International Affairs

Breathtaking changes in political, economic and social relations have taken place over the past several centuries. Living and working in a rapidly changing global environment presents great opportunities to advance the human condition, promote growth and development, create political liberties, recast bargains between governments and their societies, transform social welfare, and advance the boundaries of knowledge and scientific exploration.

Yet the same context presents great risks as people fear loss of identity, worry about economic subordination and loss to those beyond their borders, encounter environmental degradation, and confront potential decline in personal and social autonomy. Our heightened economic, political, social, cultural and environmental interdependence generates serious challenges in areas such as social justice, health, security, development, human rights, social welfare, inequality, diversity and technology. These challenges create the possibility for conflict but also for cooperation and compromise.

The Master of Arts in International Affairs offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding global issues. The program draws on teaching and expertise from Washington University faculty and experienced practitioners in the St. Louis region, and it provides knowledge and skills for understanding and working with some of the most difficult international and cross-cultural problems faced by states, societies and communities. Students have the opportunity to tailor their studies to explore topics such as global politics, global economics, development, international security and conflict, international business, human rights, the role of gender, the environment and sustainability, and issues of regional importance.

Whether students are studying full-time or part-time, a range of on-campus and online courses makes it possible for them to shape their degrees according to their interests and schedules. Please note, though, that this program is not fully online; some courses must be taken on the Washington University campus.

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Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in International Affairs

Total Requirements: 30 units

The Master of Arts in International Affairs is a 30-unit program that includes four core courses and a capstone research project. The purpose of the required core courses is to develop a coherent structure that will underpin the AM by ensuring that some common theoretical foundations, knowledge and language are shared by students in this program and with graduates of similar programs around the world.

This contributes to the building of a professional community and identity. Remaining electives may be chosen from International Affairs seminars or from other graduate-level courses approved by the School of Continuing & Professional Studies.

Required Core Courses: 12 units

Students must take four core courses aimed at the acquiring of a common understanding of foundational knowledge and skills for analyzing international affairs, thus enhancing their abilities to be thoughtful and critical users of academic research in applied settings and while pursuing careers in the field.

One required course is Process and Design of Research (IA 524), a research writing and methods seminar that helps students develop systematic tools for use as practitioners who write and present their work.

The other three core courses, selected from a list of core courses, provide a theoretical and substantive foundation for the analysis and understanding of international affairs. Students choose at least three core courses as indicated by the “International Affairs Core (IAC)” attribute in the course description. Examples include the following:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>IA 5080</td>
<td>U.S. Law and International Relations</td>
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<td>IA 509</td>
<td>International Organizations</td>
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<td>IA 510</td>
<td>The United Nations and International Security</td>
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<td>IA 511</td>
<td>International Law and Human Rights</td>
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<td>International Growth and Development, Inequality, and Transitional Justice</td>
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<td>IA 5310</td>
<td>National Security Decision-Making</td>
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<td>IA 535</td>
<td>American Foreign Policy</td>
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<td>IA 5410</td>
<td>Alternative Analytic Techniques for International Affairs</td>
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<td>IA 5571</td>
<td>Politics of Global Finance</td>
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<td>IA 574</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
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<td>IA 5772</td>
<td>State Failure, State Success and Development</td>
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These courses are designed to enable students to develop expertise and understanding of dominant analytical frameworks, tools, and common language in the field of international affairs so that they are better prepared to engage with other professionals in the field. A selection of three core courses, which are overlapping, ensures that this foundation will be sound and robust.

Additional International Affairs Courses: 15 units

These courses may be chosen from International Affairs seminars or, with permission, from graduate-level courses in other departments.

Capstone Project: 3 units

After completing formal course work, all students are required to complete a capstone research project under the supervision of a Washington University faculty member.
in which Mexico is an essential laboratory for policies related to security and commerce in the United States. The course will allow students to rethink ideas about economics, security, and other questions in international affairs from a unique yet fundamental point of view. Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, IAA, IAI, OLI

U85 IA 5080 U.S. Law and International Relations
This course examines how law and politics interact to define the limits on government authority in foreign policy. Separation of powers is a key tenet of the U.S. political system, and nowhere is this principle challenged more than in the realm of foreign policy. All three branches of our government struggle with the inherent tension between the need for decisive action and secrecy on the one hand and the desire for democratic deliberation and accountability on the other. These tensions have been with us since the beginning of the nation, but they have become even more prominent with recent changes in technology, new international threats, and increased globalization. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, OLI

