MIR: Master of Political Science in International Relations
(English Program)
Revised Curriculum 2012

Faculty of Political Science
Thammasat University
MIR: Master of Political Science in International Relations  
(English Program)  
Revised Curriculum 2012  
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1. PROGRAM NAME

Master of Political Science Program in International Relations (English Program)

2. DEGREE NAME

Full Name: Master of Political Science (International Relations)  
Abbr. Name: M. Pol. Sc. (International Relations)

3. RESPONSIBLE OFFICES

Faculty of Political Science  
Thammasat University

4. RATIONALE

One cannot understand his or her country’s political or economic successes and/or failures without knowing how it fits into the present-day international system. During the last two decades, global economic and political interconnectedness among and beyond nation-states had drastically transformed international social lives beyond imagination. In developing efficacious lives for the betterment of themselves, their countries as well as the world, students of international relations must be alert to these transformations.

To achieve this purpose, the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University established the Master of Arts Program in International Relations (MIR) in 1998. Taught in English, this graduate program intends to educate Thai and foreign students to be cognizant of and well prepared for the challenges brought about by the changing global and regional landscapes. The MIR Program is guided by four main questions:

1. How and why do international actors, state as well as non-state shape and determine basic international structures and patterns?
2. How do international structures and transnational forces influence outcomes, actions and the distribution of basic values in the world society?
3. How have international power relations and globalizing forces/issues affect the Asia Pacific region?
4. How have global changes challenge Southeast Asia and Thailand?

OBJECTIVES

The MIR Program aims to prepare Master’s Degree graduates who possess:
1. deep academic knowledge and practical understanding of international relations, comparable to international standards,
2. ethical consciousness and ability to support as well as sustain good relations with peoples and governments in the world community,
3. expertise in international relations in order to meet job markets’ demands in Thailand and elsewhere.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

The revised curriculum will be implemented from the academic year 2012.

6. APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

6.1 General Information

The academic year has a semester system with two terms and summer session. The first term is from September to December, the second term is from January to May, and the summer session is from June to July. The number of students admitted to the program is limited to about 40 persons.

6.2 Admission Criteria

Applicants must have a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university. They cannot be concurrently enrolled in another program of study, either at Thammasat University or any other university or college.

Qualified applicants are invited by the Admission Committee to sit for the entrance examination administered by the Faculty of Political Science. The examination is a written exam and an interview conducted in English. All applicants are required to take a test of English and may select among the following with a minimum score for graduation:

a) Thammasat University Graduate English Test (TU-GET) 550 up
b) IELTS level 6.0 up
c) TOEFL 550 (paper based), 213 (computer based), 79 (internet based)

Test results must not be over 2 years old to the date of application.
For applicants who have a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university but residing abroad, the admission process will be announced on a yearly basis by Thammasat University as well as the MIR committee.

7. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete 39 credits to receive the Master of Political Science in International Relations. Three courses in the program are non-credit prerequisite courses. Two of the courses, IR501 and IR 502 are for new students who have never studied political science or international relations. The third course, IR503, is required for all new students.

Classes are conducted on Saturday and Sunday, with the exception of IR 501, which is on Friday evening.

There are two plans of study which students may choose from: Plan A requires that students write a master’s thesis and Plan B requires that students write an independent study paper and take a written comprehensive examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLAN A – THESIS</th>
<th>PLAN B – NON-THESIS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required courses:</td>
<td>Required courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective courses:</td>
<td>Elective courses:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis:</td>
<td>Independent Studies:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis defense</td>
<td>Written comprehensive exam</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>Total:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>39 credits</td>
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</table>

Students must complete the degree requirements within 7 years.

7.1 Plan A (Thesis)

a) Students are allowed to register in thesis writing after no less than 2 regular semesters of study or having no less than 12 accumulated credits with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. The thesis must be written in English.

b) Proficiency in English scores are accepted by passing ONE of three requirements; either TU-GET, or TOEFL, or IELTS, that are demonstrated at the earliest available in time to present thesis public defense deadlines.

c) The thesis committee consists of at least three members. Thesis advisor and one member are on Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University and
one member from outside the university. The committee must hold a Ph.D. or Associate Professorship in an area relevant to the research area.

d) The thesis or at least part of the thesis accepted for publication in an academic journal or presentation in an academic conference with proceedings.

