INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTER OF ARTS WITH AN EMPHASIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree with an emphasis in International Relations is a non-thesis 32 semester hour degree program. This program has been developed from an interdisciplinary context. Courses are offered in communication, political science, history, human relations, geography, sociology, international area studies and economics.

What You Can Do with this Degree

The University of Oklahoma’s Interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree with an emphasis in International Relations provides a broad understanding of world affairs from a variety of perspectives: political, social, economic, historical, geographical and philosophical. The degree prepares students for a wide body of careers including governmental, nonprofit, military, corporate and academic.

Program Objectives

The Interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree with an emphasis in International Relations provides a broad understanding of current world affairs from a variety of perspectives. Students can tailor this program of study to meet their individual interests and needs by selecting from a wide range of courses in political science, communication, history, human relations, geography, economics and management.

Alternate Admissions Policy for the Interdisciplinary International Relations Program

Applicants with less than a 2.75 GPA on the last 60 hours of letter-graded coursework from an earned baccalaureate degree or less than a 3.0 GPA on at least 12 hours of graduate level coursework will be admissible to the graduate program in International Relations if they meet at least two of the following requirements:

- Documentation of at least three continuous years of employment with increasing responsibility in a career field related to the academic discipline of International Relations.
- Two letters of recommendation that describe professional work development, work ethics, prior academic performance and/or professional skills.
- A writing sample describing the student’s career interests and how the International Relations degree supports such goals.
- A median score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for an individual who took the GRE after being out of college for five or more years. Otherwise, a 75th percentile score is required.

Please submit criteria to the College of Arts and Sciences, 633 Elm St., Room 323, Norman, OK 73019.
Transfer Credit

Up to eight hours of transfer credit may be applied toward the International Relations degree. To have coursework from another institution reviewed for transfer credit, a student must submit the Early Evaluation of Transfer Credit form along with a course syllabus for each course to the IR Program Representative in the College of Arts and Sciences. The coursework must not be more than five years old at the time of admission to the program, must carry graduate credit and be graded A, B or S.

Graduate College policy requires that no more than 25% of the minimum number of credit hours required for the master's degree be transferred.

The American Council on Education recommends graduate credit for several courses completed through military professional education programs, e.g., Air Command and Staff, Air War College. Official transcripts of such coursework may be submitted for evaluation for transfer credit. However, the Graduate College will not award transfer credit for any course identified as “correspondence.”

Comprehensive Examination

A comprehensive examination is required for the Interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree with an emphasis in International Relations. The exam is a 30-day take home exam and is normally completed during the semester of graduation. During the semester of the examination, a student must:

- Have an Admission to Candidacy form turned in and approved by the Graduate College the previous semester
- Be enrolled in at least two credit hours
- Have completed all required courses (grades of “I” do not count as completed)
- Have completed 75 percent of the course-work listed on the Admission to Candidacy form (24 credit hours).
- All core grades must be posted at time the candidacy for is submitted. (Grades of “I” do not count as completed).

The examination will be sent to the student via e-mail and the results are valid for two consecutive years from the date of completion.

Independent Directed Reading Course

Students may request to complete an Independent Directed Reading (IDR) course as an elective. The IDR proposal form must be filled out and sent to the IR Program Representative. We will record the information and send it to the instructor for approval. The IDR proposal form can be found in the Program Planner on the IR Web site.

