

2021-2022 IR Final Year Seminar List

All students majoring in International Relations are required to complete an IR seminar during their final year of studies. 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.

Term 1

Geography

GEOG 412 101

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Karen Jessica Bakker

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 101

Topics in Geography

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Philippe Le Billon

- The course examines the contemporary dynamics of global agro-food systems from a political ecology perspective in order to unpack the environmental, cultural, ethical, and socio-economic implications of our current food regime. We will explore potential solutions to the global problems brought on by our current agro-food system, as well as take an indepth look at different grassroots responses to industrial food systems in the form of alternative food movements. This online seminar has a synchronous scheduled meeting time.
- 2021W The course examines the contemporary dynamics of global agro-food systems from a political ecology perspective in order to unpack the environmental, cultural, ethical, and socio-economic implications of our current food regime. We will explore potential solutions to the global problems brought on by our current agro-food system, as well as take an indepth look at different grassroots responses to industrial food systems in the form of alternative food movements.

GEOG 498 101**Geographies of the Middle East**

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: TBA

Mix of asynchronous and synchronous components: Several synchronous online seminars held during the scheduled class time. The so-called region of the Middle East is diverse and complex. Often the focus on the Middle East and what most people know about the region is based on rhetoric and media attention of the political conflicts, refugees and rising extremist Islam. The aim of this course is to take a broader approach to understanding the region and its global reach through deconstructing the mainstream narratives surrounding the region. The foundational lens is to understand the Middle East region in terms of its economic and political development, and how these have influenced and continue to influence the societies of the region more broadly. The Middle East has been shaped by conflicts between those with progressive views on flexible social structures and technological change, and those who would favour a rigid social hierarchy in order to maintain the power of a small elite. As academic institutions in the West have often presented a certain perception of the Middle East, this course adopts a different approach; readings and discussions will also focus on the Middle East's perception of the Western world in a reversal of Said's Orientalism rather than a case of Occidentalism. Assignments will focus on creating alternative narratives of the region in the hope of building connections and broader understandings.

History**HIST 403A 101****Seminar in the History of International Relations - Origins of WWI**

Wednesdays 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Lanthier

In 2021W, the topic for HIST 403A is The Origins of the First World War. World War I is still usually thought of as one of the great turning points of world history: according to the traditional narrative, the conflict marked the bloody, brutal birth of the twentieth century, ushering in an era of dictatorship and total war. Not surprisingly, then, 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 Great War. The one fundamental question we will keep returning to seems deceptively simple: why, after a century of relative peace, did a general war break out in Europe during the summer of 1914? However, even 107 years after the assassination &~ of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, historians cannot agree on an answer, and the ongoing scholarly debate will not end anytime soon. Such disagreements were once the result of patriotically motivated attempts to blame one side or the other, but they are now indicative of deep divisions within academic history itself. We will read recent scholarly literature on the topic and dive into the diplomatic documents of the period in order to better understand both the contemporary academic debates and the mindsets of Europe's decision-makers a century ago. While our focus will be Great Power European diplomacy during the first few years of the twentieth century, we will also use an inter-disciplinary approach to investigate the causes of war in general throughout history, using World War I as a case study. Please note that this is not a military history course, and that we will not be looking at the war itself in any detail.

HIST 403G 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Modern North Africa

Wednesday 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Jeffrey Byrne

Further description not released at this time.

Political Science

POLI 460A 001

Foreign Policy Analysis - FRGN POLICY ONLY

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Alexander Butterfield

Course description can be found [here](#).

POLI 460C 001

Foreign Policy Analysis

Wednesdays 17:00-20:00

Instructor: Paul Evans

Course description can be found [here](#).

POLI 464D 001

Problems in International Relations

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Zhen Han

Course description can be found [here](#).

POLI 464E 001

Problems in International Relations - PROB INTRNL RELTN

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Alexander Butterfield

Course description can be found [here](#).

Economics

ECON 457 002

Seminar in International Economic Relations

Tue Thu 18:30 – 20:00

Instructor: Emrul Hasan

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

Public Policy and Global Affair

PPGA 591J 001

Special Topics in Public Policy - TOPS PUBLIC PLCY

Fridays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Kristen Hopewell

Offerings respond to current policy debates, topics of emerging interest, availability of visiting scholars, and interest in non-traditional courses incorporating practitioner expertise, interest in particular disciplinary perspectives missing from core courses and electives, and interest in specific regions or countries.

