International Relations

The objective of the International Relations concentration is to foster creative thinking about pressing global problems and to equip students with the analytic tools, language expertise, and cross-cultural understanding to guide them in that process. To this end, the concentration draws on numerous departments including political science, history, economics, anthropology, sociology, psychology, religious studies, and area studies. The IR concentration is organized around a multidisciplinary core and two sub-themes: security and society, and political economy and society. It has a three-year language requirement that must be linked to the student’s selected region of the world. All concentrators are required to undertake a capstone project using research in a second language.

Requirements

The IR concentration requires 14 courses and the equivalent of 3 years study of a second language.

Core Courses

Students must take all 5 core courses, preferably during freshman or sophomore year. AP credit does not count toward the concentration.

- ANTH 0110: Anthropology and Global Social Problems: Environment, Development, and Governance
- ECON 0110: Principles of Economics
- HIST 1900: American Empire Since 1890
- POLS 0400: Introduction to International Politics
  or POLS 0200: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- SOC 1620: Globalization and Social Conflict (WRIT)

Track Requirements (five courses from ONE track distributed between the sub-themes): 1

Security and Society:
- Governance and Diplomacy (two or three courses): EXAMPLES
  - INTL 1443: History of American Intervention
  - INTL 1700: International Law
  - INTL 1802C: Cyber Conflict and Internet Freedom
  - POLS 1500: The International Law and Politics of Human Rights
  - POLS 1560: American Foreign Policy
  - POLS 1822A: Nuclear Weapons and International Politics
- Society (two or three courses): EXAMPLES
  - ANTH 1232: War and Society
  - ANTH 1233: Ethnographies of Global Connection: Politics, Culture and International Relations
  - ANTH 1411: Nations within States
  - HIST 1350: Modern Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity
  - INTL 1400: Religion and Global Politics
  - POLS 1380: Ethnic Politics and Conflict
  - SOC 1270: Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the Modern World

Political Economy and Society:
- Economics (two or three courses): All students MUST take Micro and Macro
  - ECON 1110: Intermediate Microeconomics
  - ECON 1210: Intermediate Macroeconomics
  - Plus an International Economics course: EXAMPLES
  - ECON 1500: Current Global Macroeconomic Challenges
  - ECON 1540: International Trade
  - ECON 1550: International Finance
- Political Economy (two or three courses): EXAMPLES
  - ANTH 0450: Inequality, Sustainability, and Mobility in a Car-Clogged World
  - ANTH 1324: Money, Work, and Power: Culture and Economics
  - INTL 1802O: Global Corporate Accountability: Issues of Governance, Responsibility and NGOs
  - INTL 1802S: Politics of International Finance
  - POLS 1020: Politics of the Illicit Global Economy
  - POLS 1420: Money and Power in the International Political Economy

Research Methods

Prior to 7th semester. Quantitative or qualitative course from approved list.

Regional Focus

Both courses must be on the same area. Students are required to link these to language study.

Language

Three years university study or equivalent. Must correspond to region.

Capstone Course, from the following options:

- Must be taken senior year. Must incorporate language skills.
  - a.) Senior seminar paper (see website for approved senior seminars) WRIT, OR
  - b.) Independent Study Research Project WRIT, OR
  - c.) Honors thesis (two courses: INTL 1910, INTL 1920) WRIT

Total Credits

14

This is only a subset of the more comprehensive list of applicable courses. See IR website for current list.

Detailed lists of courses that satisfy these requirements may be obtained from the IR program website. (http://brown.edu/academics/international-relations/node/227)

The program has a director, an associate director/concentration advisor, and two faculty advisors for each track to assist students in planning their academic programs.