

2014-2015 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 Component requirement.

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Term 1

Geography

GEOG 412 (3) 101

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Wed 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Bakker, Karen

Prerequisite: 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 403H (3) 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations - The United States and Vietnam--Revolution, War, Aftermath

Mon 11:00-13:00

Instructor: Jessica Wang

This course explores the intertwined histories of the United States and Vietnam within the twentieth century global contexts of colonialism, anti-colonial resistance and revolution, and world war and global cold war. The seminar places these developments within the domestic social and political contexts of Vietnam and the United States and explores how revolution, warfare, and their aftermath shaped politics, culture, and historical memory in both countries. Topics include the history of colonialism and revolution in Vietnam before the American war, the political and diplomatic dimensions of the French and American wars in Vietnam, the war on the ground from both American and Vietnamese perspectives, antiwar activism and its social and political effects in the United States, and the long-term legacies of the American war for both the United States and Vietnam.

HIST 403H (3) 102

Seminar in the History of International Relations - The United States and Vietnam--Revolution, War, Aftermath

Mon 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Jessica Wang

This course explores the intertwined histories of the United States and Vietnam within the twentieth century global contexts of colonialism, anti-colonial resistance and revolution, and world war and global cold war. The seminar places these developments within the domestic social and political contexts of Vietnam and the United States and explores how revolution, warfare, and their aftermath shaped politics, culture, and historical memory in both countries. Topics include the history of colonialism and revolution in Vietnam before the American war, the political and diplomatic dimensions of the French and American wars in Vietnam, the war on the ground from both American and Vietnamese perspectives, antiwar activism and its social and political effects in the United States, and the long-term legacies of the American war for both the United States and Vietnam.

HIST 403J (3) 101

Seminar in International Relations

Tue, Thu 15:30-17:00

Instructor: TBD

In 2014W, the topic for HIST 403J will be Memory and War in the Twentieth Century. Students will engage with sources from East Asia, North America and Europe.

HIST 490R (3) 101

Seminar for Majors in History

*****Registration restricted – please email irmajor.program@ubc.ca to be enrolled.*****

Tue, Thur 9:30-11:00

Instructor: Henry Trim

The rise of neoliberalism is one of the most significant events of the late 20th century. Its combination of conservative and liberal values and its championing of free trade and individualism have transformed politics on both the left and right. Neoliberalism's success has made it highly controversial. Critics have accused it of privileging global trade over human rights and destroying the communal traditions central to democracy and science. This course will investigate the intellectual foundations of neoliberal thought and its successful challenge of the welfare state through works of Friedrich von Hayek and Milton Friedman among others. Studying a political movement in action, we will examine how this group of academics, business people, and politicians mobilized ideas, think tanks, and social networks to challenge postwar political orthodoxies and refashion western discourse. Focusing on its rethinking of markets, freedom, and knowledge, and following the spread of neoliberalism throughout the world we will analyze its framing of contemporary environmentalism and economic development.

Political Science

POLI 461 (3) 001

Peace and Conflict Studies

Thur 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Jenny Peterson

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 analyse both the nature of peace itself and the various policy interventions aimed at creating it. Key approaches from the sub-field of critical peace studies, including work on conflict transformation, pacifism, resistance, critiques of liberalism, hybridity, ‘the everyday’, radical disagreement and agonistic politics will be explored in relation to contemporary global realities. In particular, using the above analytical approaches, students will explore issues related to local-international interfaces in peacebuilding policies, resistance to neo-liberal and authoritarian policies (as witnessed in the Arab Spring and the Occupy Movement) as well as the supposed growing power of ‘non-western’ and ‘non-state’ actors in the global sphere generally and in peace initiatives specifically.

POLI 462 (3) 001

International Relations Theory – Defence Policy and Military Preparedness

Thurs 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

Jointly taught with Poli 562C

This seminar explores and seeks answers to the challenges facing those charged with defence policy and military preparedness in Canada. The geopolitical landscape is changing rapidly, and with it the security challenges faced by Canada and its NATO allies. After spending a decade focused on terrorism and counterinsurgency, defence planners in Canada have now shifted their attention to potential security challenges posed by Russia and China. Ukraine and the South China Sea represent potential flashpoints for conflict between major state actors, while a rapidly melting Arctic poses its own challenges along Canada’s vast northern frontier. Yet Canada seems woefully unprepared to address these issues; its ships and aircraft are aging, the army is still recovering from a decade-long engagement in Afghanistan, and the 2008 Canadian First Defence Strategy has not been adjusted to the new geopolitical landscape.

Several meetings will be rescheduled and combined into public workshop on Salt Spring Island on a weekend in November. Students are asked to be flexible.

POLI 464A (3) 001

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

Wed 14:00-17:00

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, reflecting upon their experiences and how they relate to the academic course materials.

POLI 464C (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Wed 9:30-12:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

Topic tbd

POLI 464D (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Tue 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Cesi Cruz

Topic tbd

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

Prerequisite: One of LAST 100, GEOG 395.

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

History

HIST 490L (3) 201

Seminar for Majors in History

Registration restricted – please email irmajor.program@ubc.ca to be enrolled.

Fri 11:00-13:00

Instructor: Alejandra Bronfman

In 2014W, the topic for HIST 490L will be Science and Empire from the 17th to the 20th century. The course will cover a range of scientific discourses and practices as related to empire, including mapping, ethnography, communications, medicine and environment.

HIST 490L (3) 202

Seminar for Majors in History

Registration restricted – please email irmajor.program@ubc.ca to be enrolled.

Wed 11:00-13:00

Instructor: Alejandra Bronfman

In 2014W, the topic for HIST 490L will be Science and Empire from the 17th to the 20th century. The course will cover a range of scientific discourses and practices as related to empire, including mapping, ethnography, communications, medicine and environment.

Political Science

POLI 464B (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Tue 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Katharina Coleman

This course explores important features of current African interstate relations, including the roles of key African states, African international organisations, major non-African states, and global international organisations. The aim is to help students understand the dynamic international context within which various African countries pursue their interests and seek to address their challenges. The course also allows students to familiarise themselves with two specific international security challenges in contemporary Africa. The 2012-2013 crisis and military intervention in Mali will provide an on-going case study throughout the course. In addition, students will explore a second security issue through independent research that seeks both to identify the nature and scope of the issue and to understand the dynamics and challenges of addressing it.

This course is currently unavailable for registration as there is a possibility of it being linked to a field research course (funding permitting). For more information, contact the instructor at

katharina.coleman@ubc.ca

POLI 464C (3) 002

Problems in International Relations

Wed 9:30-12:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

Description tbd

Poli 464E (3) 001

Problems in International Relations

Fri 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Erin Baines

How do states, societies and individuals come to terms with a past marred by mass atrocity and repression to move towards a future based on respect for human rights and dignity? The field of transitional justice has emerged over the past two decades in an attempt to answer this question. It considers the myriad processes by which different actors seek to make sense of and redress prior violations, such as apology, trials, truth commissions, reparations, or finding and burying the dead. At its core, transitional justice processes involve working through difficult and contested versions of the past (in some cases present) to arrive at shared understandings of what it means to live together as human beings. This seminar examines these questions through the lens of different stakeholders in this process: the witness; the perpetrator; the victim; the complicit; the rescuer/resistor; the missing; the survivor of sexual and gender based violence, and the confessors.