

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR (B.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/political-science-international-affairs/program/ba/international-affairs-major>

Description

International affairs is the focused study of global issues, drawing on approaches from political science, history, economics, anthropology and related fields. Students acquire the substantive knowledge, practical skills, and real-world experience to address critical issues in international affairs, such as war and diplomacy, climate change and biodiversity, human rights and women's rights, refugees and migration, and inequality and poverty.

Students can focus their studies in one of the following thematic tracks: global development and environment; international security; global ethnic, race, and diversity studies; global health and education; regional or transnational studies in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, or Asia. The major in IA thus provides students theoretical approaches grounded in the empirical study of places and peoples.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

All majors must complete 40 hours of IA core courses and departmentally approved IA electives, with a grade of C or better and a grade point average of 2.5 or better.

International Affairs majors may use two major-required courses to satisfy two Discovery Program category requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
IA 401	International Perspectives	4
IA 501	Global Issues in International Affairs	4
IA 701	Exploring International Challenges and Opportunities	4
Select one introductory course from the following:		4
ANTH 411	Global Perspectives on the Human Condition: An Introduction to Anthropology	
EDUC 402	Introduction to Educational Studies: Social Change and Education in Local and Global Contexts	
GEOG 401	World Regions: Europe and the Americas	
GEOG 402	World Regions: Asia and Africa	
HIST 421	World History to the 16th Century	
HIST 422	World History in the Modern Era	
POLT 403	United States in World Affairs	

Select one of the following options: 8

Option A:
Two courses in a world language ¹

Option B: One course in Quantitative Reasoning and one course in Economics from the below	
Quantitative Reasoning courses	
NR 525	Statistical Methods and Applications
MATH 439	Statistical Discovery for Everyone
POLT 595	Smart Politics
PSYC 402	Statistics in Psychology
SOC 402	Statistics
Economics courses	
ECON 401	Principles of Economics (Macro)
ECON 402	Principles of Economics (Micro)
NR 411	Environmental and Resource Economics Perspectives

Electives
Select three courses in a specific regional or thematic track from the below elective course list. ² 12

Capstone Select one of the following: variable	
Study Abroad	
Internship with International Dimension	
600/700 level course from one of the thematic tracks	

ELECTIVE COURSES AND THEMATIC TRACKS

Regional and Transnational Studies Track

Select three courses in a COLA interdisciplinary area studies minor from the following:

-Africana Studies Minor	
-Asian Studies Minor	
-Latin American, Latinx and Caribbean Studies Minor	
-Middle Eastern Studies Minor	

Global Development and Environment Track

Select three courses from the following:

CMN 670	From Silicon Valley to Foxconn: Global Digital Capitalism
EDUC 520	Education, Poverty, and Development
ENGL 736	Environmental Theory
GEOG 550	Sub-Saharan Africa: Environmental Politics and Development
GEOG 560	Natural Hazards and Human Disasters
HIST 609	Special Topics in American Legal History
HIST 690	Seminar: Historical Expl
HIST 797	Colloquium
POLT 546	Wealth and Politics in Asia
POLT 549	The Politics of Markets
POLT 550	Comparative Government and Society
POLT 556	Politics in China
POLT 751	Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy
POLT 762	International Political Economy
SOC 693	Global Change and Social Sustainability

Global Ethnic, Race, and Diversity Studies Track

Select three courses from the following:

ANTH 500	Peoples and Cultures of the World
ANTH 513	Ethnographic Methods
CLAS 550B	Identities and Difference in the Ancient World: Slaves and Masters
CMN 620W	Global Media, Culture, and Power
CMN 596	Special Topics in Media Studies
CMN 772	Seminar in Media Theory
EDUC 550	Language and Linguistic Diversity in Schools
EDUC 525	Teaching Race
ENGL 581	Reading the Postcolonial Experience
HIST 483	History of World Religions
HIST 588	History of Modern Africa: 1870 to the Present
POLT 440A	Honors/Global Justice
POLT 551	Ethnicity, Violence, Democracy

International Security Track

Select three courses from the following:

