BHA-International Relations & Politics

Dietrich College (DC) Concentration in International Relations & Politics  

81 units (minimum)

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**Advisor:** Emily Half; Baker Hall A55B, 412-268-7082, ehalf@andrew.cmu.edu

Offered through the Institute for Politics and Strategy (IPS), the International Relations and Politics (IRP) BHA concentration 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 concentration 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 concentration, students are also able to study the effects of culture, economics, and society on the international system through a rich set of elective courses.

Thinking systematically about international and domestic politics is the core objective of the IRP concentration. The concentration is rooted in the discipline of political science but also utilizes the interdisciplinary strengths of decision science, economics, and political history. Thus, students pursuing this concentration 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 name of the concentration signifies that those studying IRP learn about international relations and domestic politics from the standpoint of the discipline of political science. Thus, IRP preserves and expands CMU’s tradition in political science. Also, the concentration taps into and contributes to CMU’s strengths in other social sciences that combine analytical and empirical methods. IRP has recently launched an innovative initiative to incorporate decision science in international relations. It enables students to apply the burgeoning science of judgment and decision making to understanding political actors’ strategies and foibles, the strengths and weaknesses of formal methods of policy analysis (e.g., cost, risk, benefit, analysis), and the factors shaping public responses to politics and policies.

Recognizing the influence of language and culture on politics, students are required to complete the intermediate (200) level, or its equivalent, in a modern language other than English. Advanced-level study is strongly encouraged.

Open to all Carnegie Mellon undergraduates, the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) allows students to study public policy and intern in Washington for one semester. Courses taken through CMU/WSP will count toward the elective sequence in public policy for the IRP concentration.

Students’ understanding of politics is further informed by courses and colloquia offered by CMU’s top-ranked departments, divisions, and schools in business, computer science, and engineering.

IRP students interested in developing their research skills are encouraged to apply for a research position with the Center for International Relations and Politics or work directly with a member of the IPS faculty. Students are also encouraged to join student organizations focused on domestic or international politics. Becoming involved in the Institute for Politics and Strategy, as well as attending lectures and events sponsored by the Center for International Relations and Politics will provide additional opportunities for students.

**Pre-requisites**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36-200</td>
<td>Reasoning with Data</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-102</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
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**Core Courses**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84-104</td>
<td>Decision Processes in American Political Institutions</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-265</td>
<td>Political Science Research Methods</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-275</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-326</td>
<td>Theories of International Relations</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-369</td>
<td>Decision Science for International Relations</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>84-450</td>
<td>Policy Forum</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>36-202</td>
<td>Methods for Statistics and Data Science</td>
<td>9</td>
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**Language Requirement**

BHA IRP students are required to complete the intermediate (200) level or the equivalent in a modern language other than English. This Language Requirement may be satisfied by the BHA General Education Modern Languages requirement if the 200-level is reached. Advanced level study is strongly encouraged.
Electives

International Relations and Politics BHA students will either:

**Option 1** Take 21 units (three courses) from the elective lists below. At least two courses must be from the Institute for Politics and Strategy (84-xxx).

- **Grand Strategy and Political Institutions**
- **Economics and Society**

### Grand Strategy and Political Institutions

66-221 Topics of Law: Introduction to Intellectual Property Law
79-203 Social and Political Change in 20th Century Central and Eastern Europe
79-298 Mobile Phones & Social Media in Development & Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal
79-301 History of Surveillance: From the Plantation to Edward Snowden
79-302 Killer Robots: The Ethics, Law, and Politics of Lethal Autonomous Weapons System
80-135 Introduction to Political Philosophy
80-321 Causation, Law, and Social Policy
84-335 Social and Political Philosophy
84-250 Writing for Political Science and Policy
84-309 Political Behavior
84-319 U.S. Foreign Policy and Interventions in World Affairs
84-320 Domestic Politics and International Affairs
84-321 Autocrats and Democrats
84-322 Nonviolent Conflict and Revolution
84-323 War and Peace
84-324 Democracies and War
84-325 Contemporary American Foreign Policy
84-362 Diplomacy and Statecraft
84-363 Comparative Legal Systems
84-366 Presidential Politics: So, You Want to Be President of the United States
84-370 Global Nuclear Politics
84-372 Space and National Security
84-380 Grand Strategy in the United States
84-386 The Privatization of Force
84-387 Technology and Policy of Cyber War
84-388 Concepts of War and Cyber War
84-389 Terrorism and Insurgency
84-390 Social Media, Technology, and Conflict
84-393 Legislative Decision Making: US Congress
84-402 Judicial Politics and Behavior
84-405 Future of Warfare
84-414 International and Subnational Security
88-281 Topics in Law: 1st Amendment
88-284 Topics in Law: The Bill of Rights

