

IMPORTANT: This document is meant to serve as an example and a planning tool. It is *not* a substitute for meeting with your academic advisor. Be sure to review your course plans with your advisor and check DegreeWorks regularly to keep track of your progress toward graduation.

The course scheduling details shared here are for planning purposes only. They do not guarantee when or how often specific courses will be offered. Course offerings can change depending on faculty availability and student demand. For the most up-to-date and accurate information, always check the online course schedule and consult with your academic advisor.

Keep in mind that there are many different ways to complete a major or program of study, including opportunities like study away or other special options. Your advisor can help you design an academic pathway that best fits your goals and interests.

International Relations Major Pathway

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Notes
First	FYE 101	ECON 101 Introduction to Macroeconomics (either fall or spring)	
	POLS 109 Intro to Int'l. Relations (either fall or spring)	Introductory modern language course 2	
	Introductory modern language course 1	2 additional courses	
	1 additional course		
Second	Area studies elective**	ECON 102 Introduction to Microeconomics* (either fall or spring)	*ECON 102 Introduction to Microeconomics is only required for IR majors who declare before the 2025-26 academic year. IR majors who declared before 2025-26 who wish to switch to the current curriculum must redeclare the major. **See end of this document for a list of eligible area studies and concentration courses. At least one concentration course must be taken at the 300 level. ***Statistics for Social Sciences, though optional, is highly recommended for all IR majors.
	Intermediate modern language course	Concentration elective 1**	
	POLS 200 Intro to Research Methods (either fall or spring)	MGMT 141 / PSY 141 / SOC 141 Statistics for Social Sciences***	
	1 additional course	1 additional course	
Third	Concentration elective 2**	Concentration elective 4**	†POLS 339 is typically offered only in the Spring semester. POLS 109 or POLS 115 is a prerequisite.
	Concentration elective 3**	POLS 339 Theories of Int'l. Relations (usually spring only)†	
	2 additional courses	2 additional courses	

Fourth	Concentration elective 5**	IR 402 Senior Seminar in International Relations (usually spring only)	††IR majors who wish to graduate with departmental honors and who hold a 3.50 major GPA and 3.33 cumulative GPA by the end of the Fall semester of third year may apply to write a year-long senior honors thesis. Proposals are due to the Department of Society and Politics in April. Students writing an honors thesis must enroll in POLS 500 for BOTH semesters of their senior year.
	(Optional) POLS 500 Honors Thesis††	(Optional) POLS 500 Honors Thesis††	
	2-3 additional courses	2-3 additional courses	

This is a *sample* schedule to demonstrate a pathway through the major. Not every student will follow this path.

Major Requirements

- 44 credits (language study does NOT count toward this total)
- All courses for the major must be taken for a letter grade (except study abroad courses). Grade/Pass/Fail courses with a grade of “Pass” must be converted to a letter grade before they can count toward the major.
- Intermediate-level mastery of a modern language other than English. This is typically demonstrated by completing a 200-level language course or passing a placement examination approved by the International Relations Coordinator. International students who are non-native English speakers can fulfill this requirement through other means in consultation with the International Relations Coordinator. Please note that language study does NOT count toward the credits required for the IR major and does NOT affect the IR major GPA.
- Five core courses:
 - POLS 109 Introduction to International Relations
 - POLS 200 Introduction to Research Methods
 - ECON 101 Introduction to Macroeconomics
 - POLS 339 Theories of International Relations
 - IR 402 Senior Seminar in International Relations
- One area studies course (see course listing below)
- Five courses in a concentration chosen from among 1.) International Development, 2.) Peace and Security, and 3.) Political Behavior and Identity (see course listing below).
 - At least two different disciplines must be represented in the concentration (e.g. SOC and POLS, or MGMT and ECON).
 - At least one of the five concentration courses must be taken at the 300 level.

Important Notes:

- Students should aim to complete POLS 109 and POLS 200 no later than the end of their second year.
- Note that the required courses POLS 339 and IR 402 are typically offered only in the spring semester.
- Not every area studies course or concentration elective is offered every year. Students should carefully plan their schedules and consult with their major advisor to ensure that they can fulfill all requirements.
- IR majors are strongly encouraged to consider study abroad. Most students who study abroad do so in their junior year and begin the application process during their sophomore year. For more information, please visit the Center for Global Education’s website (globaled.wheatoncollege.edu). Many IR major requirements can be fulfilled during study abroad, but offerings vary by institution. Majors wishing to study abroad should obtain syllabi and contact the International Relations Coordinator prior to enrollment to ensure that they will be on track to fulfill major requirements.
- A course may normally count only once toward the IR major. For example, POLS 253 Politics of Asia may count toward the area studies requirement OR the International Development concentration but not both.