7.2 Plan B (Non-Thesis)

a) Students are allowed to register in independent study writing after no less than 2 regular semesters of study or having no less than 12 accumulated credits with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. The independent study must be written in English.

b) The independent study (IR701-702) defense is administered and evaluated by IR700 advisor and one committee. It is an oral exam test the student on his/her the independent study paper.

c) Students are allowed to register in written comprehensive examination after complete required courses and having no less than 21 accumulated credits with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.

d) Proficiency in English scores are accepted by passing ONE of three requirements; either TU-GET, or TOEFL, or IELTS, that are demonstrated at the earliest available in time to take written comprehensive application deadlines.

8. GRADUATION

Students must have completed all the courses with overall minimum GPA of 3.00 and English Language Proficiency is required; TU-GET (minimum 550), or TOEFL (minimum 550 for the paper based, 213 for the computer based, and 79 for the internet based), or IELTS (no less than 6).

Passing thesis research is grade S (Satisfactory) for Plan A and having the thesis or at least part of the thesis accepted for publication in an academic journal or presentation in an academic conference with proceedings.

Passing an Independent Study (IR 701 and IR 702) is grade S (Satisfactory) and passing written comprehensive examination is grade P (Pass) for Plan B.

9. GRADING

Final course grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D or F are given in all courses, with the following numerical equivalents:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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</table>

The comprehensive examination and non-credit courses are graded P (Pass) or N (Fail). The three prerequisite courses are non-credit courses. The thesis and Independent Study are graded S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory).

In order to graduate with a Master of Political Science Program in International Relations, a student must complete all courses with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.00.

10. PROFESSORS

10.1 The Professors in charge of the MIR Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name-Surname</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siriporn Wajjwalku</td>
<td>Ph.D. (International Relations), Nagoya University, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kajit Jittasevi</td>
<td>Ph.D. Doctorat d'Etat en Science Politique, Université de Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Asst. Prof. Dr. Kitti Prasirtsuk</td>
<td>Ph.D. (Asian Studies), University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prapat Thepchatree</td>
<td>Ph.D. (International Relations), University of Georgia, U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Asst. Prof. Dr. Pisanu Sunthraraks</td>
<td>Ph.D. (Political Science), University of Wisconsin – Madison, U.S.A.</td>
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11. STUDENTS

The program admits 40 new candidates per year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Academic Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshy Students</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Students Graduation</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>
12. CURRICUM STRUCTURE

12.1 PLAN A THESIS
1) Prerequisite courses (non-credit) 6 credits
2) Required courses 18 credits
3) Elective courses* 9 credits
4) Thesis 12 credits

12.2 PLAN B NON-THESIS
1) Prerequisite courses (non-credit) 6 credits
2) Required courses 18 credits
3) Elective courses* 15 credits
4) Independent Study 6 credits

13. COURSES OFFERED

The academic curriculum is offered courses in prerequisite, required and elective courses, that each course takes lecture three hours per week. The prerequisite courses are non-credit, but required and elective courses are also 3 credits in each course.

13.1 Prerequisite (Non-credit)
IR 501 General Knowledge of Political Science
IR 502 General Knowledge of International Relations
IR 503 Discourse and Analysis in International Relations

13.2 Required Courses (18 Credits)
IR 601 Scope and Research Methods in International Relations
IR 610 International Relations and Globalization: Approaches, Processes and Institutions
IR 620 Foreign Policy Analysis
IR 630 International Cooperation and Organizations
IR 640 The Politics of International Law
IR 680 International Political Economy and Global Governance