U85 IA 509 International Organizations
This course examines the role of major international organizations in the modern world—the UN, EU, NATO, IMF, WTO, MERCOSUR, and others. We explore the background for the creation of these organizations, the purposes they serve, and those whose interests they promote. We also consider how they adapt and evolve over time. Our survey centers on three broad areas of investigation: first, we examine how international organizations promote and maintain international security. Second, we consider organizations designed to regulate and promote economic growth and development. This entails a focus upon the process of globalization and the challenges presented in an era of heightened economic interdependence. Finally, we examine growing efforts at regional cooperation though the emergence of organizations such as NAFTA, the EU, and MERCOSUR. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, IAI, OLI

U85 IA 5093 Politics of the European Union
This course provides a political overview of the European Union and its 27 member states. Attention is paid to the emergence of European supranational governance in the 1950s and its trajectory to the present day. We also consider the interplay of geographical, economic, and cultural factors, together with an assessment of the EU and its place in the larger global political sphere. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAA, OLI

U85 IA 510 The United Nations and International Security
The aim of this course is to gain a deeper understanding of the United Nations (UN) and its role in world politics. Beginning with an examination of the history of the UN and its precursors, we will discuss the UN’s structure and its three-part mission as outlined in the UN Preamble: international peace and security; human rights; and development. Attention will be paid to the processes of globalization and the challenges presented in an era of heightened economic interdependence. Finally, we examine growing efforts at regional cooperation through the emergence of organizations such as NAFTA, the EU, and MERCOSUR. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, IAI, OLI

U85 IA 511 International Law and Human Rights
This course takes a critical perspective of international law and human rights, by examining the foundational codes and conventions, and asking how relevant they are today in light of a changing society. It will consider how paradigms have shifted regarding who is deserving of human rights, as well as the problems of enforcement when state governments are themselves perpetrators of human rights violations. Readings, films, and interactive data sets will focus on human rights
as embedded in intersectionalities of class, caste, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and disability. Topics will include issues like: How was Facebook implicated in the genocide of Rohingya in Burma? Why has the Chinese government confined millions of ethnic minority Uighurs in concentration camps? What are food deserts and food apartheid? Have transnational agribusinesses solved world hunger, or have their pesticides and genetically-modified seeds compromised the global ecosystem? Why is the legal system making so little progress on labor and sex trafficking? The format for the course will center around interactive discussions, small group activities, and hopefully some fieldtrips. Assignments include weekly critiques of the readings and a short research paper.

Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, IAC, IAI, ML, OLI

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U85 IA 5120 Humanitarian Intervention in International Society

One of the more striking features of post-Cold War international society has been the development of a theory and practice of humanitarian intervention. This course explores the background, causes, nature, and limits of these changes. The course is interdisciplinary in nature, combining legal, moral, and political analysis, with an emphasis on the legal question of whether today there is so-called legal right of humanitarian intervention. The course does not assume prior background in international relations. We therefore also spend time introducing a few central concepts and issues in international relations in order to provide a theoretical framework for our substantive inquiries into humanitarian intervention.

Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

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U85 IA 5130 Dirty Wars and State Terrorism in South America

This course will explore the historical, political, and cultural impact of the so-called Operation Condor military dictatorships in 1970s and 1980s South America. We will focus on two of the most notorious dictatorships, those in Argentina and Chile, but we will also examine the examples of Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil. We will use historical accounts, remembrance sites, declassified U.S. government documents, literary works, and film to assess the various causes and results of a period that has marked these countries in ways that continue to influence national identities.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAA

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U85 IA 5142 Sustainable Development and Conservation: Madagascar

This course focuses on sustainable development in rural subsistence economies, using Madagascar as case study. Students from diverse disciplines are challenged to develop and assess the feasibility of projects that can have a positive impact on communities constrained by poverty traps. The span of projects includes topics such as forest conservation and use, nutrition, health, food security, clean water, education, and bottom-up economic growth. Students in humanities, social sciences, business, design, engineering, physical sciences, law, social work, economics, political science, public health and others use their different perspectives to search for answers. Teamwork and peer teaching are central to the course. Competitively evaluated projects will be field-tested in Madagascar. Selected teams will travel to Madagascar in May and work with the Missouri Botanical Garden Community Conservation Program to adapt projects to conflicting environmental, cultural, economic, and political factors. Poster board sessions for students taking the trip occur in the fall term. Project teams selected to go to Madagascar will be assessed a lab fee at the time their participation in the trip is confirmed. The lab fee covers the cost of airfare, in-country transportation, and approximately three weeks of in-country lodging and food. Undergraduate students should register for the course using one of the undergraduate cross-listed course numbers.

