Committee on International Relations

Chair
- Paul Staniland

Professors
- Michael Albertus, Political Science
- Ralph A. Austen (Emeritus), History
- John W. Boyer, History
- Mark Philip Bradley, History
- Austin Carson, Political Science
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, History
- Chiara Cordelli, Political Science
- Terry Clark, Sociology
- Bruce Cumings, History
- Marco Garrido, Sociology
- Adom Getachew, Political Science
- Tom Ginsberg, Law, Political Science
- Andreas Glaeser, Sociology
- Robert Gulotty, Political Science
- Susan Gzesh, Law
- Gary B. Herrigel, Political Science
- James Hevia, History
- Kimberley Kay Hoang, Sociology
- William Howell, Political Science
- Ryan Cecil Jobson, Anthropology
- Benjamin Lessing, Political Science
- Darryl Li, Anthropology
- Charles Lipson (Emeritus), Political Science
- Joseph P. Masco, Anthropology
- John J. Mearsheimer, Political Science
- Monika Nalepa, Political Science
- Robert Pape, Political Science
- Steven Pincus, History
- Jennifer Pitts, Political Science
- Paul Poast, Political Science
- Kenneth Pomeranz, History
- Eric Posner, Law
- James T. Sparrow, History
- Paul Staniland, Political Science
- Susan Stokes, Political Science
- Nathan Tarcov, Political Science, Social Thought
- Rochelle Layla Terman, Political Science
- Jennifer Trinh-Tri, Sociology
- Lisa Wedeen, Political Science
- Dali Yang, Political Science
- Dingxin Zhao, Sociology

Assistant Senior Instructional Lecturers
- Matthias Staish, International Relations

Senior Lecturer
Committee on International Relations

- Michael Reese, International Relations Lecturer
- Anjali Anand, International Relations Director of Career Services and Senior Program Officer
- Shelly Robinson, Career Preparation & Programming Manager
- Gözde Erdeniz, Student Affairs Administrator
- E.G. Enbar, Administrative and Events Program Specialist
- Vanessa Carey, Business Administrator
- Tekeisha Yelton-Hunter

GENERAL INFORMATION

The MA Program in the Committee on International Relations (CIR) is the nation’s oldest and preeminent professional research degree in International Relations. Students enroll in courses across the Social Sciences as well as UChicago’s Business, Law, and Public Policy schools. They specialize in two of our five field concentrations: International Security, Conflict Studies and Contentious Politics; International Political Economy and Development; Comparative Studies in Political Institutions and Identity; Human Rights, Environment, and International Law; and Research Methods in the Social Sciences.

CIR students take nine graduate courses and work directly with UChicago faculty on their MA thesis. Students are assisted in their course selections, and offered weekly mentorship for their research, by postdoctoral preceptors and by CIR staff.

CIR is highly selective for admission and offers substantial merit aid.

We offer exceptional career preparation that is tailored to the dozens of distinct career paths our students are pursuing. Our programming includes one-on-one advising on how to prepare a competitive PhD and JD application; internship and fellowship support; fully funded local, national, and international career development treks; and visits by leading alums who provide mentorship in a variety of fields.

Students interested in combining a CIR M.A. with an M.B.A. can apply to a joint degree program with the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. A dual M.A./M.A. degree with the Harris School of Public Policy and an M.A./J.D. with the University of Chicago Law School are also available.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE WORK

CIR students complete two core seminars, enroll in an MA thesis workshop sequence, and submit a faculty-approved MA thesis.

COURSE WORK

Our core seminars, “International Order and Security” and “International Political Economy” examine the theoretical and methodological approaches that have been broadly influential in the study of International Relations. The seminars feature a mix of foundational and contemporary texts. They furnish a common vocabulary, and core analytical skills, that help students understand how their research commitments have been shaped by past investigators.

In addition, students must successfully complete the introductory seminar Perspectives in International Relations (offered in the Autumn Quarter) and participate in the master’s thesis workshop throughout the academic year. Master’s workshops are led by CIR preceptors and give students the opportunity to present and discuss their research projects as they develop from proposal to final draft.

Because Perspectives is offered only in the Autumn Quarter, students may not begin the CIR program at any other time of year.