13.3 Elective Courses (9 to 15 Credits)
IR 626 Foreign Policies and Role of Major Powers in Asia
IR 634 Sub-regional Cooperation in Asia
IR 635 Seminar on Diplomacy and International Negotiation
IR 636 International Policy and International Management
IR 637 European Union: Integration and External Relations
IR 638  ASEAN in World Affairs
IR 646  International Security and Strategic Analysis
IR 647  Human Security and Global Governance
IR 648  Human Rights and International Ethics
IR 649  Seminar on International Development
IR 664  Thailand in the Global Political Economy
IR 667  International Politics in East Asia
IR 668  International Politics in South Asia
IR 684  New Media and Global Politics
IR 694  International Politics in Latin America
IR 695  The International Politics in Muslim World
IR 696  Transnational Issues in World Politics
IR 697  International Environment and Disaster Policy and Management
IR 698  Contemporary Issues in International Studies
IR 699  Selected Topics in International Relations

14. STUDY PLAN

Prerequisite (Non-credit)
1. For new students who have never studied political science and/or international relations
   IR 501  General Knowledge of Political Science
   IR 502  General Knowledge of International Relations
2. For all new students
   IR 503  Discourse and Analysis in International Relations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan A – Thesis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IR 610  International Relations and Globalization: Approaches, Processes and Institutions</td>
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<tr>
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<td>IR 620  Foreign Policy Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR 680  International Political Economy and Global Governance</td>
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### Semester 2

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Scope and Research Methods in International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR630</td>
<td>International Cooperation and Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR640</td>
<td>The Politics of International Law</td>
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### SUMMER

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### SECOND YEAR

#### Semester 1

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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR800 Thesis</td>
<td>IR701 Independent Study 1</td>
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#### Semester 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan A – Thesis</th>
<th>Plan B – Non-Thesis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IR800 Thesis</td>
<td>IR702 Independent Study 2</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
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15. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

These courses are organized into three achievement courses: prerequisite, required, and elective courses are organized into 2 groups; Area Studies and Security Studies.

15.1 PREREQUISITE

IR 501  GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Basic concepts, theories and approaches that define political science at present. The contents include major debates over paradigms and values, as well as consideration of methodologies for doing research in the field of political science as one of the social sciences.

IR 502  GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Basic concepts, assumptions, theories and approaches to international relations (IR) as well as the political changes in international relations from the ascendency of states as major actors in international arena in 1648 up to the present in the 21st century.

IR 503  DISCOURSE AND ANALYSIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
The modes of discourse and inquiry used in the study of international relations at the graduate level. It aims to build the students' ability to understand and to use academic modes of discourse in thinking, writing, and engaging in scholarly debates. The course gives special attention to strengthen analytical skills and to develop the ability to make rationally persuasive oral and written presentation.

15.2 REQUIRED COURSES

IR 601  SCOPE AND RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Research principles and methods, with particular emphasis on qualitative approaches currently applied in international relations and international studies. Its main objectives are twofold: first, to explore the field’s methodological and epistemological debates, concerning qualitative research; second, to equip students with research tools.
IR 610 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBALIZATION: APPROACHES, PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS

Fundamental knowledge of contemporary international relations by examining various approaches such as realism, neo-realism, liberalism, neo-liberalism, Marxism as well as alternative approaches including constructivism. The impact of globalization on international processes, conflicts, cooperation, and decision making and on international institutions will also be examined. The analysis will include the concepts of actors, state and non-state, international norms, and behavior.

IR 620 FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS

Utilization of foreign policy analysis in order to describe, explain, and prescribe foreign policy by studying and analyzing structures and processes of foreign policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Case studies of foreign policy structures as well as processes will be included.

IR 630 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ORGANIZATIONS

Focusing on structures and processes conceptualized as international cooperation, institution, organization, regime, etc. The course examines relevant theories and practices, by studying various cases from East Asia and Southeast Asia as well as comparative perspectives from other regions.

IR 640 THE POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The roles of international law in international relations which based on the basic principles of international law namely sovereign equality, prohibition on the use of force, non intervention and peaceful settlement of disputes. The main focus will be emphasized on the application of international law in various topics i.e. law of treaties, law of the sea, diplomacy law, international economic law. State responsibility and the role of the International Court of Justice and other entities in the settlement of international disputes.

