

2019-2020 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.

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Term 1

Geography

GEOG 498 101

Geographies of the Middle East

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Siobhan McPhee

Critical analysis of economic, social, and political development and processes defining the modern Middle East region.

GEOG 453 101

Political Geographic Analysis

Wednesdays 13:00-16:00

Instructor: Merje Kuus

This seminar course focuses on the spatiality of politics: how a set of taken-for-granted assumptions about places underpin political practice and, conversely, how political processes shape these assumptions. We will first explore how the mainstream geographical conceptions about North and South, East and West, developed and developing places, came into being historically. We will then turn to the ways in which geographical claims and assumptions underpin our understanding of specific issues in world affairs. These issues include security and border management, poverty, migration, environmental degradation, and national belonging, to name just some of them. This is a seminar course and it therefore revolves around class discussions of assigned readings. I hope that the discussions will help us all to think through how political processes connect us to distant places.

History

HIST 403A 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations - Origins of WWI

Wednesday 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Lanthier

In 2019W, the topic for HIST 403A, 101 is the Origins of the First World War. We will try to understand why the Great Powers of Europe went to war against each other in 1914. Scholarly disagreements over this question were once the result of patriotically-motivated attempts to blame one another, but now are indicative of divisions within academic history. We will examine the causes of the war and study a century's worth of historical interpretations.

HIST 403B 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations - Memoirs and What's Missing

Wednesday 12:00-14:00

Instructor: Lara Silver

We will look at memoirs and biographies to examine some of the leading individuals during tumultuous episodes of international history and assess their contribution to international relations. A few examples include Harry Truman and the use of the atomic bomb, Fidel Castro and his response to the Bay of Pigs, and John Lennon and Yoko Ono in their co-authoring of the song 'Imagine.'

HIST 403C 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Global History of Cocaine

Wednesdays 15:00-17:00

Instructor: Tucker Sharon

This course explores the myths, morals and make-up of global cocaine culture, beginning with the socio-historical divisions between cocaine and the coca plant, *Erythroxylum coca*. We will follow cocaine from its humble origins in the Andes Mountains through a vast matrix of biogeographical, socio-political and artistic configurations, all the while asking what kinds of political, cultural and ecological conditions facilitated its global reach. Topics covered will include the geographical imaginaries of development in Peru's Huallaga Valley, once the world's premiere source of cocaine paste; the course and contradictions of U.S. drug policy through the twentieth century; and cocaine-related cultural productions such as the Mexican narcodrama.

HIST 403L 101**Seminar for Majors in History – International Communist Movement and its Legacies**

Wed 13:00-15:00

Instructor: Alexei Kojevnikov

In 2019W, the topic for HIST 403L, 101 is the international communist movement and its legacies. We explore the international role of communist movements during the 20th century, their ambitions or utopian goals and more modest but impressive accomplishments. Topics include the opposition to WW1 and the principle of self determination, communist internationalism and the rise of anti imperialist movements, the women's equality project, ethnic minority rights and affirmative action, decolonization, the fall of communist parties in eastern Europe and their continuing influence in Asia.

Political Science**POLI 423E 001****Issues in Comparative Politics: The Comparative Political Economy of Development**

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Yang Yang Zhou

This course provides a graduate level introduction to the comparative study of development. Why do some regions of the Global South seem to do better at “development” than others? While Asia is often viewed as developing rapidly, sub-Saharan Africa is often treated as a failure, and Latin America is commonly perceived as a mixed case. The first part of this course begins with a brief overview of how development is conceptualized and measured. We then consider and discuss existing explanations of developmental success and failure such as the influence of historical legacies, the role of the modern state and political institutions, markets and globalization, structural adjustment, and democracy versus authoritarianism. The second part of this course explores contemporary development initiatives such as democratic governance, information campaigns, and other channels for citizen participation.