The title of the course is Global Economic Policy. Limited seating may be available to non-MPPGA students after July 19. Please contact the program (mppga.program@ubc.ca). This course introduces the

key issues and debates in global economic policy. It begins with the main schools of thinking about the global economy and its governance. It then turns to examining a range of critical policy topics, including: the role of government in the economy; globalization and regionalism, with attention to populism and the revolt against globalization; international trade, finance, and investment; economic competitiveness, innovation and industrial policy; global development, debt and aid; global supply chains, multinational corporations, and labour; the impacts of contemporary power shifts; and the causes of, and responses to, economic crises. The course focuses on applying rigorous analysis and empirical evidence to debate contemporary policy problems and develop &~ effective solutions. It will shed light on the dynamics of international negotiations and the role of governments, international institutions, businesses and non-governmental organizations in global economic policymaking. Students will come away with a strong understanding of the workings of the global economy, which is essential to a successful career in many different areas of global policy.

Term 2

Geography

GEOG 412 201

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Online

Instructor: Karen Jessica Bakker

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 403C 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations - MIGRATN AMERICAS

Thursdays 17:00-19:00

Instructor: Benjamin Bryce

In 2021W, the topic for HIST 403C is Migration in the Americas This course highlights the centrality of migration and cultural pluralism in the history of the Americas. It focuses on the people who migrate and on the responses of government officials, workers, politicians, and other migrant groups to new

arrivals. Topics include diplomacy, government policies, gender, the construction of racial categories, and nationalism.

HIST 403D 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations - INTRNATNL RELTNS

Thursdays 17:00- 19:00

Instructor: Steven Hugh Lee

Further description not released at this time.

HIST 403E 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations - HIST GRPHC NVLS

Thursdays 9:30- 11:30

Instructor: Pheroze Unwalla

The Middle East in Graphic Novels: History, Politics and the Tragic Comic: 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 explores 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. Finally, 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.

Political Science

POLI 439A 002

Politics and Economic Growth

Tuesdays 9:00- 12:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

Couse description can be found [here](#).

POLI 462 002

International Relations Theory

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

Course description can be found [here](#).

POLI 464F 002

Problems in International Relations - PROB INTRL RELTN

Mondays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Jenny Peterson

Course description can be found [here](#).

POLI 464H 001

Problems in International Relations - PROB INTRL RELTN

Wednesdays 16:00-10:00

Instructor: Peter Dauvergne

Course description can be found [here](#).

POLI 464J 001

Problems in International Relations - PROB INTRL RELTN

Thursdays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Xiaojun Li

Course description can be found [here](#).

Public Policy and Global Affair

PPGA 591I 001

Special Topics in Public Policy - TOPS PUBLIC PLCY

Tuesdays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Kristen Hopewell

Offerings respond to current policy debates, topics of emerging interest, availability of visiting scholars, and interest in non-traditional courses incorporating practitioner expertise, interest in particular

disciplinary perspectives missing from core courses and electives, and interest in specific regions or countries.

The title of PPGA 5911 is Emerging Powers. Limited seating may be available to non-MPPGA students after July 19. Please contact the program (mppga.program@ubc.ca). The global economy and global politics are currently in a period of immense change. For over half a century, the international system was dominated by the US and other Western states. Yet there has recently been a significant shift of global economic activity from the Global North to the Global South, with major developing countries such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) emerging as key players in the world economy. Along with their growing economic might, the emerging powers are increasingly asserting themselves in global politics and demanding a greater role in global governance. This transformation has been identified as one of the most important in modern history and prompted considerable debate in academic and policy circles around the world about the agendas of the emerging powers and the consequences of their rise. This course examines the role and impact of emerging powers in the international system. It begins by analyzing the politics, economics, and foreign policy objectives of these countries. It then turns to assessing the sources and nature of contemporary power shifts and their implications for a variety of different areas of global politics and governance, including security, human rights, environment, trade, finance, and development.