Committee on International Relations

Chair
- Paul Staniland

Associate Director, Associate Senior Instructional Professor
- Matthias Staisch

Executive Director and Assistant Dean
- Chad Cyrenne

Professors
- Michael Albertus, Political Science
- John W. Boyer, History
- Curtis Bradley, Law
- Mark Philip Bradley, History
- Austin Carson, Political Science
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, History
- Elizabeth Chatterjee, History
- Chiara Cordelli, Political Science
- Terry Clark, Sociology
- Bruce Cumings, History
- Marco Garrido, Sociology
- Scott Gehlbach, Political Science, Public Policy
- Adom Getachew, Race Diaspora, and Indigeneity, Political Science
- Tom Ginsberg, Law, Political Science
- Andreas Glaeser, Sociology
- Julian Go, Sociology
- Robert Gulotty, Political Science
- Susan Gzesh, Law
- Gary B. Herrigel, Political Science
- Kimberley Kay Hoang, Sociology
- William Howell, Political Science
- Ryan Cecil Jobson, Anthropology
- Benjamin Lessing, Political Science
- Darryl Li, Anthropology, Law
- Joseph P. Masco, Anthropology
- John J. Mearsheimer, Political Science
- Constantine Nakassis, Anthropology
- Monika Nalepa, Political Science
- Natacha Nsabimana, Anthropology
- Robert Pape, Political Science
- Steven Pincus, History
- Jennifer Pitts, Political Science, Social Thought
- 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
General Information

The Committee on International Relations (CIR) is an intense, intellectually transformative one-year program. It has its origins in a conference on the causes and characteristics of major wars, which was organized in 1926 by University of Chicago political scientists Charles Merriam and Quincy Wright. In 1928, the research papers and collaborations spawned by this conference led to the award of several master’s degrees and thereby the establishment of CIR, now the nation’s oldest graduate program in international affairs.

All CIR students take nine graduate courses, selected from all UChicago departments and professional schools. They work directly with UChicago faculty on the MA thesis and develop depth of expertise in two of five field specializations: 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.

Students are assisted in their course selections and offered regular mentorship for their research by instructional professors and by CIR senior staff.

CIR offers substantial merit aid.

We offer preeminent training for those aspiring to go on for funded PhD study in political science, public policy, sociology, anthropology, and history.

CIR also offers exceptional career preparation with our in-house Career Services Office. Our programming includes one-on-one advising, regular workshops, on-campus recruitment, and visits by leading alumni who provide mentorship in a variety of fields. Students also access the expertise and funding of the University’s Center for International Social Science Research, Institute of Politics, and regional studies centers.

CIR maintains its own professional development fund for self-designed internships in the United States and abroad; for career exploration treks; for MA thesis field work; and for individual and group visits to the University of Chicago’s global centers in New Delhi, Beijing, and Hong Kong.

Over 90% of our graduates accept full-time or part-time employment or are in pursuit of a PhD 6 months after graduation.

Joint BA/MA and MBA/MA programs are available. We also offer a dual JD/MA program and a dual MA/MA program in CIR and Public Policy Studies.
During their first year in residence, students may apply for a fully funded second year of study, the MA with specialization. During their second year, students take an additional nine courses for credit. Admission is very competitive.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students selected to participate in the joint degree program must meet all the normal BA requirements for their particular field of study, as well as all the general education requirements. In addition, joint degree students in CIR must meet all program requirements listed here (https://cir.uchicago.edu/content/curriculum/).

Students must complete both the BA and MA degrees, the second awarded no later than the August convocation following a September matriculation.

By default, the 9 MA level courses during the dual enrollment year (fourth year) can be double-counted as general elective credit towards the bachelor’s degree. BA/MA students may choose instead to double-count MA courses towards BA major or minor electives or requirements, with approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies for their major/minor. Questions regarding double-counting or degree logistics should be directed to Lindsey Weglarz, Assistant Dean of Students (lweglarz@uchicago.edu).

For additional information about the program, please contact E. G. Enbar, Student Affairs Administrator, at 773.702.8312 or egenbar@uchicago.edu.

COURSE WORK

Students choose from among three core seminars: “International Order and Security,” “International Political Economy,” and “Global Governance, Rights, and Norms.” Together, these courses furnish a common vocabulary and core analytical skills that help students develop their own rigorous research practice.

