MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Master of Arts in International Relations is a non-thesis 33 semester hour degree program. This program draws on courses in multiple disciplines, including international and area studies, political science, history, geography, economics, sociology, communication and human relations.

Degree Objectives

Our goal is to equip students with the tools to develop a broad base of knowledge in international relations, the ability to conduct research and analyze information from a variety of sources, and the skills necessary to express their thoughts effectively.

Alternate Admissions Policy for the International Relations Program

Each application to the MAIR program receives individual review. The IR program admits applicants when there is substantial evidence of a high likelihood of success in the program, and may deny admission to any applicant when such evidence is lacking. Applicants with less than a 3.0 GPA on their last conferring degree but above 2.00 may be admitted conditionally provided they submit evidence of a high likelihood of success in the program. Such evidence may be derived from the rigor of the undergraduate or previous graduate coursework (based on evaluation of the transcript), from a convincing and substantial statement of purpose, and/or from a substantive letter of recommendation from a supervisor or prior course instructor.

Please submit criteria to the College of International Studies, 729 Elm Ave., Farzaneh Hall, Room 107, Norman, OK 73019.

Transfer Credit

According to Graduate College policy, no more than 25% of the minimum number of credit hours required for the master’s degree may be transferred. Accordingly, students may request up to eight hours of transfer credit 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 International Studies. 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. The Graduate College will not award transfer credit for any course identified as “correspondence.” Additionally, the Graduate College will not award transfer credit for coursework that a student has taken as part of a degree they have already earned.

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.
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.

Once the exam is sent to a student, this counts as one of the two opportunities available to the student to pass the comprehensive exam. If a student does not complete and return the exam after receiving exam questions, this nonetheless counts as one of the two opportunities to pass the exam.

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. The IDR proposal form can be found in the Program Planner on the MAIR web site.

Degree Requirements

- Non-thesis 33-semester hour interdisciplinary degree program.
- Courses are offered in Communication, Political Science, History, Human Relations, Geography, Sociology, International and Area Studies, and Economics.

Required Course (3 credit hours)

IAS 5790 Graduate Studies in International Relations

Research Methods (3 credit hours, choose 1 course from this area)*

- COMM 5003 Quantitative Methods
- COMM 5023 Introduction to Quantitative Methods to Research Methods
- ECON 5023 Statistics for Decision Making
- ECON 5073 Contemporary Economic Methods and Analysis
- GEOG 5113 Quantitative Methods
- HR 5023 Research Methods
- LSTD 5043 Research Methods
- PSC 5913 Introduction to Analysis of Political and Administrative Data
Politics, Government and Security (9 credit hours, choose 3 courses from this area)*

- CAS 5970 Biosecurity and Emerging Pathogens
- COMM 5960 Mass Opinion and Military Conflict*
- GEOG 6220 Critical Geopolitics*
- HIST 6400 American Experience in Vietnam*
- HIST 6400 American Foreign Policy Between the Wars*
- HIST 6400 Roots of American Foreign Policy
- IAS 5013 International Law
- IAS 5940 International Law
- IAS 5043 Global (International) Security
- CAS 5970 Global (International) Security
- IAS 5213 Politics of the European Union*
- IAS 5453 Politics and Policy of the Middle East*
- IAS 5940 Eastern European Politics*
- IAS 5940 EU, NATO and European Security
- IAS 5940 Global Climate Change Policy*
- IAS 5940 International Activism*
- IAS 5940 International Law
- IAS 5940 International Systems and the United Nations
- IAS 5940 National Security Leadership
- IAS 5940 U.S. Diplomatic History*
- IAS 5940 Western Hemispheric Security
- IAS 5940 International Terrorism
- IAS 5970 Domestic Politics and American Foreign Policy 3
- LSAL 5463 US Military Leadership from the Revolution to the Gulf War 3
- PSC 5123 The Making of American Foreign Policy
- PSC 5193 Comparative Administration
- PSC 5513 International Relations Theory
- PSC 5523 Morality in U.S. Foreign Policy
- PSC 5550 Decisions for War
- PSC 5550 Inter-American Politics*
- PSC 5550 Politics of the Global Financial Crisis*
- PSC 5600 Comparative Governments - Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan
- PSC 5600 Political Change of Africa, Asia & Latin America
- PSC 5643 Western European Politics*
- PSC 5653 Democracies and Democratization
- PSC 5683 Politics of Latin America*
- SOC 5970 Overview of Environ. Issues from a Global and Strategic Perspective*