IR 680 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

The current international political economy shaped by the interactions related to market forces, information-communication technology and the various nation-states (with limited sovereignty) and their corresponding impacts on states as well as “non-state” actors (TNC, International Organizations, NGOs, etc.). New rules and agendas for multilateral and international organizations pertaining to public participation, accountability and transparency will be examined as emerging issues – such as
transnational crime, the environment, global epidemic and all types of security-related issues, traditional and otherwise, are posing immediate challenges to existing institutions and norms.

**15.3 ELECTIVE COURSES**

**IR 699 SELECTED TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Analyzes a particular topic in depth, which can be theories, world phenomena, or area-specifics issues.

*Area Studies Group*

**IR 626 FOREIGN POLICIES AND ROLE OF MAJOR POWERS IN ASIA**

Foreign policy and roles of major powers in the post-Cold War era and their impacts on international politics and security in the Asia-Pacific region by focusing on the US, China, Japan and India. Strategic as well as economic, interests, intentions and capabilities will also be analyzed. Special focus will be on the impact of the “rise of China” on her neighboring countries, ASEAN and East Asia in the 21st century.

**IR 634 SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION IN ASIA**

The development, forms, and roles of cooperation in Asian sub-regions. It focuses on the dynamics of sub-regional cooperation and the extent to which such cooperation contributes to ameliorating sub-regional conflict. Particular emphasis will be given to cooperation relates to Southeast Asia, such as GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-region), BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), ACMECS (The Ayeyawady – Chao Praya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy). The course also assesses the success and failure of the cooperation, as well as its prospects for the future.

**IR 637 EUROPEAN UNION: INTEGRATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

Examination of the European Union (EU) as a successful case of regional integration from a Southeast Asian perspective. Employing theoretical frameworks, the course explore the origin, evolution, and functioning of EU institutions. The EU as a major actor in world affairs and its external relations will also be examines.
IR 638  ASEAN IN WORLD AFFAIRS

Institutions, policies, and processes of ASEAN in both its internal and its external cooperation. Analyzing changes in ASEAN from political, economic, and socio-cultural viewpoints, the course evaluates the success and failure of ASEAN in addressing regional and international issues. Particular emphasis will be given to how ASEAN responds to extra-regional powers and changing global contexts.

IR 664  THAILAND IN THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Focuses on the nexus between the Thai political economy and its foreign relations in the global political economy. It explores the dynamics and challenges facing Thailand in the post-Cold War era, including the issues on democratization, development, globalization, and human rights. The course analyzes domestic and external determinants of Thai foreign policy, and examines its outcomes and impacts on the country politically, economically, and socially.

IR 667  INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN EAST ASIA

Conflicts and cooperation among state and non-state actors in East Asia, which now has come to included Southeast Asia as well. Covering political, security, as well as socio-economic issues, particular emphasis will be given to the complex interactions among China, Japan, North and South Korea, and Taiwan amid the influences from external powers.

IR 668  INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA

Analyzes the dynamics of social, economic and political relations involving the countries in the region of South Asia, including students to grasp the complexity of religions, ethnicities, races and castes of the region.

IR 694  INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN LATIN AMERICA

The evolution of U.S. – Latin America relations as they gradually change from a “Cold War” frame of mind into what we may refer to as “non-traditional” security threats such as the environment, food security, energy security, transnational crime, etc. It will also look at how some of the key players in this region (Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba) have fared over the years. Issues include Brazil’s economic and technological prowess, Venezuela’s oil diplomacy, Mexican “war on drugs” campaigns and Cuba’s “last dance with socialism,” all of which have certain implications both regionally and globally.
IR 695 THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN MUSLIM WORLD

Historical background and contemporary complexity of the Muslim World. It also deals with the geographical settings and the ideological orientation, socio-political structures, and socio-economic problems including its past subjugation and current rejuvenation. Changes in Muslim World since 9/11 will also be examined.

Security Studies Group

IR 635 SEMINAR ON DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION

Principal concepts and the science of negotiation. Following a framework for international negotiation analysis, students will be looking at various case studies of important international negotiations such as those between the United States and the Soviet Union and between Egypt and Israel with the United States as a mediator. The seminar is participatory and interactive in which students will be trained to employ their knowledge and personal experience in role-play simulations.