Degree Requirements

- Non-thesis 32-semester hour interdisciplinary degree program.
- Courses are offered in Communication, Political Science, History, Human Relations, Geography, Sociology, International Area Studies, and Economics.
Required Courses (21 credit hours)

Content Courses

A minimum of two courses must be taken from the following area:

International Politics and Government

- P SC 5123 The Making of American Foreign Policy
- P SC 5193 Comparative Administration
- P SC 5513 International Relations Theory
- P SC 5523 Morality & Foreign Policy
- P SC 5550 Problems in International Relations (Various titles including Classics in IR)
- P SC 5543 International Organizations and Regimes
- P SC 5563 International Political Economy
- P SC 5600 Problems in Comparative Government (Titles vary)
- P SC 5603 Russian Politics in Comparative Perspectives
- P SC 5623 International Terrorism
- P SC 5633 Comparative Public Policy Analysis
- P SC 5643 Politics of Western Europe
- P SC 5653 Democracies & Democratization
- P SC 5663 Politics of the Middle East
- P SC 5683 Politics of Latin America
- P SC 6603 Field Seminar in Comparative Politics
- IAS 5213 Politics of the European Union
- IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies: International Law
- IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies, EU, NATO, & European Security
- IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies: Afghanistan in Conflict

In addition, students must take at least two courses from each of two of the following three areas (for a total of four courses):

International Culture and Communication

- COMM 5253 Cross-Cultural Communication: Theory and Research
- COMM 5960 Directed Reading: War, Peace, Media
- COMM 5960 Directed Reading: Mass Opinion & Armed Military Conflict
- COMM 5960 Directed Reading: Terror Management Theory & Communication (effective Fall 2011)
- COMM 6323 International Communication
- COMM 6433 Seminar in Intercultural Communication

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• COMM 6383 Seminar in Political Communication: War/Peace/Media (This is the only title that can be counted as core. All other COMM 6383 courses are elective for the IR degree).
• HR 5100 Advanced Theories in Human Relations: International/Intercultural Awareness
• HR 5110 Multicultural Issues in Human Relations
• HR 5113 Cultural Diversity in Human Relations
• HR 5113 International Training and Development
• HR 5703 International Human Relations

International Economics and Business
• ECON 5613 International Economics – Trade
• ECON 5633 International Economics – Finance
• ECON 5853 World Economic Development
• LS 5323 The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business

International Area Studies
• CAS 5970 Contemporary China
• GEOG 6220 Seminar in Human Geography
• GEOG 6230 Seminar in Economic Geography
• GEOG 6240 Seminar in Resource and Environmental Geography
• HIST 6200 Seminar in European History
• HIST 6300 Seminar in Latin American History
• HIST 6400 Seminar in American History
• HIST 6500 Africa Since 1945: Nationalism and the Postcolonial State
• HIST 6600 Seminar in Middle Eastern History
• HIST 6800 Seminar in Asian History
• HIST 6970 Special Topics
• IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies: Western Hemispheric Security (This course does not count as a core in the P&G area but can be used in the IAS area or the elective area)
• SOC 5943 Inequality in a Global Perspective
• SOC 5790 Cultures & Development in Africa
• Research Methodology Course (three credit hours)

One course must be taken from the following:
• COMM 5003 Comparative Research Methods
• ECON 5023 Statistics for Decision Making (Professor uses an alternate CD)
• GEOG 5113 Quantitative Methods
• HR 5023 Research in Human Relations (Case by case)
• PSC 5913 Introduction to Analysis of Political and Administrative Data
International Relations will now accept the following courses as a required research credit:

- LSTD 5043 Research Methods (online only)

Note: A statistics CD-ROM is a mandatory component of the research methodology course and must be completed either as part of the course.

**Elective Courses (11 credit hours)**

The courses listed above that have not been used as required courses may be used as electives. Elective courses may also be selected from the courses listed below. The areas of coursework listed below represent the breadth and depth of the specialized content areas. The specific courses listed in each area are examples of courses from which students may choose that fulfill the elective requirement for this degree program. Not every course listed will be offered at every site. Students are encouraged to consult the yearly schedule when developing their program of study. Depth of understanding is increased by taking electives in a single discipline while breadth of understanding is increased by taking electives across several disciplines. Courses with appropriate content from other OU programs may be used as electives with prior approval from the program director.

