

2024-2025 IR 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. This list is subject to change with courses being added through Summer 2024. Please confirm course offerings by checking the UBC Course Schedule.

Term 1

Economics

ECON 457 001

Seminar in International Economic Relations

Tue / Thu 12:30 – 14:00

Instructor: Emrul Hasan

This course will take a seminar approach to go over selected topics focusing upon various issues arising in international economic relations such as economic development, poverty, inequality, international trade, international finance, the economics of corruption, women in economics, environmental economics, etc. The course will help develop the skills to analyze and understand academic articles, conduct research, and present the research to a broad audience. Students will acquire these skills through learning by doing. There is hardly any form of learning that is more satisfying than learning, researching, debating a topic, and then corroborating your hypothesis with empirical evidence. This course will help do that by letting students read, present, and discuss research papers and articles by top researchers in economics.

Geography

GEOG 410 101

Environment and Society

Wednesdays 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Loch Brown

Geographical analysis of society-environment relations. Relates resource management to environmental politics, political economy, and sustainable development. Perspectives drawn from political ecology and political economy, environmental history and environmental philosophy.

GEOG 446A 101**Topics in Geography – Agriculture and Environment**

Wednesdays 11:00 - 14:00

Instructor: Loch Brown

For the past ten thousand years, agriculture has been the primary driver in both the rise and fall of human civilizations. Today, agriculture remains the foundation of nearly all human societies, shaping in very fundamental ways both our environment and our economic, political, and cultural systems. In the past half century, we have experienced very sudden and sweeping changes to the way we practice agriculture, due primarily to rapid advances in key areas of science and technology. Unfortunately, while our agricultural system is rapidly evolving, our understanding of how these changes are affecting both society and the environment struggles to keep up. This course examines the contemporary dynamics of global agriculture and food production systems in order to build a more robust understanding of the social, economic, and environmental benefits and problems associated with our current global food regime. Topics to be explored in this course will be determined by the students, and could include local and global agro-food systems, political ecology of food, global commodity chains, green & blue revolutions, cultural patterns of consumption, agricultural biotechnologies, agribusiness, food security, agriculture related social movements, biofuels, and of course the environmental impacts of agriculture. Seminars will combine group work and discussion with short lectures and videos. Students will be expected to voice opinions and engage in &~ critical and informed debate on the course material. Course texts will be supplemented with weekly readings. This course also draws upon a range of video and other media to explore the interactions between agriculture and the environment.

GEOG 446A 104**Topics in Geography – Global Public Health**

Wednesdays 11:00-14:00

Instructor: Jemima Baada

This interdisciplinary upper-level undergraduate seminar examines global and public health issues as influenced by climate change and im/mobilities, and vice versa. The ongoing climate crisis affects every facet of planetary life, and human and non-human population im/mobilities are major responses to some of the negative effects brought on by climate change. Climate change, migration and health are interdependent processes, and human health cannot be understood outside of planetary health. This course therefore examines the intersections of all three, and how they shape everyday lived experiences. Please note that this course is cross-listed for both grads and undergrads, but assessment modes and expectations will differ for the respective levels.

History

HIST 403B 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations – History of Democracy

Wednesdays, 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Jeffrey Byrne

Full course description has not been released at this time

HIST 403E 101

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

Thursdays, 09:00 - 11:00

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.

HIST 490T 101

Seminar for Majors in History – Print Culture and International Relations: Europe, 1870-1907

Tuesdays, 12:00 – 14:00

Instructor: Mary Matheson

In 2024W, IR majors who wish to attend this seminar must contact the IR Program Manager for registration help.

This seminar is designed to introduce students to the torrent of popular European print media focusing on key events in international relations between 1870 and 1907. Working with primary sources including regular and illustrated newspapers, political cartoons, images, postcards and song sheets, we

will consider the role of mass media in politicizing popular culture in relation to significant events such as the unification of Germany, the first Hague Peace Conference, the Boxer Uprising, and more. While examining the context and significance of the various media, we will consider questions related to their production, commodification and consumption, as well as the interpretation of their messages and meanings. Throughout the seminar, our frames of inquiry will employ the historiographical lenses of nationalism, international relations, the public sphere, print and visual culture, and the history of emotions.