In Autumn Quarter, students begin work on their MA thesis as members of an MA thesis workshop that is convened by their preceptor. These workshops give students the opportunity to present and discuss their research projects as they develop from proposal to final draft.

Because the MA thesis workshop sequence begins 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 plus a non-credit MA thesis workshop, beginning in the Fall and continuing through the Winter and Spring. They take graduate courses in all departments and professional schools of the University.

THE MASTER’S THESIS

Students write an article-length MA thesis under the supervision of any UChicago faculty member. Their preceptor provides regular assistance and serves as the paper’s second reader.

The preceptor organizes and leads an MA thesis workshop in the Autumn, Winter, and Spring.

Both the faculty sponsor and the preceptor provide feedback on the proposal, the first draft, and give a written evaluation and Pass/Honors designation for the final submission.

Approximately 35% of CIR students graduate in June, and 65% 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"
"Clientelism and Programmatic Politics: The Political Economy of Export Taxes in Argentina"
"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.
Committee on International Relations

JOINT BA/MA PROGRAM

Qualified students in the College who wish to pursue a joint MA degree in International Relations should consult with their College adviser and the Assistant Dean of Students for Admissions in the Social Sciences (Lindsey Weglarz, lweglarz@uchicago.edu). These meetings should happen in the Autumn Quarter of the student’s third year.

ADMISSION

CIR applicants must meet the formal requirements of the Graduate Social Sciences Division which are listed here (https://socialsciences.uchicago.edu/admissions/application-materials/).

Financial aid is merit based, and CIR offers tuition scholarships at the time of admission. Some financial need-based grants may be available through an application process for admitted students.

Joint BA/MA applicants pay graduate tuition rates and are eligible to receive the same aid they had in the College.

CIR no longer considers Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores.

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

Part-time study is not possible.

HOW TO APPLY

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

Qualified students in the College who wish to pursue a joint BA/MA degree should consult first with their College Adviser, then with the Assistant Dean of Students for Admissions in the Division of the Social Sciences (Lindsey Weglarz (lweglarz@uchicago.edu?subject=re:%20BA/MA%20inquiry%20(MAPSS))).

Prospective BA/MA students must meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in their college major and fill out a form available through Lindsey Weglarz (lweglarz@uchicago.edu?subject=re:%20BA/MA%20form %20for%20the%20MAPSS%20application) in the Dean of Students office to confirm their eligibility for the BA/MA, to specify how many of the 9 graduate courses they would take will be double-counted to satisfy their BA requirements, and to assure that all BA requirements will be met no later than June convocation of their fourth year. That form, with the signature of the Director of Undergraduate Studies (or their designee), must be submitted as part of the BA/MA application.

Please also visit our website, at: https://cir.uchicago.edu/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional program information may be found at the Committee’s website, https://cir.uchicago.edu/. You can contact E. G. Enbar, Student Affairs Administrator, at 773.702.8312 or egenbar@uchicago.edu.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

INRE 30000. Perspectives on International Relations. 000 Units.

This required, non-credit course is designed to introduce students to the craft of research in International Relations. For the first half of Autumn quarter, the full cohort will meet for lectures on two central themes: (i) the fundamental aspects of conducting research in the social sciences, and, specifically, in International Relations; and (ii) preparation of the MA thesis proposal. Then, the three preceptor student groups will meet for workshops over the latter half of the quarter. The purpose of the workshops is to give each student the opportunity to present his or her proposal draft.

Instructor(s): Paul Staniland Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Open only to CIR students.

INRE 30005. Graduate Practicum in the Social Sciences. 100 Units.

Students interested in gaining additional applied experience or writing an alternative or public facing thesis should consider taking the Graduate Practicum in the Social Sciences course. The practicum is a hands-on experiential course designed to enable students to apply and expand their knowledge in a career pathway based on their unique interests and improve their technical and applied writing skills, all while providing a useful service to a Chicago-based community partner. During the course, students work individually or in small teams to research a career pathway and identify and address issues/needs faced by a local community partner of their choice. Each student or team receives guidance from their instructor and community partner throughout the project. The experience culminates in a final project (report and formal presentation to the community partner and/or class).
INRE 30600. Constructing a Society of Human Rights: A Psychological Framework. 100 Units.
This course is designed to discuss the ways that cultural and social psychology contribute to understandings about human rights conceptually, and how human rights issues emerge from social dynamics. Over the course of the quarter, students will learn about theories on intergroup conflict and prejudice, how an individual’s beliefs emerge from social contexts and shape their relationships with others, how obedience to authority is created and abused, and how social positioning and narratives influence conceptions of self and other. We will also discuss the relevance and impact of psychological study and data on human rights issues.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 30005, MACS 30005