Credit 3 units.

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U85 IA 5170 Gender and Globalization

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

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U85 IA 5181 International Economics

This course provides an analysis of the international economy, the economic theories that help explain it, and analysis of important current issues of international economic policy. When David Ricardo proposed his famous theory of comparative advantage in 1821, he set out to explain why England exported cloth to and imported wine from Portugal. Today, international trade is much more complex. Apple devices are designed in Silicon Valley while their most expensive component, the hard drive, is manufactured by Toshiba in Philippines before it is finally assembled in China. Can Ricardo’s theory explain today’s patterns of international production and trade? Today, the number of these currencies has been reduced through the formation of the European Union. What are the cost and benefits of currency unions?

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, IAI, OLI

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U85 IA 519 International Growth and Development, Inequality, and Transitional Justice

This course will explore contemporary trends in transnational inequality, and the strategies proposed to address them. We’ll look at the expanding wealth divide between global north and south countries, and inquire about the sources. Why is there a rising number of billionaires (who can end global poverty seven times over), and what are the policies that enable them to park and hide their wealth internationally? Do lending institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund help rectify these problems, or make them worse? Will small dose “micro-credit” loans help women and their families out of poverty? How have population programs derailed women’s reproductive power, and supported heteronormative conceptions of the family? We will critically examine why “development” continues to be the main model for international aid programs. In addition, we’ll ask about the alternatives, and how can we move from development to social and economic justice.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, IAI, OLI

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U85 IA 5213 Latin America in World Affairs

This course examines Latin American foreign relations from the 1820s to the present with an emphasis on the period since 1945. Focusing on transnational relations, the course analyzes long term patterns and trends among Latin American states and between Latin America and the United States, Europe, and the global South. Attention will be paid to the way Latin Americans have sought to manage foreign influence. To this end we will analyze patterns of inter-American conflict and cooperation. The course will explore how elite culture, domestic social forces, development, and cultural identities influenced national political cultures, and how these in turn shaped Latin American foreign policies.

Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

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U85 IA 5215 Grand Strategy

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

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U85 IA 5230 The Law of the Sea: Governing the Oceans and Marine Resources

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI
U85 IA 524 Process and Design of Research
This course introduces students in the International Affairs program to research design and methods and to the relationship of theory to research in the social sciences, with the aim of preparing students for writing research papers. Areas to be explored include overall research design, case selection, and literature reviews. The importance of theory is stressed.
Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5242 Data Analysis for International Affairs
This course is an introduction to the concepts, tools, and procedures for quantitative analysis that is specifically tailored for application in International Affairs. Students will learn to locate, collect, clean, and store quantitative data relevant to international affairs; download, install, and perform basic tasks using the statistical software R; use descriptive statistics to visualize data for a variety of professional formats including oral presentations, written memos, and public websites; and understand the basic principles of statistical analysis to fit models of data using ordinary least squares and generalized linear models. The course is designed for adult learners and addresses the fear of math that prevents them from developing these important skills. It serves as an optional Part II for the mandatory Process and Design of Research course, preparing students for their directed research projects and developing their competency in a high-demand skill that will broaden their employment opportunities after graduation.
Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5264 Environmental Ethics
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAA

U85 IA 5273 Introduction to Israel Studies
An exploration of Israel in the Jewish experience from antiquity to modernity and in the history and culture of the Middle East. Special attention will be paid to the modern state of Israel and current issues in its politics, economy, and society. L75 5273 is intended for graduate students only.
Same as L75 JIMES 3273
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: IS

U85 IA 5275 Diplomacy
Students in this course will delve into the world of US diplomacy and the role it plays in international affairs. They’ll be introduced to the diplomatic profession through readings, simulations and frequent interaction with professionals in and around the US government. Through multi-party negotiations, case studies, press briefings and cable writing, students will emulate the work of those building relationships to address complex issues and advance American interests in a dynamic world.
Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5290 China’s Role in the 21st Century
This course will examine China’s global impact in the 21st century. Beginning with an overview of its current political and economic configuration, we will explore China’s complex global interactions, examining these from the perspective of Western and Asian nations, together with the view from within China. Drawing from the interdisciplinary scholarship of political scientists, economists, and anthropologists, as well as the writings of politicians, business leaders, and ordinary people, we will investigate how Chinese society and its mix of political and economic institutions have the potential to reshape international politics, the global economy, and the environment.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAA

