

SO YOU WANT TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (IA) MAJOR AT LC?

(Updated 11/3/25)

THE 11 COURSES OF AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR:

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| 1) IA 100 (Introduction to International Relations) | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">Years ~1-2
<small>(suggested)</small></div> |
| 2) IA 212 (United States Foreign Policy) | |
| 3) ECON 100 (Introduction to Economics) | |
| 4) POLS 102 (Comparative Politics) | |
| 5) A "Global Security, Conflict & Diplomacy" class | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">Years ~2-4
<small>(suggested)</small></div> |
| 6) A "Global Governance" class | |
| 7) A "Comparative & Regional Perspectives" class | |
| 8) An "Economic Perspectives" class | |
| 9) A "Research Methods" class <u>or</u> an additional course in #s 5, 6, 7, or 8 | |
| 10) IA 310 (IR Theories) | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">Year 4
<small>(unless you have a compelling reason to take earlier)</small></div> |
| 11) IA 430 (Thesis) | |

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL ADVICE:

1. Where can I find out more about IA courses? The most valuable resource for information on the IA Department and its courses is the [LC Course Catalog](#).

2. What course(s) should I take first? IA 100 (Intro to Int'l Relations) unlocks most other course offerings in our department. It is also very popular and usually fills up quickly. We typically offer 3 sections of IA 100 each fall and 1-2 sections each spring.

3. In what order should I take courses for an IA major? We generally recommend taking the four core "introductory" courses—IA 100, ECON 100 (Intro to Economics), POLS 102 (Comparative Politics), and IA 212 (U.S. Foreign Policy)—within your first two years at LC. But this is not a requirement.

4. What's the deal with ECON 100? Like IA 100, ECON 100 is very popular and fills up quickly each semester, so you will likely want to prioritize it in registering for classes for the semester you want to take it.

5. Can I take upper-level IA courses in my first year? Most IA courses at the 200 and 300 level are not open to freshmen. The exceptions are 200-level courses with "F1" listed in the course number on WebAdvisor, meaning they are open to freshmen who have taken (or are concurrently taking) IA 100. Two regularly offered courses that are available to freshmen are IA 211 (International Organization) and IA 212 (US Foreign Policy), for example.

6. What about the non-introductory core IA courses? The *other* two required classes for the major are the "advanced" core courses—IA 310 (IR Theories) and IA 430 (Thesis). We recommend that students take these courses during the fall and spring of their senior year at LC (but see #7). IA 310 is only offered in the fall and IA 430 in the spring. IA 310 must be taken before IA 430, so you should plan accordingly.

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7. Are there exceptions to #6? The exception to our recommendation in #6 is students with legitimate conflicting and competing priorities during their senior year (an off-campus program or another capstone project, for example). In this case, we recommend taking the IA 310-IA 430 sequence during the junior year. It is also possible to take IA 310 in the junior year and IA 430 in the senior year.

8. What else does an IA major need to take? Aside from the 6 non-substitutable core courses, the other 5 courses of an IA major must come from the 5 IA subject areas: 1) Global Security, Conflict, & Diplomacy, 2) Global Governance, 3) Comparative & Regional Perspectives, 4) Economic Perspectives, and 5) Research Methods. Students must either a) take one course from each of these five subject areas, or b) take one course from each of the first *four* subject areas (excluding Research Methods) and *one* additional course in *one* of those first four subject areas.

9. When should I take these subject area courses? We generally recommend fulfilling the IA subject area course requirements between the second semester of freshmen year and the first semester of senior year. But this is not a requirement.

10. Can I get IA major credit from off campus programs? An IA-related course on an off-campus program might count toward one of the subject area requirements for the IA major, but this requires the written consent of the IA department chair (at present, this is Kyle Lascurettes). In our experience, the IA subject area most likely to be satisfied by such a class is the Comparative & Regional Perspectives category (which is often but not always filled with something like a “Contemporary Politics (or Foreign Policy) of [off-campus program country]” course).