INRE 30960. Geopolitical Forecasting. 100 Units.
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the practices entailed in high-performance geopolitical event forecasting, with an eye to both intellectual and professional applications. It will survey a number of cornerstone academic works drawn from the fields of psychology, political science, economics, and decision science in pursuit of a rigorous understanding of the difficulties entailed in accurately predicting important geopolitical events. It will also allow students to gain hands-on experience in making effective forecasts themselves.
Instructor(s): Reese, Michael J Terms Offered: Spring

INRE 31602. Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations. 100 Units.
In this class we explore the philosophical foundations of human rights, investigating theories of how our shared humanity in the context of an interdependent world gives rise to obligations of justice. We begin by asking what rights are, how they are distinguished from other part of morality, and what role they play in our social and political life. But rights come in many varieties, and we are interested in human rights in particular. In later weeks, we will ask what makes something a human right, and how are human rights different from other kinds of rights. We will consider a number of contemporary philosophers (and one historian) who attempt to answer this question, including James Griffin, Joseph Raz, John Rawls, John Tasioulas, Samuel Moyn, Jiewuh Song, and Martha Nussbaum. Throughout we will be asking questions such as, "What makes something a human right?" "What role does human dignity play in grounding our human rights?" "Are human rights historical?" "What role does the nation and the individual play in our account of human rights?" "When can one nation legitimately intervene in the affairs of another nation?" "How can we respect the demands of justice while also respecting cultural difference?" "How do human rights relate to global inequality and markets?" (A) (I)
Instructor(s): Ben Laurence, Pozen Center for Human Rights Instructional Professor Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 31002, HMRT 21002, PHIL 21002, MAPH 42002, HMRT 31002, HIST 39319, HIST 29319

INRE 31700. Human Rights: History and Theory. 100 Units.
This course is concerned with the theory and the historical evolution of the modern human rights regime. It discusses the emergence of a modern "human rights" culture as a product of the formation and expansion of the system of nation-states and the concurrent rise of value-driven social mobilizations. It proceeds to discuss human rights in two prevailing modalities. First, it explores rights as protection of the body and personhood and the modern, Western notion of individualism. Second, it inquires into rights as they affect groups (e.g., ethnicities and, potentially, transnational corporations) or states.
Instructor(s): Savitri Kunze, Pozen Center for Human Rights Social Science Teaching Fellow Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 30200, CRES 29302, HIST 29302, HIST 39302, HMRT 29319

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Instructor(s): Reese, Michael J Terms Offered: Spring

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Instructor(s): Ben Laurence, Pozen Center for Human Rights Instructional Professor Terms Offered: Autumn
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Instructor(s): Savitri Kunze, Pozen Center for Human Rights Social Science Teaching Fellow Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 30200, CRES 29302, HIST 29302, HIST 39302, HMRT 29319

INRE 32002. Hacking for Defense. 100 Units.
The innovation toolkit (lean startup, human-centered design, prototyping) was developed to create new value under conditions of intense uncertainty. Typically, courses on innovation focus that effort on new venture creation, but our large institutions–both public and private–wield tremendous influence and power. We believe those organizations should be more responsive to changing conditions and that they deserve commitment from the best and brightest when it comes to the application of innovation. All institutions within the Department of Defense and Intelligence Communities (DoD/IC) are large, complex, and as impactful on society as any that one might encounter. The course will introduce students to long-standing debates over the role of politicization in military organizations and whether such trends are desirable or not. The latter half of the class will focus on research that analyzes the militarization of politics and how such trends might subvert traditional notions of the military profession. This course is intended for CIR
students and all course assignments will be structured around helping students complete the writing of their MA theses. Non-CIR students should contact the instructor directly about taking the class.
Instructor(s): Kevin Weng Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): CIR students only.