U85 IA 530 Modern Middle East
This course will explore the rapidly changing role of the media in Arab and Muslim societies in reporting about revolts and conflicts, the “Arab Spring,” and the chronic impasse between Israel and the Palestinians. We will study the impact of social media, which have afforded greater access to “real-time” images of the Syrian civil war than was possible with previous conflicts. We will investigate the formation of public opinion in the Arab and Muslim worlds – in particular, the role of state-supported media operations such as Al Jazeera. We will compare the style and substance of Israeli and Arab media sources and the role of professional versus citizen journalists in covering newsworthy events.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAA, OLI

U85 IA 5306 The Modern Mediterranean: Facts and Fictions
The countries and cultures around the entire Mediterranean basin have provided, and have been the scene of, much of the world’s recorded history. In the 20th century, however, writers set out to explore, either by actual travel or else in their imagination alone, many of its lesser known corners: forgotten imperial ruins in Tunisia; remote and semi-primitive mountain villages of Crete; dusty and disease-ridden towns steeped in medieval customs in the Sahara; the secretive, aesthetically dazzling souks of Alexandria. In doing so, they often found many fascinating, if previously hidden and frequently disturbing places, peoples, behaviors. But sometimes, instead, they discovered mere symbolic fodder for an implied or sometimes even explicit critique of their own native lands and social mores. In this course, we shall consider examples of the former in works like Andre Gide’s Immoralist, Nikos Kazantzakis’ Zorba the Greek, Paul Bowles’ The Sheltering Sky, and Lawrence Durrell’s Justine. As for the latter, our attention will turn to even more contemporary works, such as Derek Walcott’s Omeros, which is partially based on the Homeric tale of Ulysses’ wanderings around the Mediterranean, but which aims primarily at questioning the history of colonialism and cultural memory of his own Caribbean island of Saint Lucia. While students will pay attention to the stylistic features of these works, to understand better the role rhetoric plays in such fiction, they will also study closely the various important sociopolitical, economic, religious, and philosophical concerns raised by their authors. Some excerpts of film adaptations of these works are also used. Primary readings should be mostly completed in advance of the course.
Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5310 National Security Decision-Making
This course will both simulate and seek ways to improve our national security decision-making process. Students will embody the various perspectives and priorities of strategic decision-makers, gaining an appreciation for the interagency process and the challenges of making foreign policy in a complex and fast-paced environment. Students will hone professional writing, oral presentation, negotiation and collaboration skills as we explore complicated challenges in cyber, climate and human security. We will explore both traditional and newer, more diverse voices in the international relations realm, in an effort to broaden both our concept of national security and the ranks of those who are making decisions about it.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, OLI

U85 IA 5321 Africa and International Development Aid Policy
This course will examine the role that international actors play in the process of domestic development policy. With a focus on the nations of Africa, we will explore the history and evolution of key international entities, including financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, nongovernmental organizations such as Oxfam, and multinational organizations such as the United Nations. We will consider competing theories and strategies on what constitutes
the best development policy practices. A selection of case studies will help assess the effectiveness of policy tools to promote or hinder development in poor countries. Readings will include works by Jeffrey Sachs, Paul Collier, Amartya Sen, and William Easterley.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAA

U85 IA 5333 The Post-Cold War Order

This course will cover key developments in post-Cold War politics. Beginning with an assessment of the problem of achieving order in an international system lacking central authority, we will examine the emergence of international institutions intended to regulate global and regional security, nuclear weapons proliferation, the world economy, and the global environment. We will then consider ethnic and cultural sources of cooperation and conflict, including the "end of history" and "clash of civilizations" theses. Next, we will examine the challenge posed by American primacy, the development of international law and cooperation, and trends toward both globalization and regionalization. We will conclude by assessing approaches to the global war on terror.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI, IAI

U85 IA 535 American Foreign Policy

This course begins with a survey of the historical foundations of American foreign policy. Having established a broad understanding of the issues that have confronted the nation, we closely examine the current political climate and the challenges that the United States faces in terms of its economic and physical security. Finally, we consider strategies for dealing with the threats and challenges that beset this nation.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, OLI

U85 IA 5400 NGOs in the International System

Over the past several decades, NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) have become an integral part of international politics, addressing crucial problems pertaining to environmental degradation, human rights, immigration, poverty, disease, and so forth. This course will explore ways in which NGOs influence the shaping and execution of policy in international affairs. We will first consider the rise of NGOs and the rationale for their emergence, then examine — through case studies in Africa, Asia, South America, and the former Soviet Union — how they have approached their mission and whether they have succeeded.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI, OLI

