SA.600 (GLOBAL THEORY AND HISTORY)

SA.600.702. Contemporary Theory in International Relations. 4 Credits.
Examines the leading contemporary theories of international relations, showing how each contributes uniquely to the larger literature. How are alliances formed? What is the relationship between absolute and relative gains? How do wars begin? Emphasizes interrelationships, divergences and cumulative developments, from the balance of power to the latest in structural, rational choice and regime theory.

SA.600.706. Peace and War. 4 Credits.
This course analyzes in historical context the major ethical questions posed by modern warfare. The course addresses in detail such issues as the right to self-defence to aggression, humanitarian intervention, preventive war, the status of civilians in warfare, and non-violent resistance. The course is a seminar and will be taught online primarily through the structured discussion of the set texts. (T&H, CM, Strategic Studies)

SA.600.720. Ethics, Choice & A Just World Order. 4 Credits.
This course on applied ethics in IR first discusses realism vs. idealism, the use of moral reasoning to choose between conflicting moral obligations, and Just War Theory, and then analyzes current issues with perplexing moral aspects, such as a nuclear deterrence, humanitarian intervention, economic sanctions, preventive war, drone assassinations, cyber-warfare, terrorism, climate change, migration, and the effects of globalization on workers.

SA.600.721. Leaders, Followers, and Political Power. 4 Credits.
Leaders attract followers and utilize the resulting power to determine national and international outcomes. Power is accumulated in the interaction between leaders and followers featuring different combinations of coercion, charisma, traditional authority, economic rewards, or appeals to identity, ideology, and nationalism. The first six weeks covers leaders as diverse as Eisenhower, LBJ, Thatcher, Huey Long, Trump, and Hitler. The second half of the course concentrates on the 20 men and women who have largely determined Southeast Asia's post-colonial history: Ho Chi Minh; Sihanouk and Pol Pot; Soekarno and Suharto; Marcos, Aquino and Duterte; Aung San Suu Kyi; Lee Kuan Yew and Mahathir. Students from all concentrations are encouraged to participate and their term paper topics are not limited to Southeast Asian leaders.

SA.600.728. Leaders and Leadership (2 credit). 2 Credits.
The seminar will look at a variety of approaches and answers to the question, "What makes a good leader?" Students will also assess their own leadership skills and styles, meet with leaders and specialists in the field of leadership as well as participate in group leadership simulations. Students will write an analysis of a contemporary leader in either the public, non-profit or private sector.

SA.600.729. SAIS Women Lead Practicum. 4 Credits.
The SAIS Women Lead Practicum partners SAIS students with public, private, and non-governmental organizations and provides professional experiences through projects that advance women and contribute solutions to issues of global importance. Students teams work with clients to produce reports, policies or programs. Students will also be expected to participate in a research assignment during Winter Break (travel may be required). Upon their return, teams proceed to analyze, interpret and present results of findings to the SAIS community and clients. Students audit the course in the fall semester (in addition to their full load) and take the Practicum as a 4-credit course in the spring semester as part of their load. The application deadline is August 15. Students will be selected and notified on or before August 28. To be considered, please email the following to saiswomenlead@jhu.edu: 1. A statement of interest, which answers the question: What is your goal in participating in the practicum and how do you think this experience will help you achieve your goal?, 2. A Resume/CV, and 3. An unofficial copy of your SAIS transcript (2nd-year students) and a prior degree transcript (first-year students). * Students audit the Practicum in the fall semester as their 5th course and take the Practicum as a 4-credit course in the spring semester as their 4th course.

SA.600.730. Women, Peace and Security: Moving Beyond the Myth. 4 Credits.
* Course includes two-day study trip (optional) to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City during SAIS spring break in March 2018 as part of the SAIS Women Lead Initiative. Course and study trip are open to SAIS women and men. Only students who apply during the fall semester will be accepted to the UN CSW Study Trip. Please Contact Starr Lee for online application. This course explores the relationship between women's status and participation and the political and economic security of the nations and the international system.

SA.600.731. International Women's Rights Law. 4 Credits.
Students will develop a theoretical and historical understanding of the mechanisms by which women have been excluded from political and economic power structures and the contributions they have made to the transformation of the international order despite this exclusion. Students will be trained in Gender Based Analysis (GBA) and apply this methodology to topics relevant to their SAIS concentrations and professional areas of expertise. They will examine international relations theory and re-evaluate outcomes based on gendered language and bias. Finally, students will analyze the impact and efficacy of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. Guest speakers in the security sector, case studies, and analyses of the historical and cultural framework of the global women's movement will give students the tools to articulate to policy-makers best practices for creating more peaceful, secure societies and nations.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.600.724[C]

SA.600.737. Foreign Policy Analysis. 4 Credits.
SA.600.738. Psychology and Decision-Making in Foreign Policy. 4 Credits.
Why do leaders, institutions, and states make the decisions they do? International Relations scholars are increasingly recognizing the importance of psychological and other decision-making approaches to understanding world affairs, particularly the crafting and implementation of foreign policy. In this course, we examine individual cognitive biases and heuristics, organizational culture, groupthink, and other dynamics that produce often surprising, suboptimal outcomes in international politics. A major purpose of the course is to think broadly about ways in which these approaches can help inform theoretical work done by political scientists and policy analysts to provide more nuanced understandings of otherwise confounding cases of foreign policy decision-making. We will also draw from numerous empirical examples of crisis decision-making, major foreign policy shifts, and intelligence failure across time and space to evaluate the relative efficacy of various approaches in explaining specific cases.