**Culture and Communication**

- COMM 5383 Survey of Political Communication
- COMM 5960 Directed Reading: News, Media, Framing: Public Opinion (this title can be used for elective only)
- COMM 5960 Directed Reading: Mass Opinion & Armed Military Conflict (this title can be used as a core course)
- COMM 5960 Directed Reading: International Ethnic Minority Media
- COMM 5960 Directed Reading: Detection of Deception Communication (this title can be used as a core course)
- COMM 6383 Seminar in Political Communication
- H R 5003 Theoretical Foundations
- H R 5033 Seminar in Leadership Organizations
- H R 5093 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Human Relations
- H R 5110 International Conflict Resolution
- H R 5113 Toward a Global Ethic: A Dialogue with the World’s Religions
- H R 5113 Planning Issues in Organizations
- SOC 5313 Qualitative Research Methods (cannot be used as a core research course)

**Economics and Business**

- ECON 5073 Contemporary Economic Methods & Analysis
- ECON 5990 Comparative Economics Systems
- LIS 5703 Electronic Access to research Resources
Political Science

- P SC 5113 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
- P SC 5170 Problems in Public Administration: International Economics Development
- P SC 5223 Public Policy Analysis
- P SC 5243 Managing Public Programs
- P SC 5613 Political Economy of Industrial Democracies
- P SC 5733 Contemporary Political Theory
- P SC 6613 Seminar in Comparative Politics

International Relations will now accept the following online courses for Elective credit:

- LSTD 5003 Intro to Graduate Studies in Interdisciplinary Studies
- LSTD 5043 Research Methods (this course can also be used as an IR research requirement in the core area)
- LSTD 5083 Qualitative Research Methods in Interdisciplinary Studies
- LSTD 5603 US Military Leadership from the Revolution to the Gulf War.

Content Course Descriptions - International Area Studies

CAS 5970 – Contemporary China

(Various topics that may include library and/or laboratory research and field projects)

GEOG 6220 - Seminar in Human Geography

(Various seminars including Political Geography, Urban Geography, Cultural Ecology, Indigenous Peoples, the Islamic World, Europe, Latin America and The West Bank.)

GEOG 6230 - Seminar in Economic Geography

(Various seminars including Globalization, African Development and European Economy.)

GEOG 6240 - Seminar in Resource and Environmental Geography

(Various seminars including Sustainable Development, Water Resources and Mineral Resources.)

HIST 6200 - Seminar in European History

Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography, featuring reports and criticism.

HIST 6300 - Seminar in Latin American History

Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography, featuring reports and criticism.
HIST 6400 - Seminar in American History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography, featuring reports and criticism.

HIST 6500 - Seminar in African History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography, featuring reports and criticism.

HIST 6600 - Seminar in Middle Eastern History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography, featuring reports and criticism.

HIST 6800 - Seminar in Asian History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography, featuring reports and criticism.

HIST 6970 – Special Topics
(Various seminars including Africa & U.S. Foreign Policy in the Age of Decolonization).

IAS 5213 – Politics of the European Union
Examines the historical process of European integration. Topics include the structure of EU institution, law making in the EU, international role of the EU and the trans-Atlantic relationship.

SOC 5943 – Inequality in a Global Perspective
In-depth review and analysis of the sociological concepts and theories used to study how wealth (and its correlates, power and prestige) are created and distributed – emphasis placed on how these processes occur within a global system.

SOC 5970 – Cultures & Development in Africa
(May include library and/or laboratory research and field projects)

Course Descriptions – International Politics and Government

P SC 5123 - The Making of American Foreign Policy
A study of American policy formulation with its problems and limitations. Current American foreign policies and alternate courses of action are examined critically.

P SC 5193 - Comparative Administration
Using foreign government bureaucracies as examples, this course will compare analytically the political, legal, economic and cultural influences. Similarities and
contrasts in the bureaucratic functions and structures will be examined and attention
given to organization around the chief executive, both centrally and in departments and
ministries.

P SC 5513 - International Relations Theory

Overview and appraisal of the state of the field of international relations. Primary
emphasis will be placed on scope and method issues and on a review of theoretical
attempts to explain general and specific aspects of international relations.

