growth strategies in Latin America, Africa and East Asia, and investigate some of the pitfalls of natural resource wealth and the difficulties of foreign aid.

POLI 464E (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

Three factors are considered for evaluation purposes:

1. Individual effort, initiative, ingenuity, and teamwork – as expressed through the provision of collegial support and constructive criticism for the work of other students (33 percent);
2. An oral presentation to a public workshop (33 percent);
3. A term paper of between 4000-5000 words on a specific issue or insight relating to the course focus (33 percent).

Prerequisite: A strong grasp of IR theory is recommended. Some knowledge of the Arctic region and/or international law is desirable but not required.

The Arctic region is on the frontlines of NATO-Russia relations, international energy policy, climate change, and the evolving role of indigenous peoples in domestic and international politics. As a result, it is rich in opportunities to examine core problems in international relations, including: (1) The stability of the international system during breakdowns in security relations, such as the crisis over Ukraine; (2) The possibility of effective cooperation in the face of rapidly advancing climate change; (3) The role of non-state actors in international relations, including international law-making; (4) The role of extra-regional actors in regional decision-making.

Term 2

Economics

ECON 457 (3) 001

Seminar in International Economic Relations

Tue Thu 15:30-17:00

Instructor: Nisha Malhotra

Selected topics focusing upon various issues arising in international economic relations. Open only to fourth-year students in the Major program in International Relations.

Geography

GEOG 495 (3) 201

Geographies of Social Movements in the Americas

Wed 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Juanita Sundberg

The politics of North-South solidarity in theory and practice through community service learning models.

History

HIST 403A (3) 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations

Wed 10:00-12:00

Instructor: TBA

In 2015W, the topic for HIST 403A, sections 201 and 202 is Journalism, Propaganda, Public Opinion, News Agencies, Radio, Television and Twitter: the relationship between news, politics, technology and society from the invention of modern newspapers in the 17th century to today.

HIST 403A (3) 202

Seminar in the History of International Relations

Mon 10:00-12:00

Instructor: TBA

In 2015W, the topic for HIST 403A, sections 201 and 202 is Journalism, Propaganda, Public Opinion, News Agencies, Radio, Television and Twitter: the relationship between news, politics, technology and society from the invention of modern newspapers in the 17th century to today.

HIST 403B (3) 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations

Wed 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Bradley Miller

In 2015W, the topic for HIST 403B, sections 201 and 202 is The History of International Law. The seminar explores fundamental changes in the way that international law was conceptualized and practised over the last 500 years.

HIST 403B (3) 202

Seminar in the History of International Relations

Wed 15:00-17:00

Instructor: Bradley Miller

In 2015W, the topic for HIST 403B, sections 201 and 202 is The History of International Law. The seminar explores fundamental changes in the way that international law was conceptualized and practised over the last 500 years.

HIST 490W (3) 201

Seminar for Majors in History - A Global History of "The Slum", 1800 to the present

Mon 10:00-12:00

Instructor: David Morton

ABOUT one-sixth of humanity lives in an urban slum. In the coming decades, demographers say, that proportion will only grow. Slums are our present and they are our future, but as we contend with such spiraling destitution and widening inequality, we must acknowledge that slums are also in our past: The way we conceptualize slums and poverty and urban marginality in general is rooted in about 200 years of urban experience. This seminar examines the making of the modern slum, from its beginnings in Victorian Britain during the Industrial Revolution to the current shantytowns of cities like Lagos and Rio de Janeiro. Students will explore the political and economic forces that have shaped slum life over two centuries, and the reasons that slums have proliferated as they have. But with every class they will also see how the very word "slum" is a matter of interpretation, how the power to define an area as poor and marginal is also the power to exclude and even destroy. One person's "slum" is another person's

community, and the imagery and mythmaking surrounding housing for the poor is as much a part of urban history as the material realities of tenements and favelas.

The seminar proceeds chronologically as it jumps from nineteenth-century Britain to mid-twentieth-century North America and then eventually to Africa and South America in the late twentieth century. This is not because slums are absent from London and New York today, or that slums were not present in nineteenth-century Lagos or Rio de Janeiro, but because a certain idea of a slum has come to us along such a rambling path. Nonetheless, during some weeks students will examine one place over a long period, and during others they will compare places from different continents. By allowing such flexibility in space and time, students will be able to discern different historical patterns and continuities while at the same time picking out what's different and why. What does the destruction of a slum in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the 1860s have to do with the demolition of a public housing project in St. Louis in the 1970s, or with the bulldozing of people's houses in Quito, Ecuador, in the 1980s?

