

2017-2018 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. List is subject to change. Please confirm course offerings by checking the timetable.

Seminars Table of Contents

Term 1	2
Geography.....	2
GEOG 412 (3) 101.....	2
History.....	2
HIST 403E (3) 101	2
HIST 403H (3) 101	2
HIST 490A (3) 101.....	3
Political Science.....	3
Poli 460A (3) 001	3
Poli 460B (3) 001	4
POLI 461 (3) 001.....	4
POLI 464B (3) 001.....	4
POLI 464C (3) 001.....	5
Term 2	5
Economics	5
ECON 457 (3) 001	5
Geography.....	6
GEOG 412 (3) 201.....	6
GEOG 446A (3) 201	6
GEOG 453 (3) 201.....	6
GEOG 495 (3) 201.....	6
History.....	6
HIST 403A (3) 201.....	6

HIST 403B (3) 201.....	7
HIST 490R (3) 201.....	7
Political Science.....	8
POLI 462 (3) 001.....	8
POLI 463 (3) 001.....	8
POLI 464A (3) 001.....	9
POLI 464B (3) 002.....	9
POLI 464C (3) 002.....	9

Term 1

Geography

GEOG 412 (3) 101

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: TBD

Pre-requisites: GEOG 310

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 403E (3) 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations - Falling Apart: American Power in a Failing Global Order, 1919 to 1939

Mon 13:00-15:00

Instructor: Jessica Wang

Explores American perspectives on the unravelling world order 1919-1939 and what they tell us about the political imagination and possibilities of the time.

HIST 403H (3) 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations - Revolution and Resistance in the Third World

Wed 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Jeffrey Byrne

Examines the history of revolutionary movements and Islamic revolution and insurgencies in the so-called Third World.

HIST 490A (3) 101

Seminar for Majors in History - Science and Empire:

Wed 11:00-13:00

Instructor: Kenneth Corbett

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

This course will examine the historical relationship between science, technology, and empire from the 17th through the 20th century. We will discuss the ways that scientific knowledge was produced in the context of imperial expansion and exploration and how this knowledge was frequently mobilized to materially and discursively sustain empires. Students will investigate the construction of modern science in relation to exploration, national and imperial rivalries, global commerce and industry, and cultural perceptions of colonization and empire.

Political Science

Poli 460A (3) 001

Foreign Policy Analysis – The Canadian Military at Home and Abroad

Thu 10:00-13:00

Instructor: Allan Craigie

Prerequisites: Poli 101 required, Poli 363A recommended

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 460B (3) 001

Foreign Policy Analysis - Global China in a Changing World Order

Tue 17:00-20:00

Instructor: Paul Evans

Prerequisites: 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.

The world is being reshaped by the fourth rise of China, its integration into regional production networks and global value chains, its diplomatic and military assets, its deepening role in international institutions, and the persistence of its particular form of authoritarian capitalism.

The seminar addresses several related questions. What is global China? What are the implications of its rise for the balance of power as well as international norms, rules and institutions? Is China ready to play a leadership role in a world order that Mr. Trump's America appears to be unraveling?

Case studies will focus on G20 and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; the use of force; climate change; cyber security; soft power. A major theme will be implications for Canada appropriate policy responses.

Advanced knowledge of China and international institutions valuable but not essential.

POLI 461 (3) 001

Peace and Conflict Studies

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Jenny Peterson

Prerequisites: 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. 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. Students will also have the opportunity to explore and debate the utility of critical approaches in improving/creating peacebuilding policies.

POLI 464B (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Tues 13:00-16:00

Instructor: Erin Baines

Registration will be by permission of the instructor only. This seminar will be jointly taught with POLI 564B 001. Please email baines7@mail.ubc.ca for permission to register.

The course focuses on the question of remaking the social and political after mass violence, atrocity or periods of repression. We will take cue from Bronwyn Leebaw's *Judging State Sponsored Violence*, who argues that transitional justice has been too narrowly focused on singular issues, failing to address the complexity of violence and problematically reiterating a victim-perpetrator framework. Recent debate has already begun to complicate the concept of victims, asking who victims are, and who defines this. How does the field simultaneously politicize and de-politicize victims in the pursuit of justice? How to best represent victims in mechanisms designed to promote justice? What alternatives exist? What role to perpetrators play in transitional justice? What is the responsibility of ordinary citizens? Formal and informal transitional justice mechanisms are considered, threading together theoretical critique and empirical case studies.

POLI 464C (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Wed 10:00-13:00

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.

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 412 (3) 201

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Karen Jessica Bakker

Pre-requisites: GEOG 310

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

GEOG 446A (3) 201

Topics in Geography

Wed 13:00-16:00

Instructor: Michelle Daigle

An examination of critical race and Indigenous theorizations and social movements that resist against the structures of settler colonialism and racial capitalism, with particular attention to the intersections of decolonization, anti-racism, and the politics of solidarity-building.

GEOG 453 (3) 201

Political Geographic Analysis

Mon 13:00-16:00

Instructor: Merje Kuus

Pre-requisites: 4th year standing

Political organization of space; territorial and spatial patterns of power and identity; contemporary geopolitical struggles.

GEOG 495 (3) 201

Geographies of Social Movements in the Americas

Wed 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Juanita Sundberg

Pre-reqs: One of [LAST 100](#), [GEOG 395](#).

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 – Thinking About War

Thur 15:30-17:30

Instructor: Colin Green

In this seminar students will examine the evolution of military strategy around the world, its relationship to technology, politics, and culture, and its impact on the conduct of warfare throughout history. Students will analyze the writings of several key strategists and explore how their ideas shaped our understanding of limited and total war, naval power, insurgency and counterinsurgency, strategic airpower, nuclear strategy, and the war on terror.