- No more than two courses may be applied toward both the IR major and a second major.

(Courses offered during Academic Year 2025-26 are in **boldface**)

Core Courses

POLS 109 Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2025 / Spring 2026)

POLS 200 Introduction to Research Methods (Fall 2025 / Spring 2026)

ECON 101 Introduction to Macroeconomics (Fall 2025 / Spring 2026)

POLS 339 Theories of International Relations (Fall 2025)

IR 402 Senior Seminar in International Relations (Spring 2026)

Area Studies Courses

HIST 113 History of Europe Since 1700 (Fall 2025)

HIST 131 Modern East Asia (Spring 2026)

HIST 216 Caribbean Worlds (Fall 2025)

HIST 219 Norte y Sur: Modern Spanish America (not offered AY 25-26)

POLS 203 African Politics (not offered AY 25-26)

POLS 215 Contemporary European Government and Politics (Spring 2026)

POLS 233 The Politics of Latin America (Fall 2025)

POLS 253 Politics of Asia (Spring 2026)

POLS 263 The Politics of the Middle East (not offered AY 25-26)

International Development Concentration Courses

Courses in this track cover economic exchange between two or more states/societies.

ECON 102 Introduction to Microeconomics (Fall 2025 / Spring 2026)

ECON 288 Foundations of Political Economy (Fall 2025)

ECON 305 International Finance (Spring 2026)

ECON 306 International Trade (Fall 2025)

ECON 313 Banking and Monetary Theory (Fall 2025)

ECON 332 Economic Development (Spring 2026)

HIST 257 Tasting Empire: A History of Trading, Cooking, and Empire (Spring 2026)

MGMT 240 International Business (Spring 2026)

MGMT 298 Financial Markets (Spring 2026)

POLS 115 Introduction to Comparative Politics (not offered AY 25-26)

POLS 253 Politics of Asia (Spring 2026)

POLS 298 Politics of Migration (not offered AY 25-26)

POLS 309 International Law and Organizations (Fall 2025)

POLS 323 Comparative Political Development (not offered AY 25-26)

POLS 325 European Integration (not offered AY 25-26)

SOC 295 Globalization (not offered AY 25-26)

Peace and Security Concentration Courses

Courses in this track consider the fundamental role of war and diplomacy between two or more states/societies.

HIST 228 European Jewish History (not offered AY 25-26)

HIST 326 19th Century Europe (Spring 2026)

POLS 209 Chinese Foreign Policy (not offered AY 25-26)

POLS 229 United States Foreign Policy (not offered AY 25-26)

POLS 239	International Relations of East Asia (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 298	Politics of Migration (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 298	Special Topics: Terrorism (Spring 2026)
POLS 309	International Law and Organization (Fall 2025)
POLS 325	European Integration (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 337	Power and the State (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 357	Violence and Revolution (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 379	International Security Policy (not offered AY 25-26)
PSY 326	Political Psychology (Spring 2026)
SOC 240	Conflict and Genocide (not offered AY 25-26)
SOC 295	Globalization (not offered AY 25-26)
SOC 398	Nationalism and Populism (not offered AY 25-26)

Political Behavior and Identity Concentration Courses

Courses in this track consider how collective identities influence relations between two or more states/societies.

ANTH 245	Indigenous Movements of Latin America (not offered AY 25-26)
ARTH 300	Art and Race: Africa in Modern France (Fall 2025)
ARTH 334	Exhibiting Africa: Past and Present (not offered AY 25-26)
GER 270/370/ WGS 270/370	Black in Berlin (not offered AY 25-26)
HIST 228	European Jewish History (not offered AY 25-26)
HIST 257	Tasting Empire: A History of Trading, Cooking, and Empire (Spring 2026)
MUSC 282	Music and Worship in World Cultures (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 243	Nation and State in Modern Southeast Asia (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 269	Popular Culture and World Politics (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 285	Women and Politics (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 298	Politics of Migration (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 347	Islamic Political Thought (Spring 2026)
POLS 357	Violence and Revolution (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 367	Politics and Religion (not offered AY 25-26)
POLS 377	God and the Sovereign (not offered AY 25-26)
PSY 326	Political Psychology (Spring 2026)
REL 103	Introduction to Comparative Religion (Spring 2026)
SOC 200	Social Movements (not offered AY 25-26)
SOC 240	Conflict and Genocide (not offered AY 25-26)
SOC 270	Immigration (not offered AY 25-26)
SOC 398	Nationalism and Populism (not offered AY 25-26)