Choose two courses each from two of the following three areas: Identity, Culture and Communication, Economics, Environment and Geography and Regions, Nations and History. (12 credit hours)*

Identity, Culture and Communication

- CAS 5970 Africa Post-Colonial Contexts*
• CAS 5970 Chinese Culture and Communication*
• COMM 5253 Cross-Cultural Communication
• COMM 5960 Mass Opinion and Military Conflict*
• COMM 6323 International Communication
• COMM 6383 War, Peace & the Media
• COMM 6433 Intercultural Communication
• HIST 6300 Culture and Identity in Latin America*
• HR 5110 International Conflict Resolution
• HR 5110 International/Intercultural Awareness
• HR 5703 International Human Relations
• HR 5970 Role of Gender and Warfare
• IAS 5940 International Activism*
• RELS 5970 Comparative Religions
• RELS 5970 Islamic Culture
• SOC 5970 Religion and Society

Economics, Environment and Geography

• ECON 5613 International Economics - Trade
• ECON 5633 International Economics - Finance
• ECON 5853 World Economic Development
• ECON 5990 Chinese Economic Development*
• ECON 5990 Comparative Economic Systems
• ECON 5990 International Energy Markets
• GEOG 6220 Critical Geopolitics*
• GEOG 6220 From Montreal to Kyoto: The Economics of Environmental Policy
• GEOG 6220 Indigenous Development in Latin America*
• GEOG 6220 Political Geography
• GEOG 6230 Africa and the Global Economic System*
• GEOG 6230 An Overview of the Oil & Gas Industry
• GEOG 6230 Geography and the World Economy
• GEOG 6230 Globalization of Plant Foods and Fiber
• GEOG 6230 Sustainability, Economics and Natural Resources
• GEOG 6230 The Economics of Natural Resources
• GEOG 6240 A Global Overview of the Oil and Gas Industry
• GEOG 6240 Biodiversity Conservation
• GEOG 6240 Climate Change and Society
• GEOG 6240 Climate Impact
• GEOG 6240 Global Climate Change Policy*
• GEOG 6240 International Dimensions of Biodiversity Conservation
• GEOG 6240 Large Scale Ecosystem Restoration
• GEOG 6240 Natural Resource Management in a Globalizing World
• GEOG 6240 Resource and Environmental Geography
• GEOG 6240 Resource Conflict in the Developing World
• GIS 5013 Introduction to Spatial Thinking and Computer Mapping
• IAS 5940 Global Climate Change Policy
• LS 5970 The Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
• PSC 5550 Politics of the Global Financial Crisis*
• SOC 5943 Inequality in Global Perspective
• SOC 5970 Environment and Society
• SOC 5970 Overview of Environ. Issues from a Global and Strategic Perspective

Regions, Nations and History

• CAS 5970 Africa Post-Colonial Contexts*
• CAS 5970 Chinese Culture and Communication*
• CAS 5970 Contemporary China
• ECON 5990 Chinese Economic Development*
• GEOG 6220 Indigenous Development in Latin America*
• GEOG 6230 Africa and the Global Economic System*
• HIST 5970 Building Modern Nationals: Bismarck and Ben Gurion
• HIST 6200 British Empire
• HIST 6200 Seminar in European History: The Great War, 1914-1918
• HIST 6200 Europe: Home Fronts
• HIST 6200 Roots of the Balkan Crisis
• HIST 6200 Seminar in History: Russia’s World War II
• HIST 6300 Culture and Identity in Latin America*
• HIST 6300 U.S. Relations with Cuba
• HIST 6400 American Experience in Vietnam*
• HIST 6400 American Foreign Policy Between the Wars*
• HIST 6600 Seminar in Middle Eastern History: Stateless People
• HIST 6600 The Modern Middle East
• HIST 6800 Wartime Japan
• HIST 6970 U.S. Foreign Policy in Latin America
• IAS 5213 Politics of the European Union*
• IAS 5453 Politics and Policy of the Middle East*
• IAS 5940 Afghanistan in Conflict
• IAS 5940 Eastern European Politics*
• IAS 5940 U.S. Diplomatic History*
• PSC 5550 Inter-American Politics*
• PSC 5643 Western European Politics*
• PSC 5683 Politics of Latin America*
• SOC 5970 Cultures and Development in Africa

Course Descriptions

CAS 5970 - Special Topics/Seminar (1 to 3 hours)

May be repeated; maximum credit nine hours. Special topics or seminar course for content not currently offered in regularly scheduled courses. May include library and/or laboratory research and field projects. Includes subtitled: Global (International) Security; Biosecurity and Emerging Pathogens; Africa Post-Colonial Contexts*; Chinese Culture and Communication*; Africa Post-Colonial Contexts*; Global (International) Security; Chinese Culture and Communication*; Contemporary China
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.

