



# THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MINOR

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Department of Political Science  
University of Massachusetts Boston

The minor in International Relations offers students the opportunity to explore how peoples and nations interact across political boundaries. Students in the minor engage in topics on international relations theory, area and socio-cultural studies, international conflict and cooperation, international political economy, and transnational issues.

## General Requirements

To complete the International Relations minor, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Courses:** 7 courses (2 required courses and 5 electives). See "Curriculum" section below for more details.
- **Course Level:** 3 out of the 5 elective courses must be at 300 level or higher.
- **Double-Counting:** Student may not double-count more than one course toward the fulfillment of another major and/or minor. Students should pay careful attention to this because many of the courses applicable to the minor in International Relations are drawn from other disciplines, such as Political Science and Economics.
- **Pass/Fail:** Neither of the required courses can be taken Pass/Fail. Only one elective course can be taken Pass/Fail.
- **Residency:** At least three courses must be taken at UMass Boston.

## Curriculum

### Required Courses

The following two courses are required.

- **Introductory Requirement: POLSCI 220** – International Relations. This course introduces theories and approaches to studying international relations. Students should plan to take this course as early as possible.
- **Senior Project Requirement: POLSCI 499L / IR 499L** – Seminar in International Relations. This seminar has three major goals: integrating the knowledge gained from other courses already taken in the program; review of different approaches and perspectives on international relations; completion of a substantial research project. Students should take this course during their senior year.

### Elective Courses

Students need to complete five additional courses from the four groups listed below. For adequate coverage of topics, it is strongly recommended that you take at least one course from each group.

Three out these five courses must be at 300 level or above. Please note that new courses are offered by the university on a regular basis. Additional courses not listed here may be applicable as electives toward the minor if the focus of the content or analysis is on international politics, economics, history, or sociology. To review whether a specific course not listed here can be counted, contact the Director of the minor.

### GROUP 1: AREA AND SOCIO-CULTURAL STUDY

AFRSTY 310: Modern Caribbean Society  
ANTH 271: Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East  
ANTH 272: Peoples and Cultures of Africa  
ANTH 273: Peoples and Cultures of Mesoamerica  
ANTH 274: Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean  
EASIAN 361L: The History of Modern China  
EASIAN 363L: Modern Japan  
HIST 316: Europe since 1945  
HIST 322: Britain & Empire  
HIST 324: Russia since 1861  
HIST 327: Germany since 1945  
HIST 331: France since 1789  
HIST 334: Italy Since 1815  
HIST 361L: The History of Modern China  
HIST 363L: Modern Japan  
HIST 364: India since 1857  
HIST 366: The Middle East since 1914  
LATAM 270: Human Rights in Latin America  
LATAM 290: Central America: Society and Culture  
LATAM 303: Reform and Revolution in Latin America  
LATAM 305: The Caribbean: Culture and Society  
POLSCI 201: Comparative Politics of Industrialized Societies  
POLSCI 202: Comparative Politics of Third World Countries  
POLSCI 353: European Political Development  
POLSCI 354: Postwar European Problems  
POLSCI 360: The Government and Politics of Britain  
POLSCI 361: The Politics of Eastern Europe  
POLSCI 363: Politics and Society in Present-Day Russia  
POLSCI 369: Politics of the Middle East  
POLSCI 371: Latin American Politics  
POLSCI 372: Central American Politics  
POLSCI 387: The Government and Politics of China  
POLSCI 388: Contemporary Politics of South Asia  
SPAN 361: Spanish-American Civilization

### GROUP 2: INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

ANTH 324: A Biocultural Approach to War  
EEOS 352: Political Geography  
HIST 315: Europe 1900-1945  
HIST 349L: The Cold War: Rise and Fall  
HIST 357: The Vietnam War  
HIST 358: War in the Twentieth Century

HIST 387: US Foreign Policy since 1898  
HIST 389: The History of Modern Terrorism  
IR 376L: Religion and International Relations  
POLSCI 355L: The European Union  
POLSCI 366: Media and International Affairs  
POLSCI 376L: Religion and International Relations  
POLSCI 402: World Politics and World Order  
POLSCI 411: International Organizations I  
POLSCI 412: International Organizations II  
POLSCI 415: Law and International Relations  
POLSCI 420: Imperialism  
POLSCI 421: War  
POLSCI 422: Nationalism  
POLSCI 424: American Foreign Policy  
POLSCI 430: Russian Foreign Policy

### GROUP 3: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

ECON 334: International Trade  
ECON 335: International Finance  
ECON 336: Economic Development  
ECON 337: Emerging Economies in Asia  
ECON 338: The Latin American Economy  
ECON 372: Comparative Economic Systems  
ECON 435: The Multinational Corporation  
EEOS 280: Economic Geography  
IR 480: Political Economy of International Trade  
MGT 434: Managing in the Global Economy  
POLSCI 349: Cities and World Development  
POLSCI 375: Third World Development  
POLSCI 410: Politics of International Economic Relations

### GROUP 4: TRANSNATIONAL STUDIES

ANTH 295L: Introduction to Human Rights  
ANTH 346: Culture, Globalization, and the Environment  
EEOS 250: Today's Issues in Environmental Science  
EEOS 260: Global Environmental Change  
ECON 339: Political Economy of International Migration  
ECON 345: Natural Resources and Sustainable Economic Development  
HIST 290G: Globalization in Historical Perspective  
POLSCI 230G: Globalization and Its Discontents  
SOCIOLOG 290: Environmental Justice & Human Disasters  
SOCIOLOG 355L: Gender, Development and Globalization  
SOCIOLOG 372: Globalization and Social Change  
SOCIOLOG 373: Population and Ecology  
WOST 295L: Introduction to Human Rights  
WOST 355L: Gender, Development and Globalization

## Optional Curricular Recommendations

**Language:** International Relations, by nature, requires students to understand foreign societies, cultures, and peoples. Obtaining intermediate-level proficiency in a foreign language, therefore, is recommended. This competency will be especially advantageous if you choose an international career or graduate studies in international relations.

**International Experience:** Students are encouraged to participate in a university-level program of study overseas. This may include intensive summer programs or one-semester programs offered through the UMass system or through comparable programs at other universities. For information in various programs, please visit the Study Abroad Office – Campus Center/Advising Office.

**Internship:** To broaden their experience and enhance their preparation for employment, students are encouraged to complete an internship in settings with an international dimension: e.g., business firms engaged in international trade and finance; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Oxfam, Grassroots International, and World Affairs Council; or governmental organizations related to foreign relations. To receive credit and include the internship experience as part of the curriculum, students enroll in IR 490 – Internship in International Relations. They have to participate in regular meetings with their faculty supervisor, and also prepare a final report due at the end of the semester.

## Admission

Any UMass Boston student, regardless of major, may enroll in the International Relations minor. To do so, you need to complete a Major/Minor Declaration Form, available at the One Stop Shop in Campus Center or at departmental offices. You are encouraged to have an initial discussion with one of the faculty advisers in the Department of Political Science for guidance on selecting courses that best suit your interests and future goals.

## Contact Information

Online: <http://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/dept/polisci/ir.html>

For enrollment forms and additional information

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