### Economics and Society

19-452 EPP Projects
70-342 Managing Across Cultures
70-365 International Trade and International Law
70-430 International Management
73-103 Principles of Macroeconomics
73-328 Health Economics
73-331 Political Economy of Inequality and Redistribution
73-394 Development Economics
79-386 Entrepreneurs in Africa, Past, Present and Future
80-136 Social Structure, Public Policy & Ethics
80-244 Environmental Ethics
80-249 Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and Society
80-348 Health Development and Human Rights
80-447 Global Justice
84-310 International Political Economy
84-311 International Development: Theory and Praxis
84-312 Gender and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa
84-313 International Organizations and Law
84-315 Contemporary Debates in Human Rights
84-318 Politics of Developing Nations
88-411 Rise of the Asian Economies
88-412 Energy, Climate Change, and Economic Growth in the 21st Century
88-430 Methods of Policy Analysis
International Cultures
76-318 Communicating in the Global Marketplace 9
76-386 Language & Culture 9
79-205 20th & 21st Century Europe 9
79-221 Development and Democracy in Latin America 9
79-222 Between Revolutions: The Development of Modern Latin America 9
79-223 Mexico: From the Aztec Empire to the Drug War 9
79-224 Mayan America 9
79-227 Modern Africa: The Slave Trade to the End of Apartheid 9
79-229 Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1880-1948 9
79-230 Arab-Israeli Conflict Since 1948 9
79-233 The United States and the Middle East since 1945 9
79-256 20th Century Germany 9
79-257 Germany and the Second World War 9
79-259 France During World War II 9
79-262 Modern China: From the Birth of Mao ... to Now 9
79-264 Tibet and China: History and Propaganda 6
79-265 Russian History: From the First to the Last Tsar 9
79-266 Russian History: From Communism to Capitalism 9
79-267 The Soviet Union in World War II: Military, Political, and Social History 9
79-275 Introduction to Global Studies 9
79-288 Bananas, Baseball, and Borders: Latin America and the United States 9
79-291 Globalization in East African History 6
79-307 Religion and Politics in the Middle East 9
79-313 "Unwanted": Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Patterns of Global Migration 6
79-314 The Politics and Culture of Memory 9
79-318 Sustainable Social Change: History and Practice 9
79-320 Women, Politics, and Protest 9
79-338 History of Education in America 9
79-342 Introduction to Science and Technology Studies 9
79-343 Education, Democracy, and Civil Rights 9
79-377 Food, Culture, and Power: A History of Eating 9
79-381 Energy and Empire: How Fossil Fuels Changed the World 9
79-385 Out of Africa: The Making of the African Diaspora 9
79-398 Documenting the 1967 Arab-Israeli War 6
85-375 Crosscultural Psychology 9
300 or 400-level language course

OR

Option 2) Complete the majority of their electives via the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) Public Policy elective sequence.

The Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) Public Policy Elective Sequence includes:
84-450 Policy Forum (This course will count as the Policy Forum Core Course Requirement) 12
84-360 CMU/WSP Internship Seminar 12
84-3xx CMU/WSP Elective Seminars (Take 24 units from the elective list below) 24

CMU/WSP Public Policy Elective Seminars
84-330 The Shading of Democracy: The Influence of Race on American Politics 6
84-332 Effects of US Policy on Businesses: Perspectives of Asian Americans 6
84-333 Power and Levers for Change in Washington, DC 12
84-334 Presidential Power in a Constitutional System 6
84-336 Implementing Public Policy; From Good Idea To Reality 12
84-337 Biomedical Science Research, Policy, and Governance 6
84-343 Language and Power: How to Understand and Use Political Speech 6
84-346 Legal Issues in Public Administration 6
84-348 Advocacy, Policy and Practice 6