

Pathways through the Government Major International Relations

The study of international relations focuses on patterns of interaction among sovereign states and other actors in the international system, as well as the global processes that shape such relations. To concentrate in International Relations, Government majors must take at least one 200-level course in the field, as well as two related courses, one of which must be a seminar. These courses, as well as related courses in other disciplines, are described below.

Beyond the concentration, Smith students can strengthen their understanding of international relations through study abroad, minors in related fields, Five College Certificate programs, and numerous co-curricular activities. Interested students should contact one of the international relations advisors to discuss these opportunities.

Courses

Students wishing to concentrate in International Relations should begin with GOV 100 (Introduction to Political Thinking) before moving to the gateway course for the concentration, GOV 241 (International Politics). GOV 241 provides an introduction to the theoretical and empirical study of international relations, and serves as a basis for further study in any of the following sub-specialties within the IR concentration:

- International Security
- U.S. Foreign Policy
- International Political Economy and Development
- International Institutions
- The Politics of Globalization

Below are listed specific courses for each of these sub-specialties, as well as related courses from outside the Government major.

International Security

These courses address the politics of war and peace, including theories of international security, case studies of specific conflicts, and the technologies and impacts of warfare.

- GOV 241: International Politics
- GOV 244: Foreign Policy of the United States
- GOV 245: Global Terrorism
- GOV 246: Politics and the Experience of War
- GOV 248: The Arab-Israeli Dispute
- GOV 250: Case Studies in International Relations (depending on subject)
- GOV 259: Theories of International Relations
- GOV 341: Seminar in International Relations: Politics of Torture
- GOV 345: Seminar in International Politics: Intelligence
- GOV 348: Seminar in International Politics: Conflict and Cooperation in Asia

The following are examples of non-Government courses that could be relevant for students wishing to focus on international security:

- EAS 210: Culture and Diplomacy in Asia
- HST 208: The Making of the Modern Middle East
- HST 217: World War Two in East Asia: History and Memory
- HST 239: Empire-building in Eurasia since 1750
- HST 307: Problems in Middle East History: The Middle East and World War One

Foreign Policy

These courses address the history, theory, and politics of individual states' foreign policies. This includes how foreign policy decisions are made, how they impact other countries and peoples around the world, and how they relate to domestic values and traditions.

- GOV 244: Foreign Policy of the United States
- GOV 250: Case Studies in International Relations (depending on subject)
- GOV 251: Foreign Policy of Japan
- GOV 304: Seminar in American Government: Pathologies of Power
- GOV 304: Seminar in American Government: Communism and Anti-Communism in America
- GOV 341: Seminar in International Relations: Politics of Torture
- GOV 341: Seminar in International Relations: U.S. Foreign Policy, Human Rights and Democracy
- GOV 344: Seminar on Foreign Policy of the Chinese People's Republic
- GOV 345: Seminar in International Politics: Intelligence

The following are examples of non-Government courses that could be relevant for students wishing to focus on foreign policy:

- EAS 219: Modern Korean History
- EAS 210: Culture and Diplomacy in Asia
- HST 239: Empire-building in Eurasia since 1750
- HST 267: The United States since 1898

International Political Economy and Development

These courses consider the politics of global economic development, including competing theoretical approaches to political economy, as well as specific issues such as trade, debt, poverty and inequality, and the forms and functions of economic globalization.

- GOV 233: Problems in Political Development
- GOV 241: International Politics
- GOV 250: Case Studies in International Relations (depending on subject)
- GOV 255: The Global Politics of Resistance and Change
- GOV 259: Theories of International Relations

- GOV 343: Corruption and Global Governance
- GOV 347: Seminar in International Politics and Comparative Politics: North Africa in the International System

The following are examples of non-Government courses that could be relevant for students wishing to focus on international political economy and development:

- ANT 236: Economy, Ecology and Society
- ANT 241: Anthropology of Development
- ECO 153: Introductory Macroeconomics
- ECO 253: Intermediate Macroeconomics
- ECO 209: Comparative Economic Systems
- ECO 211: Economic Development
- ECO 213: The World Food System
- ECO 295: International Trade and Commercial Policy
- ECO 296: International Finance
- ECO 395: Seminar: Topics in International Trade
- HST 201: The Silk Road
- HST 208: The Making of the Modern Middle East
- HST 239: Empire-building in Eurasia since 1750
- HST 249: Early Modern Europe 1600-1815
- HST 250: Europe in the 19th Century
- HST 257: East Africa in the 19th and 20th Centuries
- HST 257: History of Central Africa
- HST 261/LAS 261: National Latin America, 1821 to the Present
- SOC 236: Beyond Borders: The New Global Political Economy

International Institutions

International institutions have become increasingly important actors in international politics. These courses analyze the functions and effectiveness of such organizations in areas including global and regional governance, security, and economic development.

- GOV 221: European Politics
- GOV 241: International Politics
- GOV 242: International Political Economy
- GOV 250: Case Studies in International Relations (depending on subject)
- GOV 259: International Organizations
- GOV 343: Corruption and Global Governance
- GOV 352: Seminar: European Integration

The following are examples of non-Government courses that could be relevant for students wishing to focus on international institutions:

- ECO 266: Economics of European Integration
- ECO 295: International Trade and Commercial Policy
- ECO 375: Seminar: The Theory and Practice of Central Banking

- ECO 395: Seminar: Topics in International Trade
- SOC 236: Beyond Borders: The New Global Political Economy

The Politics of Globalization

These courses address the evolving politics of trans-national issues such as the environment, trade, migration, investment and capital flows, technology, and crime.

- GOV 241: International Politics
- GOV 250: Case Studies in International Relations (depending on subject)
- GOV 254: Politics of the Global Environment
- GOV 255: The Global Politics of Resistance and Change
- GOV 257: Refugee Politics
- GOV 343: Corruption and Global Governance

The following are examples of non-Government courses that could be relevant for students wishing to focus on the politics of globalization:

- ANT 271: Globalization and Transnationalism in Africa
- ECO 213: The World Food System
- ECO 395: Seminar: Topics in International Trade
- HST 280: Inquiries into United States Social History: Globalization, Im/migration and the Transnational Imaginary
- HST 358: Problems in African History: Ecology and Imperialism in African History
- SOC 232: World Population
- SOC 233: Environment and Society
- SOC 236: Beyond Borders: The New Global Political Economy
- SOC 237: Gender and Globalization: Culture, Power and Trade
- SOC 327: Seminar: Global Migration in the 21st Century
- SOC 332: Seminar in Environmental Sociology