POLI 460C 001**Foreign Policy Analysis: The Situation Room: The National Security Council Takes on Asia Pacific Security issues**

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Alexander Butterfield

This is a role-playing simulation of the Principal’s Committee of the U.S. National Security Council as it takes on complex security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Students will assume the roles of PC members, advisors, White House Staff, diplomatic representatives, and subject matter experts and represent their respective institutional equities in the formulation of policy options for presidential decision-making. Asia-Pacific security scenarios will include Resource Competition in the Arctic, North

Korea Nuclear Capability, and Territorial Dispute over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, China-Taiwan, Territorial Disputes Over the Spratly Islands/South China Sea, Pacific Ocean Climate Change Policy, the Rohingya Refugee Crisis, and a Tsunami in Indonesia.

POLI 463 001

The Politics of International Finance

Tuesdays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Justin Alger

This seminar explores how the political economy of environmental issues influences the decisions that governments, environmental groups, and multinational corporations make to address global ecological change. Mainstream environmentalism has, for better or worse, adopted a free-market approach to managing environmental change. Governments tend to adopt environmental targets that do not undermine their economic priorities. Environmental groups are increasingly shying away from more aggressive positions on environmental issues. And corporations continue to adopt eco-labeling and sustainability schemes that only alter practice at the margins. This seminar will analyze the benefits and limitations of this free-market approach to environmentalism. Topics include the problem of global consumption, corporate sustainability initiatives, the geopolitics of climate change, civil society advocacy, environmentalism in the global South, and environmental justice and equity, among others.

POLI 464A 001

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

Thursdays 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-based experiential learning (CBEL) component. The CBEL component is aimed at deepening students’ learning and community engagement by placing them in short-term project assignments (30 hours of expected work) with relevant NGOs in Metro Vancouver. The evaluated assignment associated with CBEL, in addition to a portion of students’ participation grade, 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 CBEL project experiences and how they relate to the academic course materials.

POLI 464B 002**Problems in International Relations: Gender, Peace and Security**

Monday 13:00-16:00

Instructor: Erin Baines

This seminar will be jointly taught with POLI 564C. Registration is by application only. Please contact the instructor for further assistance (baines7@mail.ubc.ca).

This class considers the politics and policies stemming from Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) and related UN Resolutions. It examines the historical evolution of SCR 1325, as well as debates surrounding its strengths and limitations. It introduces gender and intersectional analysis and how these can be applied in practice. We consider some of the methodological and ethical concerns of research/policy on gender in volatile or politically charged settings, and larger geo-political critiques regarding SCR 1325's normative framework. Finally we will examine four themes in conflict affected settings: i. Sexual violence against women; ii. Gender based Violence against men and boys; iii. Children and youth; iv. Resilience and agency.

POLI 464E 001**Problems in International Relations: Intelligence and Politics**

Fridays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Alexander Butterfield

This course explores the relationship between intelligence and politics. It is primarily concerned with the influence of the intelligence services and the intelligence they produce on policy formulation and political decision-making at the national level. Intelligence support to military command at the strategic and operational levels will also be considered. In this context, we will examine how bias, perception, and political pressure play in the production and delivery of intelligence and the consequences of those influences on warning and decision. We will use a series of historical and contemporary case studies to illustrate aspects of the intelligence-policy interaction in the formulation and execution of national security policy at the highest levels of government. Finally, we will look at the integrity of the intelligence-policy dynamic and discuss ways to minimize bias, misperception, and political distortion and maximize understanding, critical judgment, and sound decision-making.

POLI 464F 001**Problems in International Relations: Human Right Advocacy: Case Study—Academic Freedom and Scholars at Risk**

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Jenny Peterson

In this seminar, students will explore theories and processes related to international human rights advocacy. Alongside a tracing of the growth of international human rights discourses, students will also analyze praxis, gaining an understanding of mechanisms through which a range of actors fight for human rights and how we as scholars can analyze such practice. These lessons will be explored via a

case study of the concept of Academic Freedom which focuses on the rights of scholars to engage open, scholarly inquiry without fear to their physical safety, freedom or other forms of persecution from states or interest groups. As part of the seminar, students will conduct human rights research/monitoring and engage in advocacy on behalf of the Scholars at Risk network– an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom (<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>).

