

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR) FIELD CURRICULUM

The International Relations (IR) field seeks to understand and explain phenomena that transcend national borders by analyzing international, global, transnational and/or regional problems and processes. Topics addressed in IR include war and peace; the relationship between global political and economic processes and their regional and local manifestations; the development and workings of international institutions, organization and law; international cooperation on the environment, security, health, and other issue-areas; the gendered nature of global relations; and religion, race, ethnicity and other forms of identity that transcend borders.

IR in Political Science at UCI is methodologically pluralist, using approaches including formal models, statistical analysis, interpretivism, case studies, survey methods, interviews, experiments and beyond. The UC Irvine Political Science Department's IR five-course curriculum is designed to provide graduate students with a strong foundation in the subfields and range of methodologies in the discipline, train students broadly and deeply in the theories and concepts appropriate to specific subfields and issue-areas that cut across them, and allow students to develop and complete innovative dissertations in a timely fashion.

To add IR as a field, students should meet the following three requirements:

1. Take the following **TWO** “foundational courses” ...

Field Seminar in IR Theory

Methodology and Research Design in IR

2. Take **ONE** “core course” from an IR subfield **and ONE** “core course” from a different IR subfield. The IR subfields are listed in bold. The core courses are listed in italics and parentheses.

Foreign Policy (e.g. *State Formation, Weak States*)

International Law and Organizations (e.g. *Global Governance, Just War Revisited, Governing Global Finance*)

International Political Economy (e.g. *International Political Economy*)

International Peace and Security (e.g. *Causes of War, Managing Conflict and Building Peace, Morality During War, War and Humanism*)

Constructivism and Critical Studies in IR (e.g. *Constructivism, Global Humanitarianism and its Critics*)

3. Take at least **ONE** IR “elective” course. Students can choose an additional core course above OR can choose a course from the list below:

Interpretive/Qualitative Methods

International Environmental Politics

International Feminist Theory

IR Theory and East Asia

Religion and Secularism in IR

Note: This elective course list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Courses that have substantial IR content can potentially satisfy this requirement. However, the ultimate decision will reside with the IR Field Coordinator. When possible in consultation with the IR faculty group, the coordinator will answer questions and resolve any issues regarding additional or substitute courses.

Finally, the IR faculty strongly encourages students to develop competence in at least one foreign language to fulfill the Advanced Skills requirement and to train broadly in methods and research design. In addition to statistics, the department offers courses in Interpretive/Qualitative Methods and Formal Methods. Outside of UCI, IR students may wish to consider additional qualitative and quantitative methods courses available at workshops and conferences (e.g. ICPSR, IQMR, VIM) and for which students can apply for departmental funding.