IR 636 INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT

The management of international issues such as international security, conflicts, economic, and other transnational issues. Its also studies concepts, theories, structures, and processes of international public policy, which include policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. Diplomacy and international negotiation will also be examined.

IR 646 INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Explores various security concepts such as collective security, collective defense, comprehensive security, and cooperative security. The course will also analyze traditional and non-traditional security issues as well as strategic changes at the global and regional levels, with the focus on Asia. Security arrangements, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and security community, will be discussed as well.

IR 647 HUMAN SECURITY AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Focuses on linking two main concepts/issues of human security and global governance. It will not only challenge the state centric notion of security by looking at the “individual” as the main referent object of security but also probing the debates as well as analyzing the threats facing human being and international community from the forces of globalization. The course will also examine the dangers to human safety and survival posed by poverty, inequality, disease environmental stress, human rights
abuses as well as arm conflicts and violence. The role of global institutions in addressing and managing these issues will also be examined, such as the role of International Court of Justice, and other. The interplay between the International Governmental Organization (IGO) and International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) will also be included.

IR 648  HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ETHICS
Critically approaches the nexus between the discourses of human rights and international ethics from both statist and non-statist perspectives. The former concentrates on the emergence and significance of international human rights norms in relations to state sovereignty and state obligations. The latter focuses on issues that, by and large, require a shift of emphasis from the state to global forces, the peoples, or the “natural” world. These issues include, but not limited to, globalization, gender, the environment, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, migrant workers, and discourse on human security.

IR 649  SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Discusses the multi-dimensional and interdisciplinary nature of development. First, it introduces students to the conceptual and analytical tools crucial to development studies. It then investigates the contemporary political debates in relation to various development themes, which include the question of economic and political liberalization, environmental degradation, poverty reduction, ethnic conflict, and the role of international aid and non-government organizations (NGOs). All these themes will be examined in the light of the international politics of development.

IR 684  NEW MEDIA AND GLOBAL POLITICS
Traces the evolving relationship between new media and politics, including the changes in the media landscape, the evolution of convergence, the diffusion of social media and their implications for political environments. Topics also cover media and social movements, new media and political conflicts, the role of the media in campaigns and elections, as well as, its impact on political attitude and behaviors. The course aims to help students to understand the complexity and the variability of information society that effects the political environment, domestically and internationally.

IR 696  TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS
Explores transnational forces in global politics. It examines both forces that conform with the internal-external distinction and ones that traverse the distinction, whether nation-state or regional boundaries. Issues to be examined include, but not limited to,
(1) the nation, the state, transnationalism, and globalization; (2) social space and migration; (3) human smuggling vis-à-vis human trafficking; (4) multilateral economic institutions versus social movements; (5) global civil society and transnational advocacy; (6) terrorism; (7) ecological crises and environmental management.

IR 697 INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

The approaches, theories, and principles of environment-disaster policy and management in a context and content of international community which leads to a sustainable development. The study also includes the dynamic change of the global and international collaboration in dealing with the problems of environment and natural disaster. Students will learn of mechanisms, methods and best practices in solving and managing the crises from contemporary case study.

IR 698 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

In this course, “International Studies” combines social sciences and humanities to explore both international and transnational phenomena. It aims to discern the interconnectedness of political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions within the local/global nexus. Contextualized within contemporary landscapes, the following five board topics guide this course: (1) peace and security; (2) transnational and global economic processes; (3) international demography and transnational migration; (4) culture in the age of globalization; (5) international relations and the management of global environment.

IR 701 INDEPENDENT STUDY 1

This course is directed study on an individual by arranging with one or more faculty members. It focuses on independent research of special topics in international relations/studies.

IR 702 INDEPENDENT STUDY 2

This course is directed study on an individual by arranging with one or more faculty members. It focuses on independent research of special topics in international relations/studies.

IR 800 THESIS

The thesis is the in-dept research on an important issue in international relations/studies under the supervision of a thesis committee, comprising of one principal advisor and two other advisors.