Ultimately, students will contend with how image and reality collide in history. They will decide for themselves whether there is a meaningful distinction to be made between the slum as it has been imagined and the slum as it has been lived.

HIST 490W (3) 202

Seminar for Majors in History - A Global History of "The Slum", 1800 to the present

Wed 10:00-12:00

Instructor: David Morton

ABOUT one-sixth of humanity lives in an urban slum. In the coming decades, demographers say, that proportion will only grow. Slums are our present and they are our future, but as we contend with such spiraling destitution and widening inequality, we must acknowledge that slums are also in our past: The way we conceptualize slums and poverty and urban marginality in general is rooted in about 200 years of urban experience. This seminar examines the making of the modern slum, from its beginnings in Victorian Britain during the Industrial Revolution to the current shantytowns of cities like Lagos and Rio de Janeiro. Students will explore the political and economic forces that have shaped slum life over two centuries, and the reasons that slums have proliferated as they have. But with every class they will also see how the very word "slum" is a matter of interpretation, how the power to define an area as poor and marginal is also the power to exclude and even destroy. One person's "slum" is another person's community, and the imagery and mythmaking surrounding housing for the poor is as much a part of urban history as the material realities of tenements and favelas.

The seminar proceeds chronologically as it jumps from nineteenth-century Britain to mid-twentieth-century North America and then eventually to Africa and South America in the late twentieth century. This is not because slums are absent from London and New York today, or that slums were not present in nineteenth-century Lagos or Rio de Janeiro, but because a certain idea of a slum has come to us along such a rambling path. Nonetheless, during some weeks students will examine one place over a long period, and during others they will compare places from different continents. By allowing such flexibility

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Ultimately, students will contend with how image and reality collide in history. They will decide for themselves whether there is a meaningful distinction to be made between the slum as it has been imagined and the slum as it has been lived.

Institute of Asian Research

IAR 515 (3) 001

Topics in Asia Pacific Policy Studies: Development Discourses and Practices

Wed 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Sara Schneiderman

To register in this course please contact Kerry Ross at maapps.iar@ubc.ca with your name and student number.

What is development? How can the micro and macro aspects of engineering "progress" be balanced to yield the best possible results? This course draws upon critical social science literatures, as well as writings by development practitioners, to address key questions of development theory and practice. It offers an overview of the rise of development thought, and an assessment of the outcomes of development for countries and communities across the world under different regimes, from authoritarian states to plural democracies in political transitions and into and out of communism and socialism.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading

- 1) Two Analytical Essays: 30% of grade (15%each)
- 2) At least two class presentations: 10% of grade (5% each)
- 3) Final paper: 50% of grade
- 4) Class participation: 10%

Political Science

POLI 420D (3) 001

Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics

Wed 14:00-17:00

Jointly taught with Poli 516B

Instructor: Kurt Huebner

Pre-reqs: Two of [POLI 220](#), [POLI 320](#), [POLI 321](#), [POLI 322](#), [POLI 323](#), [POLI 324](#), [POLI 325](#), [POLI 326](#), [POLI 327](#), [POLI 328](#), [POLI 329](#), [POLI 330](#), [POLI 331](#), [POLI 332](#), [POLI 333](#), [POLI 350](#), [POLI 351](#).

This is a preparatory course for students participating in the European Study (and its internship program). Half of the course will be taught at UBC, the other half abroad. It is highly recommended to also register for POLI 327 to get a solid analytical and historical base for the European Union and European politics and economics. The course will introduce students into the institutional-political foundations of the European Union since the Treaty of Rome and provide basic analytical insights in the working and functioning of the project of European Integration. The second part of the course consists of a three week visit of key institutions of the EU.

POLI 464C (3) 002

Problems in international Relations

Wed 09:30-12:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

This course studies the relationship between politics and economics in order to understand the process of late development -both theoretically and empirically. Specifically, we will study questions such as: How important are political institutions to economic development and what role do they play? How does economics affect political institutions and government policies? Why do inefficient and/or harmful institutions survive? Topics include the role of the state in alleviating or exacerbating poverty, the politics of industrial policy and planning and the relationship between institutional change and growth. We will also examine the economic effects of different growth strategies in Latin America, Africa and East Asia, and investigate some of the pitfalls of natural resource wealth and the difficulties of foreign aid.