International Relations

Overview

The interdisciplinary major in international relations gives you the tools to understand and tackle critical international problems like terrorism, ethnic strife and global warming. Faculty challenge you to explore global issues and articulate your thoughts through written and oral presentations. You study international politics, foreign policy, comparative politics, international economics, history and a foreign language. Within the major, you focus on a specific area, such as foreign policy analysis, international political economy, the politics of development, environmental politics, security studies, human rights, regional politics or ethnic conflict.

International Opportunities and Study Abroad

Most international relations majors study abroad for a semester. Some take advantage of a semester-long Study Away Teach Away (SATA) program, in which a small group of students and one or two Connecticut College professors go abroad together. Other opportunities include a College-funded summer internship abroad or a one- to three-week trip for a specific course.

Special Opportunities

Many international relations majors choose to double major, often in economics, history or a foreign language. Others pursue a certificate from one of the College’s interdisciplinary academic centers, which allow you to enhance your major with one of four concentrations – international studies, environmental studies, art and technology or public policy and community action. You have endless possibilities for connecting international relations with another field: Students have explored renewable energy in Spain and Italy, pollution in Martinique and issues of race and ethnicity across many borders.

Aditya Harnal
International Relations, Economics

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: I sat in on a class and thoroughly enjoyed the rigor of discourse and the level of engagement between students and faculty.

Q: Why international relations?
A: The International Relations / Government Department, in my opinion, is one of the strongest departments on campus. Not only are the faculty truly experts in their fields, but there are courses to satisfy everybody’s interests. Outside of the classroom, I have found the professors to be most accessible and personable. I am co-authoring a chapter in Professor Hybel’s upcoming book, and it has been a tremendous learning experience and a phenomenal opportunity to work with directly with an expert on his topic.

Q: What co-curriculars do you participate in?
A: I co-founded the TEDx initiative at Connecticut College. I am also the chief investment officer of the Peggotty Investment Club that actively manages about $70,000 of the College’s endowment.

Q: Did you study abroad? Where and why?
A: Yes, at the University of Oxford. I wanted to further challenge myself in a highly rigorous academic environment and was drawn to their PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) program.
Selected Courses

International Politics; Human Rights in World Politics; Environmental Justice in Global Perspective; Women and World Politics; Ethnic Conflict in Europe; U.S. and Vietnam; Theories of International Relations; International Environmental Cooperation; Countering Terrorism and Insurgencies; Middle East Politics; U.S. Foreign Policy; U.N. Peacekeeping; Politics of Refugees

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.