P SC 5523 - Morality and Foreign Policy

Review of general debate regarding morality and foreign policy. Identification and
analysis of moral issues regarding various foreign policy areas: use of force, nuclear
deterrence and war, non-violence, revolution, rich nation-poor nation issues and global
interdependence issues.

P SC 5543 – International Organizations & Regimes

Focuses on the organization of international politics via formal multilateral arrangements
(international organizations) and informal multilateral agreements (international
regimes) from a theoretical perspective.

P SC 5550 - Problems in International Relations

Analysis of current international conflicts and problems with study of possible solutions.
May include study of the role and current problems of the United Nations.

P SC 5563 - International Political Economy

The organization of the international economic system and the opportunities and
constraints faced by national governments in managing economic relations with other
countries. Also examines the role of international agencies in managing economic
crises and the globalization of the world economy.

P SC 5600 - Problems in Comparative Politics

May be repeated; maximum credit six hours. Content varies, but involves systematic
comparative treatment of such central themes as the transitional society, change and
revolution, modernization, political groups, constitutionalism and bureaucracy.

P SC 5603 – Russian Politics in Comparative Perspectives

Designed to demonstrate how comparativists who focus on Russia have engaged in
seminal works in the subfield of comparative politics.

P SC 5623 - International Terrorism

Will study the phenomenon of international terrorism. After analyzing different types of
incidents the students will explore patterns of terrorism and the tactile and strategic
responses to the threat along with policy implications on all levels.
P SC 5643 - Politics of Western Europe

Analyzes Western European politics in a comparative perspective. Attention will be given to both processes and structures of governments in Western European countries with particular emphasis on interest articulation and policy outcomes.

P SC 5653 – Democracies & Democratization

Examines the historical sources of modern democracy, the causal factors underlying the genesis and survival of democracy, the dynamics of democratic breakdowns and transitions from authoritarian rule, and the problems of democratic regime consolidation and quality.

P SC 5663 – Politics of the Middle East

This course will survey the political structure of Middle Eastern states and societies. It will highlight the processes of state and nation building, the growth of political ideologies, and economic change in the region. A number of theoretical perspectives will be used.

P SC 5683 - Politics in Latin America

Covers recent approaches to understanding politics in Latin America, with an emphasis on questions of transitions to democracy and regime stability, the nature of democratic rule, the role of political institutions, the economy and the military

P SC 6603 - Comparative Public Policy Analysis

An exploration of the central theoretical concepts and problems of comparative politics, focusing upon generalizations that are cross-nationally applicable. Topics include problems of comparison, systems and functional analysis, political culture, socialization, parties, participation-alienation, leadership, communication, pressure groups, policy processes, political change and macro-analysis-comparison of total systems.

Course Descriptions – International Culture and communication

COMM 5253 - Cross-Cultural Communication: Theory and Research

Study of theory of cross-cultural communication with special attention to language, stereotyping, perception, role, power and non-verbal communication as such variables operate in cross-cultural situations.

COMM 6323 - International Communication

Studies communication as an essential component of international organizations, nation states, diplomatic relations and other political and social units. Emphasizes the role of communication in international decision making, conflict, resolution and negotiation.
COMM 6433 - Seminar in Intercultural Communication

Studies communication across cultural boundaries with emphasis on comparative analysis of communication systems of various cultures, factors involved in predicting intercultural communication patterns and effects, and the role of communication in cultural and technological development. Special attention is given to communication problems between subcultures in American societies.

H R 5100 - Advanced Theories in Human Relations: International/Intercultural Awareness

Additional in-depth studies of human relations theories and their implications for human relations; the practitioners will focus on topics such as, but not limited to: affirmative action and reverse discrimination, spiritual aspects of recovery in chemical dependency, conceptual models of violence and non-violence as a basis for peace curriculum, human relations in the twenty-first century, human values in sexuality and women and men in organizations.