INRE 33000. Ethics in International Relations. 100 Units.
Ethical questions pervade international politics. Do affluent states have an obligation to make economic sacrifices to mitigate the progression of global warming? Are human rights universal? Should states waive the intellectual property rights of pharmaceutical companies to enable global access to vaccines? Can military intervention be justified despite its breach of sovereignty? Despite the frequent invocation of normative language in global politics, scholars of international relations have only recently started to turn their attention toward studying ethics as an important political phenomenon. This marks a shift away from considering ethics as epiphenomena to interests and power. This seminar explores the role of ethics in international relations, both in theory and in practice. It draws on readings from normative international relations theory and political philosophy to take up ethical dilemmas encountered in world affairs in the context of debates about the environment, humanitarian intervention, nuclear weapons, development, and global health.
Instructor(s): Turco, Linnea Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 33002, PLSC 23002

INRE 34600. Case Study Methods. 100 Units.
How do social scientists utilize case studies as a method for identifying causal relationships? What are the epistemological assumptions that underlie the use of case studies? How similar or different are these assumptions from those of large-N and other quantitative methodologies? What are some of the limitations of case study research? This seminar will help students address the aforementioned questions by introducing them to ongoing methodological debates within the social sciences surrounding the use of single and comparative case studies. The course is organized according to a “snowball method” of first cementing a baseline understanding of certain individual lessons (e.g. single case selection) before gradually proceeding to larger themes (e.g. comparative case studies) that incorporate and reinforce the lessons learned from previous weeks.
Instructor(s): Kevin Weng Terms Offered: Spring Winter
Note(s): CIR students only!

INRE 34700. Academic Presentation in International Relations & Thesis Preparation. 100 Units.
This class will provide instruction in the norms of publicly presenting one’s research in front of an academic audience. Using examples drawn from the literature on International Relations and Comparative Politics, students will learn about the typical practices of structuring a research project for academic consumption. Specific topics will include: addressing alternative hypotheses, formulating a literature review, addressing missing data issues and selection bias, formulating an empirical puzzle, tenets of constructive criticism, etc. At certain intervals in the course, students will present their own work-in-progress research to the class body where they will be expected to utilize the lessons from previous sessions.
Instructor(s): K. Weng Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course is intended for CIR students in the final stages of writing their Master’s Thesis. Non-CIR students should contact the instructor if they wish to attend the class.

INRE 34800. Historical Processes of State Formation. 100 Units.
How did states come into being? How do we assess “state-ness” or the “strength” of state institutions? Why did nation-states become the primary actor in the international system instead of alternative forms of political organization such as empires, city-states, or city-leagues? What explains variations in the institutional makeups of states? This course helps students formulate an initial set of answers to the previous set of questions by providing an overview of the state-formation literature. Specifically, the class will cover theories that address how states come into being, organize their societies, extract resources, and structure their political institutions. Course readings will initially start with an introduction to varying conceptualizations of the state before moving onto a discussion of how to operationalize and measure degrees of “state-ness”. The remaining course readings will explore themes surrounding war, colonialism, civil society, taxation, economic development, & (ultimately) state breakdown.
Instructor(s): K. Weng Terms Offered: Winter

INRE 34900. Comparative State Formation. 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): PLSC 24910
INRE 34950. 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. Why did Latin American countries build weaker states than Europe and the US? What countries of the region are more developed and why? Why is Latin America the most unequal region in the world? Why have the democracies of the region been historically so vulnerable and ephemeral? Where and why did ethnic conflict appeared in the past decades? We will understand, evaluate, and discuss the seminal arguments and ideas on the origins and long-term evolution of Latin American nations. The course is of interest to students focused on economic development and international security, as the “state” and its capabilities have major consequences for the economic trajectory of nations and for the ability to guarantee peace within their territories. 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 political economy. The course is specially designed to practice academic skills for master-level students. Instructor(s): Cabal, Manuel Terms Offered: Spring Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 24950, LACS 34950

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 Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 28139, JWSC 28139

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 39505. Political Violence and Terrorism. 100 Units.
TBD
Instructor(s): Alakoc, Burcu Pinar Terms Offered: Winter Prerequisite(s): Undergraduate students must seek instructor consent prior to enrollment Equivalent Course(s): INRE 29505

