International Relations and Politics (BS)

Major Academic Program Manager: Emily Half (BH A60C); Faculty Director: Kiron Skinner (PH 223F)

The International Relations and Politics (IRP) major analyzes the role of politics at the national, regional, international, and transnational levels; examines political and institutional arrangements within and among these levels; and investigates the grand strategy of nation-states.

Statesmen, scholars, and policy makers often define grand strategy as the combination of diplomatic, economic, military, and political factors used by leaders to defend their respective nation-states. The IRP major investigates the way in which leaders and citizens construct grand strategy and national security policy more generally; the impact of domestic and international forces on states' security and economic policies; and the significance of alliances, coalitions, and international institutions for world politics. Although the study of grand strategy and political institutions is the flagship initiative of the major, students are also able to study the effects of culture, economics, and society on the international system through a rich set of elective courses.

The major is rooted in the discipline of political science but also utilizes the interdisciplinary strengths of behavioral decision science, complex social systems, economics, strategy, entrepreneurship and technological change, and political history. Thus, students pursuing this major will use the analytic tools of game theory, economic and statistical analysis, qualitative analysis, rational choice theory, and theories of behavioral decision making as they study alliances, coalitions, institutions, and political strategy.

The Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP), also sponsored by the Institute for Politics and Strategy, allows students to study and intern in Washington for one semester. Courses taken through CMU/WSP will count toward requirements for the major.

This is a suggested schedule for the first 2 years for a Primary Major. It is also available as an additional major and minor. The remainder of the Major and GenEd can be completed in the junior and senior year.

1st semester (52 units)

- 36-201, Statistical Reasoning
- Complete 1:
  - 76-101, Interpretation & Argument
  - 79-104, Global Histories
  - Freshman Seminar
- 99-101 or 99-102, C@CM
- 21-120, Diff. & Integral Calculus*
- 82-1xx, Elementary Lang. I***
- 99-101 or 99-102, C@CM

2nd semester (48 units)

- Complete 2:
  - 76-101, Interpretation & Argument
  - 79-104, Global Histories
  - Freshman Seminar
- 36-202, Statistical Methods
- 82-1xx, Elementary Lang. II****
- xx-xxx, Elective**

3rd semester (45 units)

- 84-326, Theories of Int'l Relations
- 82-2xx, Intermediate Lang. I***
- 88-220, Policy Analysis I****
- xx-xxx, Elective**

4th semester (45 units)

- 84-275, Comparative Politics
- 82-2xx, Intermediate Lang. II***
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**

*If required to start with 21-111, complete 21-112.
**Elective: This space can be used for a pre-requisite course, another GenEd course, a major course elective, or for a course that interests you.
***Students are required to complete the intermediate II level or higher of a modern language other than English. Advanced-level study is strongly encouraged.
****or 73-100, Principles of Economics