HIST 403B (3) 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations - The Middle East in Graphic Novels.

Wed 13:00-15:00

Instructor: Pheroze Unwalla

Once thought of as juvenile and immaterial to politics, society and culture, graphic novels are today frequently considered art forms, political satires and/or intellectual compositions fundamental to the health of our polities as well as our imaginings of past and present. This course will explore graphic novels with a focus on their representation of Middle Eastern history, politics and peoples. Reading such works as Joe Sacco's *Footnotes in Gaza*, Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, Craig Thompson's *Habibi*, Brian K. Vaughan's *Pride of Baghdad* and several others, we will discuss the evolution of the medium, the fraught history of visually representing the Middle East, as well as the challenges and opportunities graphic novels present for understanding the region. On this latter note, particular attention will be paid to the contentious use of graphic novels as works of journalism, oral history, and autobiography as well as to fundamental questions on the ethics of graphically representing tragic episodes from Middle Eastern pasts. Second, given recent events associated with cartooning (i.e. the Charlie Hebdo massacre) we will also seek to grapple with such divisive issues as Islamophobia, Orientalism, free speech, and the uses and limits of satire. Finally, students should note that some of the texts we study contain graphic content (no pun intended), including depictions of mass murder and sexual violence. The artist's choice to visually represent such crimes will be a significant and recurring topic of discussion, as will the nature and quality of their depictions.

HIST 490R (3) 201

Seminar for Majors in History - Transnational Fascisms and antifascisms in the 1930s.

Tue 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Richard Menkis

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

In the years before the Second World War, Mussolini and Hitler were keen to export and legitimize fascism in Europe and elsewhere. Many fascist organizations took root around the world, with some achieving power and others remaining on the fringes of politics. In response, a variety of antifascist strategies and organizations emerged. In this course, we will examine how fascism and antifascism crossed borders, reflecting on where, how and why they took hold during the Great Depression.

Political Science

POLI 462 (3) 001

International Relations Theory: Current Issues in Global Politics and International Law – the Trump Administration

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

Prerequisites: 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.

Each change of government in the United States brings a new approach to foreign relations. This creates new challenges and opportunities for other governments, international organizations, and non-state actors. It also creates new questions and opportunities for the study of international relations and international law. This seminar will examine the behaviour of the Trump Administration across a range of issue areas, including international trade, human rights, military force, and the environment. It will also examine several key relationships of the United States, including with Canada, China, Russia, the United Nations and NATO.

POLI 463 (3) 001

International Interdependence: The Politics of International Finance

Wed 17:00-20:00

Instructor: Brent Sutton

Prerequisites: 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. 6 credits of ECON are recommended.

This seminar will be jointly taught with POLI 562B 001.

International finance is the lifeblood of the global economy. While economic factors shape much of what happens in international finance, so too do political ones. After all, it is governments that decide whether to open their capital markets, adopt fixed exchange rates, default on foreign debt, or bailout ailing banks. This seminar will cover a variety of contemporary issues related to the politics of international finance. Three key themes run through the seminar: (i) how much state intrusion is desirable to govern global financial markets; (ii) the role of politics in the design and operation of the international financial system; and (iii) the influence of the international finance system on domestic policy choices. The seminar will engage theoretical perspectives from the literature in international political economy and comparative political economy. Topics to be covered include: global financial architecture, capital market liberalization, exchange rate regimes, international reserve currencies, financial crises, the global financial safety net, and international financial regulatory standards. This is a research-intensive seminar with a major paper requirement. The seminar's key goal is to provide students with the capabilities to critically assess the political forces and choices shaping international finance. Of equal importance is for students to acquire practical knowledge of international financial markets, institutions and regulatory practices. There are no prerequisites but introductory courses in macroeconomics, global politics or international political economy are recommended.

POLI 464A (3) 001

Problems in International Relations: Global Civil Society and NGOs in International Politics

Tues 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Lisa Sundstrom

This course will examine the growing and changing roles of nongovernmental organizations in international politics. We will ask whether a “global civil society” may be said to exist today, then focus in on the major contemporary organizations that constitute this sphere today: transnationally active nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Fundamental topics for discussion will include how much impact nongovernmental actors have in global governance, the organizational dynamics within and among NGOs, and the positive and negative aspects of NGOs’ global activities. We will spend a number of weeks concentrating on NGO activism in particular sectors, such as human rights and humanitarianism, environment, gender, and development.

The course will contain a mandatory Community Service Learning (CSL) component. The CSL component is aimed at deepening students’ learning and community engagement by placing them in short-term project assignments (20 hours of expected work) with relevant NGOs in Metro Vancouver. The evaluated assignment associated with CSL will be a journal that students write throughout the term, as well as a group presentation at the end of the term, to which community partner organizations will be invited, reflecting upon their CSL experiences and how they relate to the academic course materials.

POLI 464B (3) 002

Problems in International Relations

Tues 13:00-16:00

Instructor: Erin Baines

The course focuses on the question of remaking the social and political after mass violence, atrocity or periods of repression. We will take cue from Bronwyn Leebaw’s *Judging State Sponsored Violence*, who argues that transitional justice has been too narrowly focused on singular issues, failing to address the complexity of violence and problematically reiterating a victim-perpetrator framework. Recent debate has already begun to complicate the concept of victims, asking who victims are, and who defines this. How does the field simultaneously politicize and de-politicize victims in the pursuit of justice? How to best represent victims in mechanisms designed to promote justice? What alternatives exist? What role to perpetrators play in transitional justice? What is the responsibility of ordinary citizens? Formal and informal transitional justice mechanisms are considered, threading together theoretical critique and empirical case studies.

POLI 464C (3) 002

Problems in International Relations

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Robert Farkash

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.