11. What’s the deal with Economic Perspectives? Of the four required IA subject areas, Economic Perspectives has the fewest independent course offerings. Many majors satisfy this criterion with IA 340: Int’l Political Economy (though taking this particular class is *not* a requirement). IA 340 has ECON 100 as a required prerequisite, so students will want to map out their schedules accordingly.

12. Are all the catalog IA courses regularly taught? While most of the IA courses listed in the [LC Course Catalog](#) are regularly offered by our faculty, not all of them are. Faculty also regularly go on leave (for sabbatical, maternity/paternity care, etc.) or lead off-campus programs. We recommend checking in with your IA advisor early and often about when and whether particular courses will be offered during your time at LC.

Currently regularly offered: IA 100, 211, 212, 244, 245, 257, 290, 296, 299, 303, 310, 315, 330, 333, 340, 342, 348, 350, 430

Currently *not* regularly offered: IA 220, 230, 231, 232, 238, 262, 312, 313, 318, 320, 362

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SPRING 2026

NUMBER	COURSE NAME	INSTRUCTOR	MAJOR REQUIREMENT FULFILLED
IA 100	Introduction to Int'l Relations	Matt Scroggs	Required Major Course
IA 211	International Organization	Kyle Lascurettes	Global Governance
IA 212	United States Foreign Policy	Matt Scroggs	Required Major Course
IA 290	Middle East Politics	Matt Scroggs	Comparative/Regional
IA 303	Dynamics of Civil Conflicts	Suparna Chaudhry	Security/Conflict/Diplomacy
IA 348	Global Order	Kyle Lascurettes	Security/Conflict/Diplomacy **OR** Global Governance
IA 340	Int'l Political Economy	Elizabeth Bennett	Economic Perspectives
IA 350	Social Justice in the Global Economy	Elizabeth Bennett	Economic Perspectives
IA 430-01	Thesis Seminar	Suparna Chaudhry	Required Major Course
IA 430-02	Thesis Seminar	Elizabeth Bennett	Required Major Course
ECON 100	Principles of Economics	Anna Miromanova	Required Major Course
ECON 232	Economic Development	Aine McCarthy	Economic Perspectives
HIST 121	Modern European History	Healy	Comparative/Regional
POLS 102	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Gilbert	Required Major Course
POLS 250	Transitions to Democracy and Authoritarianism	Gilbert	Comparative/Regional
POLS 314	Russian Politics	Gilbert	Comparative/Regional
SOAN 200	Ethnographic Research Methods	Cameron-Dominguez	Research Methods

Bob Mandel is on leave for the 2025-26 academic year**

IA COURSES REGULARLY OFFERED BY FACULTY MEMBER

Elizabeth Bennett

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 340: International Political Economy
IA 350: Social Justice in the International Economy
IA 430: Thesis Seminar

Suparna Chaudhry

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 296: Human Rights in International Relations
IA 303: Dynamics of Civil Conflicts
IA 333: International Law
IA 430: Thesis Seminar

Kyle Lascurettes (Chair of the IA Department)

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 211: International Organization
IA 340: International Relations Theories
IA 348: Global Order
IA 430: Thesis Seminar

Bob Mandel *(On leave for the 2025-26 academic year)*

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 257: Global Resource Dilemmas
IA 330: Global Security
IA 342: Perception and International Relations

Matt Scroggs

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 212: United States Foreign Policy
IA 290: Middle East Politics
POLS 201: Research Methods in Political Science

This document does NOT include 1) Courses taught by IA faculty in other departments/programs that do not count towards the IA major (Words/Numbers, etc.), 2) IA courses that count for fewer than 4 credits, 3) independent study and internship offerings, and 4) classes taught by faculty outside the IA department that nonetheless count toward the IA major.
For a complete list, see [our section of the LC Course Catalog](#).