HIST 498	Explorations of Historical Perspectives
HIST 537	Espionage and History
HIST 609	Special Topics in American Legal History
HIST 620	Foreign Relations of the United States

HUMA 525	Humanities and the Law
POLT 545	People and Politics in Asia
POLT 559	Comparative Politics of the Middle East
POLT 560	World Politics
POLT 562	Strategy and National Security Policy
POLT 566	International Security in Asia
POLT 568	International Security
POLT 569	The Rise of China
POLT 592	Selected Topics in International Politics
POLT 740	States and Societies in the Middle East
POLT 742	Beyond Bollywood: Politics of India & South Asia
POLT 760	Theories of International Relations
POLT 778	International Organization
POLT 797E	Seminar in International Politics

Global Health and Education Track

Select three courses from the following:

ANTH 685	Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Africa
EDUC 520	Education, Poverty, and Development
EDUC 525	Teaching Race
EDUC 550	Language and Linguistic Diversity in Schools
EDUC 605	Educational Perspectives in Critical Times
HIST 437H	Honors/The Mad Among Us: A Global History of Mental Disorder
HIST 440E	Honors/Drugs and Addiction in World History
HIST 498	Explorations of Historical Perspectives
POLT 548	Drug Wars

¹ **International Affairs Language Requirement**

Students must take a minimum of two language courses and reach level 504 (intermediate II) in the language of their choosing. Students who have reached level 504 with one language course must substitute another course (from the approved list) in order to fulfill the required 40 credit hours for the major. Language study may be pursued at UNH; through study abroad in the summer, J-term, or academic year; or through transfer credits from other institutions with the permission of an IA advisor. Native speakers of a language other than English may fulfill this requirement with alternative classes by permission - please discuss with an IA advisor.

² We highly recommend that students select all three elective courses within the same track to develop a more focused and cohesive area of study. However, students with diverse interests in international affairs may choose electives from different tracks to broaden their academic experience.

Introductory Course from a discipline	4
Discovery Course	4
Discovery Course	4
Credits	16

Second Year**Fall**

Option A or B Course	4	
IA 501	Global Issues in International Affairs	4
IA Elective 1		4
Elective ¹		4

Credits	16
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Spring

Option A or B Course	4
IA Elective 2	4
Discovery Course	4
Discovery Course	4

Credits	16
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Third Year**Fall**

IA Elective 3	4
Elective ¹	4
Elective ¹	4
Discovery Course	4

Credits	16
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Spring

IA 701	Exploring International Challenges and Opportunities	4
Discovery Course		4
Elective ¹		4
Elective ¹		4

Credits	16
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Fourth Year**Fall**

IA Capstone ²	4
Discovery Course	4
Elective ¹	4
Elective ¹	4

Credits	16
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Spring

Elective ¹	4
Elective ¹	4
Elective ¹	4
Discovery Course	4

Credits	16
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Total Credits	129
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¹ Electives can be courses towards a minor, second major, or other experiences to supplement the primary major and should be selected in consultation with an advisor.

² IA Capstone can be an internship, study abroad, or an addition 700-level course, depending on the student's interests and timeline, and

Degree Plan

Sample Degree Plan

This sample degree plan serves as a general guide; students collaborate with their academic advisor to develop a personalized degree plan to meet their academic goals and program requirements.

First Year

Fall		Credits
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing	4
Language 401		4
IA 401	International Perspectives	4
Discovery Course		4
First Year Seminar		1
Credits		17

Spring

Language 402	4
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are selected in consultation with an advisor. The exact timing of an IA Capstone often varies depending on these factors.

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Apply different disciplinary approaches to the study of international affairs, including key themes and theoretical frameworks employed in these disciplines;
- Use critical thinking skills to analyze and discuss important global issues;
- Engage with cultural diversity and complexity through the international experience;
- Demonstrate familiarity with different types of data and sources and their appropriate use in analyzing selected topics in international affairs;
- Demonstrate competence in research design. Students will develop inquiry-based research questions, conduct a literature review, employ appropriate methods and data collection, and interpret their findings accurately.