Political Science

POLI 439A 001

Politics and Economic Growth

Thursdays, 14:00- 17:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 462A 001

International Relations Theory

Fridays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Val Muzik

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 462B 002

International Relations Theory

Wednesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Xiaojun Li

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464D 002

Problems in International Relations – Conflict Processes

Wednesdays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Sally Sharif

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464K 001

Problems in International Relations

Thursdays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Masoud Zamani

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 466 001

The Politics of International Law

Wednesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

Course description can be found [here](#)

Public Policy and Global Affairs

PPGA 568 001

Global Economic Policy

Fridays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Kristen Hopewell

Limited seating may be available to non-MPPGA students after July 16. Please contact the MPPGA program directly (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 410 201

Environment and Society

Tuesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Loch Brown

Geographical analysis of society-environment relations. Relates resource management to environmental politics, political economy, and sustainable development. Perspectives drawn from political ecology and political economy, environmental history and environmental philosophy.

GEOG 446B 202

Topics in Geography – The Political Economy of Capitalism and Racism

Tuesdays, 11:00 – 14:00

Instructor: Peter Hudson

How do we understand the relationship between capitalism and racism? This course will examine this question as it appears in the work of Black scholars writing on the Black experience from the era of New World slavery to the dawn of modern-day neoliberalism and neocolonialism. Topics to be considered may include: the debates over capitalism and slavery; the so-called “Negro” question in Marxist thought; the history of “racial capitalism;” the interactions of class, race and gender; the geography of racism and imperialism; and the economic foundations of white supremacy.

GEOG 495 201

Geographies of Social Movements in the Americas

Wednesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Juanita Sundberg

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

History

HIST 403C 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations - The Causes of War: World War I Case Study

Tuesdays, 09:00-11:00

Instructor: Michael Lanthier

Course description has not been released at this time

HIST 403D 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Commodities in Motion

Tuesdays 14:00 - 16:00

Instructor: Jessica Wang

The basic goods that sustain our everyday lives rest upon globally embedded systems of extraction, production, and distribution that most of us take for granted. These systems, however, have long histories conditioned by the uneven terrain of geopolitical power that has evolved from the early modern period to the present. This course will explore the global-scale movements of everyday commodities—for example, sugar, wheat, coffee, beef, bananas, cotton, and oil, the international structures of political and economic power behind them, and the environmental implications of the forms of consumption that define our material world today.

HIST 403F 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – International Law in the Modern World

Wednesdays, 09:00-11:00

Instructor: Bradley Miller

Topics include the emergence of international humanitarian law and the legal regulation of warfare, the place of international law in upholding and then abolishing slavery, the role of law in facilitating transnational movement of goods and people, and the development of international institutions and courts

Political Science

POLI 422A 002

Selected Problems in Comparative Politics – Transatlantic Race Politics

Thursdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Terri Givens

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 422X 002

Selected Problems in Comparative Politics – The Politics of Economic Inequality

Thursdays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Alan Jacobs

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 439A 002

Politics and Economic Growth

Tuesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 446B 001

Multiculturalism and Identity Politics

Mondays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Barbara Arneil

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 462B 002

International Relations Theory: International Relations of the Asia Pacific

Wednesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Xiaojun Li

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464D 003

Advanced Topics in International Relations

Wednesdays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Sally Sharif

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464J 001

Advanced Topics in International Relations

Tuesdays, 09:00-12:00

Instructor: Stewart Prest

Course description can be found [here](#)

Public Policy and Global Affairs

PPGA 528 001

Emerging Powers

Fridays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Kristen Hopewell

Limited seating may be available to non-MPPGA students after July 16. Please contact the MPPGA program directly (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.