H R 5110 - Multicultural Issues in Human Relations

Focuses on understanding sociocultural aspects of other countries; explores effective ways to resolve human relations problems when individuals from several cultures interact; and looks into some socioeconomic trends in the United States.

H R 5113 - Cultural Diversity in Human Relations

Explores the meaning of cultural diversity, and its specific application in the workplace. Attention focuses on the differences among such terms as affirmative action, valuing differences and managing diversity. Within many topics both legal and historical perspectives will be reviewed.

H R 5113 - International Training and Development

Explores the nature of globalization – the production and distribution of products and services of a homogenous type and quality on a worldwide basis – and its implications for international training and development.

H R 5703 – International Human Relations

This course will examine ways to understand people of different cultures. It uses a multidisciplinary approach to look at the roots and explanations of differences between cultures and what these differences mean for working with people of different backgrounds. Utilizes the tools of history, geography, economics, sociology, and other social and physical sciences to understand why people are different in order to identify strategies for building effective human relations.
Course Descriptions – International Economics and Business

ECON 5613 - International Economics – Trade

Causes and effects of international trade gain from trade, theory of tariff and effective protection, economic growth and trade, intermediate products, optimal trade policies, factor market imperfections and theory of integration.

ECON 5633 - International Economics – Finance

Foreign exchange rates, balance of payments, alternative international monetary systems and international reserves.

ECON 5853 - World Economic Development

The economics of the developing nations; a review and analysis of common problems and issues.

LS 5323 or LS 5870: topics in Legal Studies - The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business (effective Spring 2011, topic specific)

A survey of the basic framework of the American and international legal systems, with particular emphasis on the common law, comparative law, courts, civil procedure, constitutional law, administrative regulation, topics in business law and the regulatory environment. Examines the ethical issues confronting business managers and provides a systematic method for recognizing and resolving these issues.

Course Descriptions – Research Methodology

COMM 5003 - Comparative Research Methods (Quantitative Methods)

Overview of contemporary approaches and controversial issues in the conduct of communication research. Topics include qualitative, quantitative, historical/critical and other non-observational methods.

GEOG 5113 - Quantitative Methods

An introduction for graduate majors in geography and those in allied fields to research design and problem-solving research techniques.

HR 5023 – Research in Human Relations

Special focus will be upon designing and implementing a research project related to the student’s area of concentration in human relations.

ECON 5023 – Statistics for Decision Making (Professor uses an alternate CD)

Covers basic probability density functions, the parametric estimating techniques of linear multivariate regression analysis and the elements of statistical decision making under uncertainty.
LSTD – 5043 Research Methods (online only)

Theories and techniques of research designed to prepare MLS students to carry out individual research on a topic within an interdisciplinary program of study.

P SC 5913 - Introduction to Analysis of Political and Administrative Data

Presents an introduction to the foundations and use of quantitative methods in political science/public administration. Topics covered include: conducting systematic research in political science/public administration, measurement theory, bivariate analysis, hypothesis testing and statistical inference.

Course Descriptions – Culture and Communication Electives

COMM 5383 - Survey of Political Communication

Surveys communication in the political system. Discusses theory and research on interpersonal, public and mass communication in politics, particularly political campaigns.

COMM 6383 - Seminar in Political Communication

Considers current topics in political theory and research.

H R 5003 – Theoretical Foundations

An analysis of human relations theories and concepts from the perspectives of the social sciences, the humanities and education.

H R 5093 – Intro to Graduate Studies in Human Relations

Designed to acquaint graduate students with human relations theory and practice in various contexts. Emphasis is placed on the role of human relations professionals as agents of persistence and change at the interpersonal, group, organizational and societal levels of analysis.

