

2025-2026 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 2025. Please confirm course offerings by checking the UBC Course Schedule.

Term 1

Economics

ECON 457 001

Seminar in International Economic Relations

Tue / Thu 17:00 – 18:30

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 – Oceanic Geographies**

Thursdays 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Avram Lewis

Migration, Mobility, and Diaspora This upper-year undergraduate course moves beyond landmasses to consider global oceanic connections, migration routes, diasporic populations, and seascape epistemologies. Five units include: (1) Blue Geographies (2) Oceans as Archives (3) Atmospheric Encounters (4) Diasporic Proximities and Oceanic Flows, and (5) Watery Soundscapes. Each student will produce a 10-15 page research paper and an accompanying soundwork.

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.*

GEOG 453 101**Political Geographic Analysis**

Mondays 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Merje Kuus

Course description has not been released at this time.

History

HIST 403A 101

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

Mondays, 14:00 - 16:00

Instructor: Dexter Fergie

Full course description has not been released at this time

HIST 403B 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Histories of the US Empire, 1783

Wednesdays, 10:00 - 12:00

Instructor: John Roosa

Full course description has not been released at this time

Political Science

POLI 422A 002

Selected Problems in Comparative Politics – Immigration and Race: A Global Perspective

Thursdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Terri Givens

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 462A 001

International Relations Theory

Thursdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Val Muzik

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464D 004

Advanced Topics in International Relations – Conflict Processes

Wednesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Sally Sharif

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464F 001

Advanced Topics in International Relations - Information Technology and Global Politics

Thursdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Jenny Peterson

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464G 002

Advanced Topics in International Relations – Russia-Ukraine War in Context

Wednesdays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Ibrahim Muradov

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464H 001

Advanced Topics in International Relations - Global Environmental Politics

Wednesdays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Peter Dauvergne

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 466 001

The Politics of International Law

Mondays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

Course description can be found [here](#)

Term 2

Geography

GEOG 410 201

Environment and Society

Mondays, 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 410 202

Environment and Society

Thursdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Alec Blair

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.

History

HIST 403C 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – AIDS and the Birth of Global Health

Mondays, 14:00 - 16:00

Instructor: Robert Brain

Course description has not been released at this time

HIST 403D 201

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

Wednesdays, 14:00 - 16:00

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.

HIST 403E 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Capitalism and Culture

Wednesdays, 17:00 - 19:00

Instructor: Steven Lee

Course description has not been released at this time

HIST 403F 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Global Partitions

Wednesdays, 11:00 - 13:00

Instructor: Anne Murphy

Course description has not been released at this time

Latin American Studies

LAST 303 201

Indigenous Latin America

Tue / Thu, 14:00 - 15:30

Instructor: Carmen Miranda-Barrios

Historical and contemporary cultures, struggles, and experiences of Indigenous peoples in what is now Latin America. Different cultural areas or regions may be selected to illustrate the course's principal themes.

Political Science

POLI 420C 001

Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics - US Politics

Wednesdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Paul Quirk

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 449D 001

Topics in Political Theory – Slavery, Theory, and History

Fridays, 09:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Tristan Hughes

Course description can be found [here](#)

POLI 464K 003

Advanced Topics in International Relations - IR and the Middle East

Thursdays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Massoud Zamani

Course description can be found [here](#)

Public Policy and Global Affairs

PPGA 528 001

Emerging Powers

Fridays, 14:00 - 17:00

Instructor: Alex Yu-Ting Lin

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.

PPGA 568 001

Global Economic Policy

Tuesdays, 09:30 - 12:30

Instructor: Soo Yeon Kim

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.