U85 IA 5402 Mathematical Modeling in Political Science

This course is designed to provide mathematical tools useful for the rest of the statistical methods sequence, as well as for other courses in formal theory or mathematical modeling. Throughout the course, the mathematical tools are motivated by applications to the general problem of how politics can be modeled for purposes of statistical analysis, deductive reasoning, or conceptual theorizing. This motivation is accomplished by means of a consistent focus on such processes as individual decision making, the representation of issues, statistical phenomena, and phenomena of change over time. The course assumes a sufficient background in elementary algebra, logic, functions, and graphs; remedial work in these areas will be offered through a review course during the last week or two of summer. Mathematical topics covered include: sets and relations; probability; differential calculus and optimization; difference equations; and linear algebra. Same as L32 Pol Sci 5052.

Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5403 Global Collective Action: Why Do Nations Cooperate? Climate Change and Other Cases

Nation-states act in their self-interest — so how and when do they come together to address global problems? From nuclear disarmament to small pox eradication to tackling climate change, nations must transcend or transform self-interest to deal with these problems. Collective action and concepts such as tragedy of the commons, free riders, and prisoner's dilemma, will be taught in the context of global problems. We will examine the role of the nation-state, non-state players and the sub-national players in the pursuit of global governance. With a focus on climate change negotiations, we will delve into what collective action means for the big economies (U.S., China, Russia), for the not-so-big economies and for the small island nations and indigenous peoples, and what this action means within the current international system and regimes.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI, OLI

U85 IA 541 The Global Village in the 21st Century

More than 50 years ago, McLuhan predicted that humans across the globe would become part of a global village linked by various forms of communications. With the Internet and telecommunications, that day has arrived. This online course will explore how global communications systems have evolved, how they work, and how they affect vital policies of nation-states as well as central banks, political leaders, and ordinary citizens. We will explore the ways in which hackers can penetrate secure systems (e.g., elections) and create misleading images and impressions as well as how to counteract those actions. A research paper is required.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI, OLI

U85 IA 5410 Alternative Analytic Techniques for International Affairs

This course instills analytic rigor and imagination into the consideration of our most pressing national security issues. Based on structured analytic techniques employed in the Intelligence Community, students in this course will hone critical thinking skills, consider overlooked ideas, and develop unique perspectives. Students will be given the tools to recognize and overcome biases, mental shortcuts, and unstated assumptions and to challenge conventional wisdom through the analysis of U.S. foreign and counter-terrorism policy and current events in the Middle East, China, and North Korea.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, IAI, OLI

U85 IA 5420 Indian Barbie, Asian Tigers, and IT Dreams: Politics of Globalization and Development in South Asia

This course will explore how South Asia is at the heart of current debates about globalization, development, empire, gender, sexuality, and ethnic identity. We’ll ask how changes in technology, medicine, and the economy correspond with those in society and human rights. Topics include the growth of markets, religious fundamentalism, biopiracy and water wars, farmer suicides, consumerism, and reproductive technology. Readings, films, and discussions will take us to countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and India. Assignments include weekly written critiques of the readings, and several short papers.

Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, IAA, OLH

U85 IA 5443 Drones, Surveillance, and Biometrics: Global Cyberwar in the 21st Century

This course examines how the practice of militarism is changing worldwide through the development of new technologies. How are governments reshaping the practice of war and diplomacy with the use of unmanned drones to fight wars, biometric eye and finger scanners to patrol borders and immigration, wiretapping on civilian populations to conduct surveillance of foreign terrorists, etc.? How are civilians and nonstate actors engaging in cyberwar, as in the network attacks from China on major corporations like Google? What does it mean that
anyone (from militants to humanitarian groups) can now buy drones on the market from private firms? How has a former judge in Montana posed online as an Iraqi cyberspy for the U.S. government? We will assess theories and implications of these developments in readings from sociology, international relations, and science and technology studies. Guest speakers will be invited from institutions around the St. Louis region, such as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Boeing, legal specialists, and privacy advocates.

Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5450 Confronting Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): International Legal, Political, & Military Frameworks
This course will examine and evaluate the mechanisms employed by states to address the global problem of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) — nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery. We will establish a framework of understanding about WMD while exploring relevant historical developments. We will focus on a comparison of states’ WMD-control/nonproliferation strategies and their WMD-counter-proliferation strategies. We will also consider the matter of complementing the latter strategies with UN Security Council action. The course will conclude with a consideration of the nuclear-weapon abolition debate and viable WMD-control futures.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5451 Global Poverty
This course examines the contributions of economists and political scientists to analyzing the nature of poverty, to evaluating strategies for reducing or eliminating poverty, and to considering the effects of globalization on the poor. We also focus on ethical matters; namely, our moral obligation to the poor — both those in foreign lands and those who are fellow citizens. The relevant arguments and planning schemes will be assessed and compared.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5494 Indonesia: History, Society, Culture, and International Relations
Indonesia is the largest nation in Southeast Asia and the world’s fourth most populous, with its largest Muslim population. This course will survey the history, politics, and culture of Indonesia. It will cover topics relating to religion, the arts and media, terrorism and ethnic violence, and a burgeoning economy that has generated serious ecological damage. In addition to studying the complexity and diversity of the Indonesian archipelago and its people, we will explore Indonesia’s evolving presence on the global stage.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 550 Current Issues in International Affairs: China and Its Changing Role in Asia
Topic varies from semester to semester.

Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5501 Civil War and Peace
This course examines the causes and consequences of civil war as well as potential solutions to it, drawing on examples from countries throughout the world. The potential causes of intra-state violence include ethnic and religious identities, economic and security concerns, elite manipulation, and international diffusion. The different tools for managing intra-state conflict that we examine include minority representation, power-sharing, decentralization, and partition.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 551 The Culture of Global Neoliberalism
This course will study neoliberalism, a key socioeconomic approach to the free market and influential model for development, as a phenomenon that has fundamentally affected politics, ideology, and culture across the global-local spectrum. We will explore concepts such as globalism, citizenship, consumerism, private governance, NGOs and the commodification of identity. Our coverage will incorporate the work of David Harvey, Alhwa Ong, Slavoj Zizek, Néstor García Canclini, and Kim Feltner.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 553 International Business
Today’s business environment has become increasingly global, and it is imperative that business leaders understand the theories, institutions, and environmental elements that underlie international commerce. Globalization of businesses presents not only the opportunity to sell to world markets but also the challenges of potential competitors in nearly every industry. The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to economic theories, international commercial entities, and the political and cultural environments that form the context for global business. Topics include country-market differences, trade and investment patterns, the international financial environment, issues in business-government relations, and strategies for international business. We focus on opportunities for, threats to, and options facing the multicultural business enterprises.

Credit 2 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5553 Geopolitics in the 21st Century
In this course we undertake a conceptual history of geopolitics. The term “geopolitics” emerged near the end of the 19th century in relation to new forms of nationalism and imperialist competition in Europe and beyond. During the Cold War, geopolitics was used to denote a global struggle between the capitalist Western bloc and the Soviet Eastern bloc, which finally ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Today, geopolitics is more relevant than ever as new global power struggles characterize the post-post-Cold War world. The realm of geopolitics has expanded in the 21st century to include issues and questions previously ignored during the Cold War: civilizational clashes, global warming, social movement struggles, global finance, and transnational communication networks. Geopolitics now implicates global environmental degradation and ethnonationalism. We will examine the history, concepts, policies, and practices of geopolitics from the late 19th century to the present. We will also critically investigate the “new geopolitics” of an emerging multipolarity, the return to Great Power politics, and the renewed interest in geopolitical narratives of the 21st century.

Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U85 IA 5571 Politics of Global Finance
Global finance underwent stunning transformations over the past 40 years. The changes contribute to interdependence, challenge national sovereignty, alter state-society relations, affect economic development, and influence the distribution of wealth and power in the global political economy. The seminar examines the political economy of monetary relations, the globalization of capital markets, and their effects upon domestic and international affairs.

Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, IAI

U85 IA 5581 Domestic Politics and U.S. Foreign Policy Decision-Making
This course examines U.S. foreign policy from the perspective of domestic politics, with the aim of understanding how our political institutions affect foreign policy outcomes. The first section of the course provides an overview of the paradigms that have been used to understand foreign policy decision-making and examines the electoral and interest group pressures that influence decisions. The second
section studies the chief political branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) and their role in foreign policy. The final section covers the major bureaucratic agencies involved in foreign policy decisions.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAA

U85 IA 559 International Political Economy in Theory and Practice
Globalization, the accelerating rate of interaction between people of different countries, creates a qualitative shift in the relationship between nation-states and national economies. Conflict and war is one form of international interaction. Movement of capital, goods, services, production, information, disease, environmental degradation, and people across national boundaries are other forms of international interactions. This course will introduce the study of global political-economic relations and will develop a theoretical tool kit that will help students explore the globalization of material and social relations.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5630 Inside the Intelligence Community
This course will provide an in-depth look at the United States Intelligence Community (IC) — the different agencies of which the IC is composed and their varying missions, priorities and resources — and how intelligence informs national security decision-making. Students will analyze long-term national security issues on which the government would like to focus as well as the short-term crisis issues on which the government must focus. Students will write strategic analytical products and simulate inter-agency coordination and testimony before Congress.
Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 565 From Mikado to Makudo: A Literary View of Japanese Culture
This course will survey Japan’s social and cultural history through selected literary works that span the seventh century (Mikado) to the present day (Makudo). Our readings — including fiction, poetry, drama, and personal writings — will serve as guides to key historical epochs: the aristocratic culture of the Heian era (Tale of Genji), the warrior society of the medieval era (Tale of the Heike), and the insular Tokugawa period (Tales of the duck). Novels by Soseki, Tanizaki, Mishima, and Oe will expose the complexities of modern Japan. Students will gain an appreciation of Japan’s unique heritage, social complexity, and place in East Asia and the world today.
Same as U89 MLA 5565
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U85 IA 5652 Korea: History, Culture, and People
This course will provide a comprehensive overview of Korea — its long history, its cultural heritage, its people — and the complexity of Korea’s place within East Asia and in the larger global context. Topics will include: the Korean War and its aftermath, the fraught North-South relationship, national and cultural identity, the gender question, collective memory, and the tension between tradition and modernization/globalization.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, IAA

U85 IA 5711 Issues in Applied Ethics
The aim of this course is to examine crucial ethical questions that have come to shape contemporary international relations. For instance, what is the responsibility of affluent countries to those in poverty? Should nations have a right to close their borders to immigrants seeking a better life? What is the normative justification for an international criminal court, and under what conditions should this court override the laws and sovereignty of nation states? We will survey the major ethical schools of thought and apply their approaches to prevalent moral debates. This theoretical background will facilitate our investigation of and reflection upon the challenging moral issues that confront us today.
Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 572 The Politics of International Trade
This course examines the politics and debates surrounding international trade. The course begins with a brief overview of the basic economic theory underlying the idea of free trade. With that as a background, we explore the distributional and political consequences of trade flows in terms of both the politics of trade liberalization and the politics of protectionism. The course then explores the World Trade Organization and attempts at regional integration such as the EU, NAFTA and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas. The course concludes with a series of in-class debates on several major trade policies, such as the issue of outsourcing, agricultural subsidies in developed countries, the recent Dubai sports deal, and the apparent resurgence of economic nationalism, as well as the relationship between increased trade and environmental protection.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5721 Energy, International Politics, and the Quest for Power
This course will examine the history and political implications of oil, the world’s preeminent strategic resource. We will trace the “flow” of oil from its discovery in 1859 to its current role as fuel for the global economy. We will explore oil in relation to military conflict and to the energy competition among Russia, China, the U.S., and other powers. We will study the relation between energy resources, business strategies, political power, and foreign policy.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 574 International Relations
Globalization, the accelerating rate of interaction between people of different countries, creates a qualitative shift in the relationship between nation-states and national economies. Conflict and war is one form of international interaction. Movement of capital, goods, services, production, information, disease, environmental degradation, and people across national boundaries are other forms of international interactions. This course introduces major approaches, questions, and controversies in the study of international relations. In a small group seminar we will examine the building blocks of world politics, the sources of international conflict and cooperation, and the globalization of material and social relations.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, OLH, OLI

U85 IA 5772 State Failure, State Success and Development
This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining the role governments play in development and economic outcomes. We will look at some of the competing arguments about governments in failed and successful states and compare those arguments to the empirical world, or data. In so doing we will recognize that how governments affect development and economic outcomes in society is neither straightforward nor consistent with any of the ideological screeds that often dominate public discourse.
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAC, IAI

U85 IA 5784 Global Leadership
This course will study leadership issues in various global and multicultural settings. We will focus on developing an understanding of global leadership skills and the means of fostering such skills. Attention will be paid to practices that advance ethical awareness, diversity, and effective conflict management. We will discuss exemplary leaders such as Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, and Nelson Mandela. The course will feature...
an in-depth coverage of relevant theories and research on leadership in global and multicultural organizations. We will discuss team leadership and team collaboration skills within a culturally diverse world, as well as current events relating to global leadership. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5820 Ukraine in Turmoil
This course will examine recent events in Ukraine and their underlying long-term causes. We will consider the riots of February of 2014 and how the subsequent overthrow of the scandal-ridden Yanukovich government became a bloody civil war in Eastern Ukraine. The class will study the geopolitical Ukraine in the Eurasian land mass, and the tension it has generated between the Russian Federation, United States, and western Europe. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5825 Cold War 2.0 and the Balkans
This course examines the prospects of reemerging Cold War tensions between the United States and the Russian Federation with the Balkans serving as the central focus of such tensions. We will examine these tensions within the broader context of power projection and energy initiatives that drive international relations in the region. Topics include: grand strategy, arc of instability, competing pipeline corridors, ethnic and confessional strife, non-state actors operating in Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, and Bulgaria. Credit 1 unit.

