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.
Faculty

Tristan Borer, Professor of Government and International Relations; Chair of Government and International Relations Department
B.A., University of Texas, San Antonio; M.A., Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
Human rights; human rights and the media; transitional justice; gender and human rights; international relations

Mary Anne Borrelli, Professor of Government
B.A., Wellesley College; M.A., Boston University; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
United States politics and government; gender and United States politics; the presidency; Congress

Wendell John Coats Jr., Professor of Government
B.A., Ph.D., University of Colorado
History of western political philosophy from Plato to the present

Jane Dawson, Virginia Eason
Weizmann ’51 Professor of Government and Environmental Studies; Director for the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment
A.B., Bryn Mawr; M.A., Harvard University; M.A., The Johns Hopkins University; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
International environmental politics; comparative environmental activism and politics; global environmental justice

William Frasure, Professor of Government and International Relations
B.A., University of Pittsburgh; J.D., Yale University; Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University
United States politics; environmental policy and law; law and public policy

Alex Roberto Hybel, Susan Eckert Lynoh ’62 Professor of Government and International Relations
B.A., University of North Carolina; M.A., The American University; M.A., Ph.D., Stanford University
U.S. foreign policy; international relations theory; democracy in Latin America

Dorothy Buckton James, Professor of Government and International Relations
B.A., Barnard College; M.A., Columbia University
United States politics (especially presidential politics, political parties, campaigns and elections, and the impact of the media and interest groups on politics); constitutional law; civil liberties; judicial behavior; balancing national security with individual freedom; American political thought

Andrew Levin, Assistant Professor of Government
B.A., Macalester College; M.A., George Washington University; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Peacekeeping; international conflict resolution; The United Nations; civil wars; international relations

David Patton, Professor of Government and International Relations
B.A., Swarthmore College; M.A., Ph.D., Cornell University
Comparative politics; European politics; Federal Republic of Germany; the European Union

Ryan Phillips, C3 Postdoctoral Fellow
B.A., Vassar College; M.Sc., University of Bristol; M.A., The Ohio State University; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Political theory; international relations; Europe

Caroleen Marji Saye, Assistant Professor of Government and International Relations
B.A., Fordham University; M.A., New York University
Persistent authoritarianism in the Middle East; contemporary Islamic social movements; modernization and identity politics; Middle Eastern studies; comparative politics; international relations

John Q. Tian, Professor of Government and International Relations
B.A., M.A., Nanjing University; M.A., Ph.D., Cornell University
Comparative politics; Chinese politics; East Asian political economy; international political economy

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.