

# International Relations

## AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAJOR

International relations is an interdisciplinary field concerned with understanding global interactions, both in the historical past and in the present. The major is designed to expose students to a wide range of viewpoints and analytical methodologies in their study of such fields as diplomacy and foreign policy, peace, war and security, international political economy and development, and human rights.

The International Relations major is an interdepartmental major organized into three tracks: International Relations/Economics; International Relations/History; and International Relations/Political Science. All three tracks of the major share a set of five common “core” courses.

The majors are administered by their “home” departments, and interested students should contact the relevant department chair or contact person for guidance on choosing an advisor and completing the major. For 2009-10, these contact people are:

Economics: *Akila Weerapana*

History: *Yoshihisa Matsusaka*

Political Science: *Robert Paarlberg*

Students who elect one of these International Relations majors may not combine it with a second major in their track department—

e.g., students may not double major in International Relations-Economics and Economics. Other double majors are permitted, but generally inadvisable.

### Goals for the Major

A student who completes a major in international relations will acquire the depth of knowledge and intellectual skills equivalent to completing a major in one of the three component disciplines (economics, history, political science).

The student will also acquire the breadth of knowledge about the other two component disciplines necessary for an interdisciplinary approach to the study of international relations.

The student will demonstrate advanced competence in the reading, writing, and speaking of a language other than English.

International Relations-Economics majors will acquire a more in-depth understanding of international trade, development or finance, as well as a familiarity with empirical research done in one of these three areas.

International Relations-History majors will acquire specific knowledge about the history of modern international relations, an appreciation of the importance of culturally and geographically localized historical knowledge in the analysis of global change and an understanding, through case studies, of the relevance of history to contemporary international issues.

International Relations-Political Science majors will be familiar with the historical study of international relations, across both world regions and centuries, complete at least five courses in the International Relations subfield, and engage in intensive research, writing, and interaction with a faculty member.

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### IREC 350 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open by permission to juniors and seniors who have taken ECON 201 and 202; 203 is strongly recommended.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### IREC 360 Senior Thesis Research

Prerequisite: By permission of the economics department. See Academic Distinctions. Students must have an advisor in the department of economics, but with the approval of the department chair may have a co-advisor from another department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### IREC 370 Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: 360 and permission of department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### IRHI 350 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open by permission to juniors and seniors

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### IRHI 360 Senior Thesis Research

Prerequisite: By permission of the history department. See Academic Distinctions. Students must have an advisor in the department of history, but with the approval of the department chair may have a co-advisor from another department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

As of 8/10/09



One additional 200- or 300-level course in Africana Studies, Anthropology, Economics, History, Sociology, or Women's and Gender Studies

With the approval of the International Relations director and the chair of the department in which she is majoring, a student may count up to two Wellesley courses taken outside the departments of economics, history, or political science towards the nine courses in her major. Attention is particularly drawn to International Relations-related courses offered in the departments of Africana Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies.

## **Honors**

The policies governing eligibility for honors work in International Relations-Economics, International Relations-History, or International Relations-Political Science are set by the individual departments. Students interested in pursuing honors should consult the relevant departmental entry in the Bulletin.

## **Advanced Placement Policy**

The International Relations program's policy about AP/IB credits follows that established by the relevant department. Please consult directions for election in the Departments of Economics, History, and Political Science. In no case do AP credits count towards the minimum major in International Relations.

## **Study Abroad**

International Relations majors are strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester in a study-abroad program. Transfer credits from study-abroad programs must be approved by the appropriate department chair. Students are strongly encouraged to seek the relevant approval before studying abroad. At least two 300-level units must be completed at Wellesley.