COMM 5023 - Introduction to Quantitative Methods to Research Methods

Introduction to social-behavioral science processes of inquiry about human communication phenomena for graduate students not pursuing a Ph.D. Examines the relationship of theory and method, between research paradigms and designs, and provides an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics.

COMM 5253 - Cross-Cultural Communication

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

COMM 5960 – Directed Readings

Intensive survey of the literature in a selected area of communication under the direction of a graduate faculty member. Subtitles: Mass Opinion and Military Conflict*3

COMM 6323 - International Communication

An interdisciplinary survey of theory and research pertaining to issues of mass media and information and communication technologies and their interaction with culture, identity, politics, and ethics.

COMM 6383 - War, Peace & the Media

Conflicts and mediated representations of those conflicts have changed since the Cold War. Government propaganda, news coverage, and social media have altered the media landscape in which we view and consume information about war and peace. Students will be exposed to various types of armed conflict from around the world. This course will feature important academic texts as well as real-world examples of ethnic, religious, regional and other conflicts.

COMM 6433 - 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 society.

ECON 5023 – Statistics for Decision Making

Covers basic probability density functions, the parametric estimating techniques of linear multivariate regression analysis and the elements of statistical decision making under uncertainty.

ECON 5073 - Contemporary Economic Methods and Analysis

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

**ECON 5633 - International Economics – Finance**

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

**ECON 5853 - World Economic Development**

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

**ECON 5990 - Special Studies**

Advanced studies in various areas of economics. Subtitles include: Chinese Economic Development*; Comparative Economic Systems; International Energy Markets; and Chinese Economic Development*

**GEOG 5113 - Quantitative Methods**

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

**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 6220 - Seminar in Human Geography**

Directed studies in one of the major divisions of human geography. Subtitles include: Critical Geopolitics*; From Montreal to Kyoto: The Economics of Environmental Policy; Indigenous Development in Latin America*; and Political Geography

**GEOG 6230 - Seminar in Economic Geography**

Directed studies in one of the major divisions of economic geography. Subtitles include: Africa and the Global Economic System*; An Overview of the Oil & Gas Industry; Geography and the World Economy; Globalization of Plant Foods and Fiber; Sustainability, Economics and Natural Resources; and The Economics of Natural Resources.

**GEOG 6240 - Seminar in Resource and Environmental Geography**

Directed individual research studies in one of the major aspects of resource or environmental geography. Provides training in collection and analysis of data in oral, written and cartographic presentation. Subtitles include: A Global Overview of the Oil and Gas Industry; Biodiversity Conservation; Climate Change and Society; Climate Impact; Global Climate Change Policy*; International Dimensions of Biodiversity Conservation; Large Scale Ecosystem Restoration; Natural Resource Management in a Globalizing World; Resource and Environmental Geography; and Resource Conflict in the Developing World.
GIS 5013 - Introduction to Spatial Thinking and Computer Mapping
Provides an understanding of the principles of geographic information systems and develops problem solving skills to apply to technical and spatial problems.

HIST 5970 - Special Topics
Special topics or seminar course for content not currently offered in regularly scheduled courses. May include library and/or research and field projects. Subtitle includes: Building Modern Nationals: Bismarck and Ben Gurion.

HIST 6200 - Seminar in European History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography, featuring reports and criticism. Subtitles include: British Empire; The Great War, 1914-1918; Europe: Home Fronts; Roots of the Balkan Crisis; Seminar in History: Russia's World War II.

HIST 6300 – Seminar in Latin American History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography. Features reports and criticism. Subtitles include: Culture and Identity in Latin America* and U.S. Relations with Cuba.

HIST 6400 – Seminar in American History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography. Features reports and criticism. Subtitles include: American Experience in Vietnam* and American Foreign Policy between the Wars*

HIST 6600 - Seminar in Middle Eastern History
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography. Subtitles include Middle Eastern History: Stateless People and The Modern Middle East.

HIST 6800 - Seminar in Modern Japanese History: Wartime Japan
Training in historical research, bibliography and historiography.