INRE 39550. International Migration. 100 Units.
This course examines the drivers of international migration and its consequences for international politics. Students will consider the reasons people move from one country to another, and analyze how states and international organizations facilitate, obstruct, and deter people from crossing borders. The goal of the course is to provide students with a strong foundation for understanding the key theoretical, legal, and political concepts that shape current debates over international migration. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the course covers themes such as how globalization, global capitalism, conflict, and climate change impact contemporary patterns of regular and irregular migration, how states and the international community respond to forced displacement, and the ways in which border externalization, militarization, and surveillance are proliferating throughout the globe. Students will write one op-ed advocating for a change or continuation in current approaches to managing migration, and two policy papers examining two separate case studies related to international migration. A key component of this course is editing and analyzing others’ work. Instructor(s): Tinti, Peter Terms Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): Undergraduate students must seek instructor consent prior to enrollment Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 30999, PLSC 20999
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.
A foundational institution of modern international relations, multilateralism has been "in crisis" since its emergence in the 19th century. Its normative commitments - publicity, reciprocity, equality, impartiality, restraint, and community - have motivated generations of transformational agents and become imprinted in the quotidian practices of international political life. In spite of or maybe because of multilateralism's presence, its critics have enlisted the social theories of their time to critique multilateralism as unworkably idealistic or cunningly reactionary. What explains the staying power of an institution that knows few allies and many enemies? This course explores the crisis of multilateralism by taking seriously the idea that the institution has survived by ritualizing its normative content without ever cohering as an institutional form. We will explore this dynamic by reading several moments of crisis through classic and current theory. We will discover how political, economic, and social crises animate theory, and how theory, in turn, leaves its mark on what crisis actors imagine to be possible. Students are invited to write in a public-facing format: open-ended peer dialogue; syllabus plus keynote lecture; or op-ed blog post plus link annotation. After collectively assembling a theory reference guide, they will each explore a crisis phenomenon and use the theoretical resources this course provides to illuminate the crisis for their audience.
Instructor(s): Staisch, Matthias Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 39901, PLSC 29901

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 42000. Writing about Complex Issues. 100 Units.
This course will challenge students to engage critical questions of human security in the context of three contemporary case studies that have come to represent "policy quandaries" at the international level: international stabilization efforts in the Sahel region of Africa; the US-led "War on Drugs" in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the migration "crisis" in Europe. Students will be required to think critically about existing policy approaches pursued by various actors in these settings. Drawing from a range of sources and disciplines, students will learn how to analyze these issues, write persuasively in a variety of formats, and come away better equipped to research and write about other complex international crises. In all three case studies, the prevailing development-security nexus, promoted and financed by the international community and national governments, has proved insufficient as a framework for meeting respective challenges. Meanwhile, non-state actors, including criminal networks, armed groups, civil society organizations, NGOs, and humanitarian agencies compete and collaborate with state actors and each other to shape security and governance outcomes according to their own interests and ideologies. Students will submit written assignments on each of the three case studies. A key component of this course will be editing and analyzing the work of their peers.
Instructor(s): Tinti, Peter Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22001

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.
INRE 43100. Core Seminar: Global Governance, Rights, and Norms. 100 Units.
TBD
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Open only to CIR students

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 43300. Human and Artificial Intelligences in IR: A Research Practicum. 100 Units.
TBD
Instructor(s): Matthias Staisch Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): INRE 23300

INRE 43305. Globalization & Labor. 100 Units.
TBD
Instructor(s): Parker, Adam Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): INRE 23305

INRE 43600. Critical, Feminist, and Postcolonial Approaches to Global Politics. 100 Units.
This graduate-level elective course is designed to introduce students to approaches to global politics beyond the traditional mainstream canon, surveying a range of perspectives that fall under the heading of 'critical.' The main goal is to develop an understanding of what is at stake, politically, with some of the main concepts, theories, methodological approaches, and empirical objects within the study of international relations (IR) and international security. The course is divided into two sections. First, we begin by considering what makes a critical approach critical—that is, how is it set apart from conventional approaches? In particular, we will explore how critical approaches encourage us to question our assumptions, first, about what security, power, sovereignty, and other core concepts mean in global politics, and second, about who or what (individuals, groups, nonhuman animals, states, the planet) can be agents of global politics. Some examples of approaches we cover are: theories from the Global South, approaches to human security, global feminisms, securitization theories, ontological security, emotions and affect, the visual turn, new materialisms, and post-colonial perspectives. In the second half of the course, we apply these approaches to a range of issues, including nuclear weapons, borders and immigration, drone warfare, terrorism, and climate change.
Instructor(s): Kara Ann Hooser Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): INRE 23600

INRE 43605. The Politics of the Middle East. 100 Units.
TBD
Instructor(s): Alakoc, Burcu Pinar Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): INRE 23605

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 46505. BA/MA Thesis Workshop. 100 Units.
This course helps BA/MA students meet their undergraduate major requirements for writing a single BA/MA thesis paper.
Instructor(s): Paul Staniland Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): This course is open to CIR BA/MA students only

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