Term 2

Economics

ECON 457 001

Seminar in International Economic Relations

Tue Thu 15:30-17:00

Instructor: Emrul Hasan

Selected topics focusing upon various issues arising in international economic relations.

Geography

GEOG 495 201

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 403E 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations

Mondays 15:30-17:30

Instructor: TBD

HIST 403H 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – The Global 1970s

Mondays 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Eagle Glasheim

In the 1970s, fundamental shifts in the global economic, social, and geo-political order surfaced, challenging the post-war prosperity and certainties of Europeans and North Americans. Some historians have called the 1970s a decade of crisis, others consider the decade a harbinger of crises and dilemmas to come (and still coming). This seminar examines the intertwined economic, ecological, and diplomatic challenges of the 1970s, as well as global, national, and local responses to those challenges. Our readings will focus on de-industrialization in North America and Europe, the energy crisis of 1973-74, the challenges of population growth for global cities, and the United Nations conferences that attempted to formulate global responses to these economic, social, and environmental challenges. The course will have a substantial research component, with each student expected to become an expert on a topic of their choice, using both primary and secondary sources to prepare a 15-20 page research paper.

HIST 403K 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Canada-US Relations

Wednesdays 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Lara Silver

The seminar examines Canada-US relations from the 1930s to the present day to obtain an expansive view of bilateral bliss and the uncomfortable aspects of ‘sleeping with an elephant.’ In particular, we will look at the relationships between the presidents and prime ministers in addition to the broader frameworks of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

HIST 490R 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Science and Empire

Mondays 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Kenneth Corbett

Please reach out to the instructor if you would like to take this course: k.corbett@alumni.ubc.ca.

Science and Empire: This course will examine the historical relations between science, technology, and empire from the 18th to the 20th century. We will discuss the ways that European 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, local knowledge, and cultural perceptions of colonization and empire.

Political Science

POLI 439A 002

Politics and Economic Growth

Wednesday 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.

POLI 462 002**International Relations Theory**

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

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.

Three factors are considered for evaluation purposes:

- 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);
- An oral presentation to a public workshop (33 percent);
- A term paper of between 4000-5000 words on a specific issue or insight related to the course focus (33 percent).

POLI 463 002**The Politics of International Finance**

Thursdays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Justin Alger

This seminar explores how the political economy of environmental issues influences the decisions that governments, environmental groups, and multinational corporations make to address global ecological change. Mainstream environmentalism has, for better or worse, adopted a free-market approach to managing environmental change. Governments tend to adopt environmental targets that do not

undermine their economic priorities. Environmental groups are increasingly shying away from more aggressive positions on environmental issues. And corporations continue to adopt eco-labeling and sustainability schemes that only alter practice at the margins. This seminar will analyze the benefits and limitations of this free-market approach to environmentalism. Topics include the problem of global consumption, corporate sustainability initiatives, the geopolitics of climate change, civil society advocacy, environmentalism in the global South, and environmental justice and equity, among others.

POLI 464D 001

Problems in International Relations:

Thursdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Katharina Coleman

Successful completion of POLI374A is required for enrollment in this course. There will be an online application process in October 2019. Students completing POLI374A in December 2019 are eligible and warmly invited to apply.

This seminar builds on POLI374A (International Peacekeeping) to deepen students' understanding of the politics and practice of contemporary peacekeeping. It focuses on several key debates and controversies including 1) the politics of mandating operations; 2) the use of force in peacekeeping; 3) cooperation among different international organizations in peace operations; 4) the identity and motivations of troop-contributing countries; 5) peacekeeping financing; 6) social responsibility in peacekeeping; 7) the civilian dimension of peacekeeping; and 8) operational challenges, including intelligence and logistic support. These topics span the arc from headquarters politics to implementation in the field, and will be explored through both academic literature and policy reports in the context of several contemporary peace operations. Particular emphasis will be placed on the UN missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) and Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Students will be expected to actively participate in seminar discussions and grapple constructively with the many dilemmas of contemporary peacekeeping.