

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR) FIELD CURRICULUM

International Relations is the fastest-growing field of study in Political Science. It 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.

International Relations in Political Science at UCI is methodologically pluralist, using approaches including formal models, statistical analysis, case studies, institutionalism, constructivism, poststructuralism and interpretivism.

The UC Irvine Political Science Department's five-course IR curriculum is designed to provide graduate students with a strong foundation in the four 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.

All IR students must take two required "foundational" courses:

Field Seminar in IR Theory

Methodology and Research Design in IR

- 1. All IR students must take two courses from the following "core" list of major subfields and approaches:**

IR Survey Course (co-taught)

International Security

Institutional Theory

Constructivism

International Political Economy

International Cooperation

Decision-Making in Foreign Policy

International Law

- 2. All IR students must take at least one "elective" course, choosing from the following list (to be updated every 2-3 years), or from other courses added annually by the IR Field Coordinator. Of course, students will greatly benefit professionally from taking more than one of these courses:**

Globalization and Its Discontents

Counter-Insurgency

Religion and Secularism in IR

IR Theory and East Asia

Latin America

The Global South

International Trade

International Illegal Flows

Immigration and Citizenship

Ethics and IR

Gender and IR

Weak States

Political Order

Research Workshop

The Global Environment

The IR faculty strongly encourages students to develop competence in at least one foreign language to fulfill the Advanced Skills requirement. We also encourage students to train broadly in methods and research design. In addition to statistics, the department offers courses in Interpretive/Qualitative Methods and Formal Methods. The IR Field Coordinator, whenever possible in consultation with the IR faculty group, will answer questions and resolve any issues regarding additional or substitute courses.