Courses are selected with the guidance of a CIR preceptor. Students register for three graduate classes per quarter, beginning in the Fall and continuing through the Winter and Spring. They take graduate courses in the departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, the centers for Latin American, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Studies, and professional schools of the University.
THE MASTER’S THESIS

Students write an article-length MA thesis under the supervision of a UChicago faculty member. Their preceptor provides weekly assistance, and serves as the paper’s second reader. The preceptor organizes and leads an MA thesis workshop in the Winter and Spring. Both the faculty sponsor and the preceptor provide feedback on the proposal, the first draft, and give a written evaluation for the final submission. Approximately 40% of CIR students graduate in June, and 60% in August.

SAMPLE THESIS TOPICS

Some recent MA paper titles include:
"From Knowledge to Power: The Social Sciences, Propaganda, and America’s Rise to Hegemony"
"The Structural Origins of Tax Havens"
"Listening to the People: How Declining Responsiveness Drives Populist Sentiments"
"American White Nationalists: Discourses of the Nation, the State, and Globalization"
"‘Doing Good Looks Good On You?’ Evaluating Corporate Social Responsibility and Women’s Empowerment at the UN Global Compact"
"Segregation and the Spatial Distribution of Violence in the Northern Ireland Conflict"
"Still Dying to Win: The Coercive Logic of Suicide Attacks against Autocracies"
"Practicing Nationalism in Historical Writing: Japan’s Changing Image in Official Chinese Historical Narratives, 1950s to 1990s"
"Mark the Earth with Ruin: Official Memory and Memorialization in Post-Genocide Cambodia and Rwanda"
"An Open Book?: A Look at How Democratic Security-Seekers Signal their Intentions"
"Globalization and the Convergence of Power"

M.A. WITH SPECIALIZATION

Students may apply for a second year of study, the M.A. with specialization. This second year requires an additional three quarters of residence during which the student takes an additional nine courses. Students apply for the second year with specialization during their first year in residence.

JOINT AND DUAL DEGREES

The joint degree program with the Chicago Booth School of Business is administered through the Division of the Social Sciences. Students pursuing a joint degree must fulfill all the requirements of the CIR degree in addition to the requirements of the respective professional degree, though there are some exceptions. Students enrolled in the dual J.D./M.A. program with the Law School take nine courses in their fourth year of study, three of which are typically law-school courses; the remaining six come from the CIR list of approved courses. Students enrolled in the joint M.B.A./M.A. program take a reduced course load of 14 courses in the Booth School of Business and the full nine courses in CIR. Students interested in the dual M.A./M.A. degree program should contact the Harris School of Public Policy for more information.

ADMISSION

CIR applicants must meet the formal requirements of the Graduate Social Sciences Division.

With one exception, applicants are no longer required to submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Applicants to the joint CIR and Booth School of Business degree program must submit either GRE or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) scores.

All financial aid is merit-based, and CIR offers tuition scholarships at the time of admission.

Applicants from non-English speaking countries must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Some non-native English speakers are exempt, if they have studied in an English language University. Please contact our Dean of Students Office with any questions: ssd-admissions@uchicago.edu

HOW TO APPLY

The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions and deadlines, is available online at: https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply/.

Applicants interested in the dual J.D./M.A. program must apply separately to both the Law School and the Committee on International Relations. Applicants interested in the joint M.B.A./M.A. program must submit their application to The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, which then refers the application to CIR. Please contact the Harris School of Public Policy regarding the application procedure for the dual M.A./M.A. degree.

For additional information about our program, please contact E.G. Enbar, our Student Affairs Administrator, at 773-702-8312 oregenbar@uchicago.edu.
their civilian counterparts when placed in similar political roles? This seminar will help students answer the

How do we define a military? What is a military's purpose? How have militaries around the world embedded

INRE 32100. Civil-Military Relations and the Politics of Militaries. 100 Units.

This required, non-credit course is designed to introduce students to the craft of research in International

INRE 30000. Perspectives on International Relations. 000 Units.

This course is concerned with the theory and the historical evolution of the modern human rights regime. It

INRE 30600. Constructing a Society of Human Rights: A Psychological Framework. 100 Units.

The innovation toolkit (lean startup, human-centered design, prototyping) was developed to create new value

INRE 32002. Hacking for Defense. 100 Units.

INRE 31700. Human Rights II: History and Theory. 100 Units.

This course is concerned with the theory and the historical evolution of the modern human rights regime. It

INRE 31002. Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations. 100 Units.

INRE 31602. Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations. 100 Units.