U85 IA 5861 Virtual Money Makes the World Go Round: Paypal, Bitcoin, and the Global Politics of Demonetization
Markets are shifting from paper to virtual currencies, but are the benefits experienced evenly around the world? This course will examine the transformation to cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and mobile payment systems like Paypal. It will ask how state governments and policymakers are responding and the impact for communities of the poor, ethnic minorities, and women in the global south. Can mobile money circumspect broadscale governmental corruption, or does it solidify the power of elites? Are farmers in Kenya able to use their phones to get better prices for their harvests, or do mobile payment apps submerge them in debt to financial institutions? Why does the demonetization program in India, which removed lower-currency paper bills from circulation, rob rural women of their life savings? Who are the hidden workers of these new industries, like villagers in outsourcing centers who process financial data for the global north? What is the impact on the environment, as Bitcoin servers around the world collectively consume as much energy as the country of Denmark? What does it mean that widespread cryptocurrencies are operating completely outside of state regulations and oversight? We will bring in financial and international development experts and explore local debates in St. Louis, such as the role of our tech hub in designing mobile payment apps and the activist campaigns against payday lenders. Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5880 Against Development: International Affairs Otherwise
One of the key tenets of 20th-century geopolitics -- from various models of modernization theory to contemporary understandings of neocolonial and neoliberal theory -- has been the idea of development as a key goal to address economic and political inequalities in the world system. This course focuses on different lines of thinking that challenge this worldview. We examine the work of both global north dissident thinkers and global south traditions of thinking, such as dependency theory, decolonialism, and liberation philosophy. The course will depart from critiques of the idea of development as an extension of colonialism and imperialism by authors like John Patrick Leary and Arturo Escobar. It will continue to discuss critiques of the contemporary geopolitical and geo-economic orders from the perspective of global south countries through contexts such as necropolitics (Achille Mbembe), gore capitalism (Sayak Valencia) and slow violence (Rob Nixon). The course will conclude with the study of theories that propose postdevelopmental and counterdevelopmental models of economic organization and political engagement, including decolonialism (Macarena Gómez Barris and others), "Epistemologies of the South" (Boaventure de Sousa Santos) and "Neoliberalism from Below" (Verónica Gago). Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5881 Israel and the Middle East
Places Israeli political issues and events within the context of existing political theories. Discusses the politics and ideology of pre-state Israel and the foundation of the state. The creation of modern Israel political institutions, elections, and government coalitions. Also, Israeli foreign policy and international involvement. This is a fully online course. Only University College students may receive credit for online courses. Credit 3 units.

U85 IA 5888 International Affairs Through Film
This seminar explores key topics in international affairs — nuclear policy and brinkmanship, the Vietnam War and its legacy, genocide, the failed-state syndrome, among others — through the analysis of a series of films that dramatize major events and epochs in our recent history. The "primary texts" will be films such as Dr. Strangelove, Z, Hotel Rwanda, and The Fog of War. They will be supplemented by related readings. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 5889 Topics in International Political Economy
This course is intended to provide a broad exploration of multiple topics in the field of international political economy. We will draw from the literature in international relations, comparative politics, and economics to develop an understanding of international politics. We will address the following topics: 1) politics of international trade, 2) exchange policies and central banking, 3) foreign aid and development, 4) financial crisis, 5) international institutions, and 6) migration. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 591 Islam and Muslim Societies in the World Order
Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI

U85 IA 592 Modern Russia and the International Community: New Cold War
The Cold War supposedly ended in the late 1980s, yet the United States and Russian Federation are on the brink of another period of escalating tensions. In a recent press conference the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, issued a dire warning to the United States and its NATO allies. He said the forward deployment of U.S. “Aegis Ashore” missiles in Romania posed an offensive threat to Russia, and for this reason the world is in great danger. This course examines how this new era of strained relations between nuclear powers came to pass with special emphasis on U.S.-Russian relations from 1989 to 2016. Ancillary topics include the Ukraine crisis and Erdogan’s volte-face with Moscow. Credit 3 units. UColl: IAI