H R 5110 - International Conflict Resolution

Focuses on helping students to gain global knowledge of sources of conflicts and conflict resolution. When most religion-political problems and social conflicts within a small nation are unattended, they become the responsibility of bigger nations. Several intranational conflicts have led to international problems

H R 5113 - Toward a Global Ethic: A Dialogue with the World's Religions (Global Ethics online)

We will consider several existing proposals for designing and implementing a global ethic. We will then work collaboratively to develop our own distinct models of such a proposal, or part of such a proposal. We will focus on the major religious and ideological traditions of the world because they have not only served to establish pervasive moral codes for their adherents but have also been responsible for a great deal of inter-group
hostility. In addition, they are among the most effective "multiplier" groups; that is, groups with leaders who can educate their membership and encourage or discourage respect for the "other." In keeping with the method of learning/teaching, this Internet-based course is dialogic, collaborative and open-ended.

**SOC 5313 – Qualitative Research Methods (Can NOT be used as core research course)**

Survey of different qualitative methodological strategies used in the social sciences to collect, code, and analyze information.

**Course Descriptions – Economics and Business Electives**

**ECON 5073 - Contemporary Economic Methods and Analysis**

A review of contemporary economic methods and theory and their application to the analysis of the macroeconomic questions and problems in the American economy. Techniques of economic forecasting will also be covered.

**ECON 5990 - Comparative Economic Systems**

Explores the ways different economic systems deal with the basic economic questions of what to produce, how scarce resources are allocated and how goods and services are distributed.

**Course Descriptions – Political Science Electives**

**P SC 5113 – Federalism & Intergovernmental Relations**

Covers the origins, development, and operational aspects of federalism in the U.S. Intergovernmental relations as the dynamics of federalism are studied as they impact on decision-making, administrative and fiscal patterns. Decentralization and reorganization are analyzed as they affect the administration of national programs.

**P SC 5223 – Public Policy Analysis**

An introduction to public policy analysis and policy making with emphasis on the examination of selected policy issues.

**P SC 5243 – Managing Public Programs**

Introduces students to the general principles of management as they are applied in the public sector. Topics include: systems theory, systems design (PERT), organization design, techniques of supervision, public sector labor relations, public sector personnel practices, agency interface with political actors in the environment.

**P SC 5613 - Political Economy of Industrial Democracies**

Examines the interrelationship of political and economic factors in influencing both political and economic outcomes. A key element will be the application of microeconomic theory to obtain a better understanding of decision making processes.
Topics include theory of collective action, comparative economic performance, political business cycles and theories of economic voting.

**P SC 5653 - Low Intensity Conflict: Nature, Processes, Policies**

Introduces the student to the nature and dynamic of low intensity conflict with an emphasis on the processes of revolutionary warfare; identifies and analyzes major strategies associated with low intensity conflict; and evaluates alternative policies associated with engaging in or responding to low intensity conflict.

**P SC 5733 - Contemporary Political Theory**

Will study selected issues in contemporary political theory. Specific topics will include the modern theory of a "social science," problems of modern democratic theory, contemporary Marxism, the crisis of the idea of progress, economics and politics, historicism, contemporary analysis of natural law and natural right and others

**Course Descriptions – Liberal Studies Electives**

**LSTD 5003 – Intro to Graduate Studies in Interdisciplinary Studies**

Intensive seminar providing orientation to advanced interdisciplinary study, appreciation for standards of performance and scholarship appropriate to graduate study, development of skills necessary for success in academic research and writing in a graduate interdisciplinary program.

**LSTD 5043 – Research Methods (This course can also be used as an IR research requirement in the CORE area)**

Theories and techniques of research designed to prepare students to carry out individual research on a topic within an interdisciplinary program of study.

**LSTD 5083 – Qualitative Research Methods in Interdisciplinary Studies**

An inquiry designed to acquaint students with qualitative research methods in interdisciplinary study. By the end of the course, the student will be familiar with the most common methods and issues of qualitative research. Students will learn how to design a study, how to recognize and address ethical issues and how to analyze qualitative data.

For additional course descriptions please see the University of Oklahoma General Catalog. Please note that degree program requirements are subject to change.