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INRE 30600. Constructing a Society of Human Rights: A Psychological Framework. 100 Units.
The course introduces students to the seminal arguments and ideas on the origins and long-term evolution of nation-states around the world. The syllabus is organized around the most salient debates in the literature. For example, wars and state-building, domestic conflict and institutions, integration to world capitalism, the natural resource curse, social resistance, nationalism, etc. Throughout these topics, the readings allow inter-region and within-region comparisons. Students will discuss seminal publications that provide the basis for contemporary debates on state formation, without privileging any particular research approach or community of scholars. The syllabus draws from major publications across the social sciences, especially political science, economics, and sociology. In this way, the course provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to discuss and collectively dissect arguments based on different theoretical perspectives, cultivating critical thinking skills. Instructor(s): Cabal, Manuel Terms Offered: Winter Equivalent Course(s): INRE 24900

INRE 34950. Comparative Authoritarianism. 100 Units.
The course introduces students to the most salient debates on the politics of dictatorship, from the classification of authoritarian polities to their origins, institutions, and governance. The syllabus is organized around topics, such as the diversity of authoritarian regimes, parties and assemblies, elections, media, revolutions and counterrevolutions, policy and governance, war, etc. The readings have a special focus on the autocracies of the
twenty-first century, including pre-war fascism and revolutionary regimes, military juntas, and contemporary ‘soft’ autocracies. The course focuses on seminal contributions that have set the terms of contemporary debates in political science and political economy, without privileging any particular approach or methodology. The syllabus includes seminal publications from the twentieth century, as well as names from the contemporary wave of autocracy scholars. The course provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to discuss and collectively dissect prominent arguments, cultivate the ability to think theoretically about political phenomena, and critically assess social sciences research.

Instructor(s): Cabal, Manuel
Terms Offered: Spring

INRE 36001. Society, Politics and Security in Israel. 100 Units.
This graduate course examines Israel’s unique DNA through a thorough examination of its history, society, politics and security challenges. We shall explore these traits as manifested in the defining chapters of Israel’s history, since the early stages of the Zionist driven immigration of Jews to the Holy Land, through the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948, until present time. Students will work with primary sources, diverse theoretical perspectives, and rich historiographical material to better understand the Israeli experience, through domestic, regional and international perspectives. Particular attention will be given to the emergence of the Israeli vibrant society and functioning democracy in the background of continuous conflict and wars. The course will explore topics such as: How Israel reconciles between the imperatives and narratives of democracy and Jewishness, between collective ethos and heterogeneous tribalism, and between protracted security challenges and resilience. We will also discuss the multifaceted aspects of the changing Israeli security doctrine and practice, in light of regional threats and international involvement.

Instructor(s): M. Elran
Terms Offered: Autumn

INRE 37000. Latin American Political Development. 100 Units.
The course introduces students to classic and recent theories on the evolution of political institutions in Latin American countries. The syllabus is organized around major topics on comparative politics, such as colonial legacies, trade-led state-building, federalism, party systems, revolutions, industrialization, democratization, and ethnicity and citizenship. Through these topics, the students will learn about the political institutions of a variety of countries in the region from a historical perspective. Students will also be able to compare different theoretical approaches across the social sciences, especially political science, sociology, and economics. The course provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to discuss and collectively dissect major ideas in comparative politics, cultivate the ability to think theoretically about political phenomena, and critically assess social sciences research.

Instructor(s): Cabal, Manuel
Terms Offered: TBD

INRE 39650. Transnational Organized Crime: Contemporary Issues. 100 Units.
This course delves into global impacts of transnational organized criminal networks on political, social, and economic outcomes. Students will grapple with the successes and failures of international and state approaches to combating transnational organized crime, and will examine the ways in which international organizations, governments, and communities interact with transnational criminal groups and illicit markets. The goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of contemporary issues of TOC (drug trafficking, cybercrime, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, arms trafficking, illicit trade in wildlife and non-renewable resources, etc.), and challenge them to take a forward-looking approach to analyzing criminal markets and identifying emerging trends.

Instructor(s): Tinti, Peter
Terms Offered: Winter

INRE 39900. What Was Multilateralism? 100 Units.
TBD

Instructor(s): Staisch, Matthias

Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent

INRE 40801. Seminar on the International Politics of Asia. 100 Units.
This seminar is a graduate-level survey of the contemporary cross-national politics of Asia. It centers the perspectives brought to bear on these issues by the state and society of modern India. The course covers four overarching areas of scholarship: (1) statebuilding and its associated practices of national identity construction; (2) civil-military relations; (3) intrastate conflict and contentious politics including human rights and the rule of law; (4) the political economy of development and environmental sustainability since liberalization; and (5) regional geopolitical and geoeconomic competition. This survey is offered distinctly from, but as a pre-requisite for, participation in CIR’s March 2020 Asian International Relations Seminar in Mumbai and Delhi. The course emphatically welcomes all students with a substantive interest in the region’s politics, regardless of their ability to join us for this subsequent trip.