HIST 6970 – Special Topics: U.S. Foreign Policy in Latin America
Special topics or seminar course for content not currently offered in regularly scheduled courses. May include library and/or research and field projects.

HR 5023 - Research Methods
Special focus will be upon designing and implementing a research project related to the student's area of concentration in human relations.

HR 5110 - Advanced Seminar in Current Problems
Additional in-depth studies of current social problems and strategies for intervention and change. Subtitles include: International Conflict Resolution and International/Intercultural Awareness.
HR 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. This course 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.

HR 5970 - Special Topics/Seminar

Designed to provide students with a foundation for success in coursework for the MA degree in International Relations. The course begins with a focus on effective analytical writing in the field of international relations. The remaining sections of the course concentrate on essential building blocks in the field of international relations, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between domestic and international levels of explanation of international phenomena, from treaties/international agreements to economic sanctions to war. Subtitles include: Role of Gender and Warfare and Graduate Studies in International Relations.

IAS 5013 - International Law

Provides a historical and theoretical overview of the idea of human rights and also examines how human rights operate in both international law and international relations. Topics under examination include the historical and philosophical foundations of human rights, their codification in contemporary international law, and the interaction between human rights considerations and state (primarily U.S.) foreign policy in the post-Cold War era.

IAS 5043 - Global (International) Security

Examines some of the major theoretical and practical approaches to the study of global security, and focuses on the causes of war, the impact of various actors, technologies, resources and other transnational problems on violent conflict, and the different approaches to and dimensions of security solutions

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

IAS 5453 - Politics and Policy of the Middle East*

Focuses on the historical issues of state formation and emergence of the modern Middle East; the contemporary question or persistent authoritarianism from social, economic, and political perspectives; and aspects of the U.S. involvement in the Middle East.
IAS 5940 - Topics in International Studies (1 to 4 hours)

May be repeated with change of content; maximum credit nine hours. Analysis of one or several selected topics in international studies, international development, and/or international management. Includes subtitles: Eastern European Politics*; EU, NATO and European Security; Global Climate Change Policy*; International Activism*; International Law; International Systems and the United Nations; National Security Leadership; U.S. Diplomatic History*; Western Hemispheric Security; Afghanistan in Conflict; and International Terrorism.

IAS 5970 - Special Topics/Seminar, Domestic Politics and American Foreign Policy

Special topics or seminar course for content not currently offered in regularly scheduled courses. May include library and/or laboratory research and field projects.

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.

LS 5970 - The Legal and Ethical Environment of Business

This course introduces the student to the legal and ethical environment of business. Topics include the law of civil procedure, criminal law, tort law, and contract law. The course also examines the relationship between law and ethics, using case studies to illustrate both legal and ethical dimensions of business decisions. Discussions of political economy and legal philosophy add depth to the course.

LSAL5463 - US Military Leadership: Insights and Applications

Studies leadership, both uniformed and civilian, in the United States military from 1775 to present within the context of the evolution of American military from a small 18th-century army and wooden ship-and-sail navy to the globe-dominating colossus of the late 20th-century. Includes the impact of technology, maturing military theory, and the changing position of the United States in the world that produced diverse leadership styles which are illustrated in the careers of military leaders such as George Washington, U.S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, David Farragut, John Pershing, Hap Arnold, George C. Marshall, and many others.

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 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. Subtitles include: Morality in U.S. Foreign Policy; Decisions for War; Inter-American Politics*; and Politics of the Global Financial Crisis*.

P SC 5600 - Problems in Comparative Politics
Content varies, but involves systematic comparative treatment of such central themes as the transitional society, change and revolution, modernization, political groups, constitutionalism and bureaucracy. Subtitles include: Comparative Governments - Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Political Change of Africa, Asia & Latin America.

PSC 5643 - Western European Politics*
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.

PSC 5683 - Politics of 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, and the role of political institutions, the economy, and the military.

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.

RELS 5970 – Special Topics/Seminar
Special topics or seminar course for content not currently offered in regularly scheduled courses. May include library and/or laboratory research and field projects. Subtitles include: Comparative Religions and Islamic Culture
SOC 5943 - Inequality in Global Perspective

Provides an 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. Special emphasis is placed upon how these processes occur within a global system.

SOC 5970 – Special Topics/Seminar

Special topics or seminar course for content not currently offered in regularly scheduled courses. May include library and/or laboratory research and field projects. Overview of Environ. Issues from a Global and Strategic Perspective*; Religion and Society; Transnational Feminism; Environment and Society; and Cultures and Development in Africa.