Instructor(s): Michael Reese, Matthias Staisch
Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): Open to CIR students and all others with instructors’ consent

INRE 41500. MA Research Methods. 000 Units.
This in-person course will foster the development of the students’ scholarship through regular interaction with their preceptors. In this course, students will work with preceptors to both synthesize the individualized coursework into a cohesive curriculum and to plan and execute the MA thesis, from choosing research questions,
Committee on International Relations

selecting an appropriate research design, elaborating their chosen methodology, conducting research, and writing up their results.

Instructor(s): John Hansen, Michael Albertus, James Evans Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MACS 41500, MAPS 41500, CMES 41500

INRE 42000. Writing about Complex Issues. 100 Units.
TBD
Instructor(s): Tinti, Peter Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent

INRE 43000. Core Seminar: International Order and Security. 100 Units.
This seminar is a graduate-level course on international order and security, with a focus on the pragmatic intersections between scholarship and real-time policy-applicable forecasting. The central objective will be to help students develop the skills to relate the empirical world to the theoretical, developing skills that will contribute to useful and appropriate independent research. By the end of this part of the core sequence, students will be able to (1) formulate compelling research questions in the study of anarchic political systems; (2) center their investigations on well-specified alternative explanatory accounts drawn from a focused consideration of the existing literature; and (3) link social scientific theories of politics to their multifaceted empirical implications.
Instructor(s): Reese, M.J. Terms Offered: Autumn Winter
Note(s): Open only to CIR students

INRE 43100. Core Seminar: Global Governance, Rights, and Norms. 100 Units.
TBD
Terms Offered: Autumn

INRE 43200. Core Seminar: Global Governance, Rights, and Norms. 100 Units.
TBD
Instructor(s): Turco, Linnea Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Open only to CIR students

INRE 43800. Core Seminar: International Political Economy. 100 Units.
This seminar is a graduate-level survey of international political economy (IPE). It addresses three prominent questions: (1) How do governments coordinate to regulate the cross-border flow of goods, services, and capital? In particular, what are the relative merits of relying on decentralized, or market-based institutions, as opposed to centralized, or state-based ones, for doing so? (2) What are the distributional implications of these coordinating devices? Specifically, what kind of cleavages constitute the distributional struggles that characterize today’s global economy? (3) Why are the systems of international exchange prone to periodic crisis, and how do governments seek to restore stability, and insure against future volatility? By the end of this part of the core sequence, students will be able to (1) critically evaluate competing (empirical) measurements of the key concepts which constitute theoretical propositions in IPE; and (2) craft a research design that adequately matches a theoretical claim in IPE with relevant empirical data.
Instructor(s): M. Staisch Terms Offered: Autumn,Winter
Note(s): Open only to CIR students

INRE 43801. Seminar on the International Politics of Asia. 100 Units.
This seminar is a graduate-level survey of the contemporary cross-national politics of Asia. It centers the perspectives brought to bear on these issues by the state and society of modern India. The course covers four overarching areas of scholarship: (1) statebuilding and its associated practices of national identity construction; (2) civil-military relations; (3) intrastate conflict and contentious politics including human rights and the rule of law; (4) the political economy of development and environmental sustainability since liberalization; and (5) regional geopolitical and geoeconomic competition. This survey is offered distinctly from, but as a pre-requisite for, participation in CIR’s March 2020 Asian International Relations Seminar in Mumbai and Delhi. The course emphatically welcomes all students with a substantive interest in the region’s politics, regardless of their ability to join us for this subsequent trip.
Instructor(s): M. Reese, M. Staisch Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Open to CIR students and all others with instructors’ consent

INRE 46500. MA Thesis Workshop. 000 Units.
This required, non-credit course is designed to continue the preceptor-group collaboration established in Autumn’s Perspectives (INRE 30000). The purpose of the workshop is to give each student the opportunity to present his or her thesis research as it develops during their first year in the CIR program. Must be taken in each of Winter and Spring quarters.
Terms Offered: Spring

INRE 49700. Reading/Research: International Relations. 100 Units.
This course allows students the opportunity to receive course-credit for their thesis research. It may only be taken once.
Instructor(s): P. Staniland Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Committee on International Relations

Prerequisite(s): Open only to 1st year CIR students