SA.600.739. International Cooperation: The Pursuit of Security and Governance. 4 Credits.
International cooperation is a central feature of contemporary world politics. It shapes the international system by structuring security relations between states and providing regional and global governance. As such, it is a daily business for practitioners of the international, whether in diplomacy and government, or the private sector. Why and how do states develop cooperation multilaterally, minilaterally, or bilaterally? What organizations, mechanisms and practices make cooperation effective? How does cooperation affect the way states define their interests? How do states interact with non-state actors in pursuing global governance? What are the limits of the existing global order, and is it in crisis? The course will address these questions by exploring the forms and levels of international cooperation in the contemporary international system, through various theoretical approaches, from macro-level systemic theories down to micro-levels analyses of interactions. It is structured around three learning axes: (i) the definition of cooperation and the analysis of its multiple contemporary forms; (ii) the deconstruction of international cooperation as a research object, through the study of its actors and mechanisms; and (iii) the use of case studies. The course will be held on the mode of a research seminar. We will collectively discuss theories and concepts in depth and apply them to relevant cases, and students will carry out one main research project based on a case study of their choosing.

SA.600.740. Politics and Risk: Countries, Policies and Institutions. 4 Credits.

SA.600.741. Summit Diplomacy. 4 Credits.
The Cold War did not explode in World War III. During 1985 and 1991 the face-off between the superpowers was resolved peacefully – unlike earlier international crises during the first half of the twentieth century (1914-18, 1939-45). This dénouement was a complex process, including defusing tensions between the two sides, real engagement, revolutionary change in former communist states, and Western triumph at least in the short run. Explanations for this outcome remain matters of historiographical controversy: American pressure, the Gorbachev factor, the bankruptcy of Communist ideology, people-power, Soviet imperial overstretch or Soviet implosion. This course concentrates on the contribution of international diplomacy in the Cold War endgame, asking how far and in what ways relations at the top between leaders helped construct a diplomatic settlement that facilitated radical arms control agreements, the liberation of Eastern Europe, and unification of the two Germanies. It will also look at how the processes of Soviet breakup was managed – by Eastern and Western leaders – so that conflict did not break out and Russia and the other post-Soviet successor states felt at least initially integrated in the post-Cold War world order. Professor Kristina Spohr.

SA.600.742. The Geopolitics of Transnational Organized Crime. 4 Credits.

SA.600.743. Thinking Power in International Relations. 4 Credits.

SA.600.744. The Geopolitics of Organized Crime. 4 Credits.

SA.600.745. Democracy in Crisis. 4 Credits.
Around the world, from Italy to Brazil, and from Hungary to the United States, populist candidates are fundamentally changing the political landscape. In this course, we explore the nature of populism, investigate whether populism poses an existential threat to liberal democracy; explore the causes of the populist rise; investigate the ways in which populism is a response to demographic change; and discuss what strategies might allow non-populist political actors to push back.

SA.600.746. International Political Thought. 4 Credits.
The course gives students the opportunity to study political thinkers whose work is of important background interest to the contemporary theory and practice of international relations. In other words, its focus is the intellectual history of the discipline. The topics discussed include: the state of nature; the search for trust between nations; human nature and political institutions; nationalism; just intervention; imperialism; utilitarianism and patriotism; liberal internationalism; geopolitics; the concept of the political; power politics; morality in international politics; statesmanship; the analysis of historical trends; approaches to foreign policy.

The course gives students a comprehensive understanding of contemporary patterns and characteristics of transnational organized crime, illicit markets and trafficking activities. It does so through a broad set of analytical tools, that are not limited to criminal justice, but rather include political science, international relations, political economy and political sociology. After offering an overview of what and how we know about organized crime, we will examine variations in its contemporary forms in the international arena, addressing key questions related to geopolitical stability and instability – therefore debating the nexus with state fragility, development and security (terrorism).
When the Cold War ended, the West hoped for an “end of history” (Francis Fukuyama) under the banner of liberal democracy including Russia and China. 30 years later these hopes have turned out to be illusions. Russia tries to revise the post-Cold War international order by force, and China has appeared as an expansive global rival discounting the Western belief that successful market economy and liberal democracy have to go hand in hand. This seminar will lead to a deeper understanding of the convulsions of the global order in the early 21st century by exploring (1) the events of 1989/90 in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and China, (2) contemporary hopes for and conflicts about the settlement of a post-Cold War world order and (3) its subsequent unsettling, particularly since 2008.

SA.600.754. Clashing Information Orders. 4 Credits.
People thought until recently that global information flows would lead to the global spread of liberal values and democracy, as social media platforms allowed citizens to talk and organize freely. Now, we are starting to understand that global information politics doesn’t have predetermined winners. States - both democratic and authoritarian contending with each other who should set the rules for information flows, each trying to impose its own national information order on others. In this class, we will examine where the different information orders of the major powers—the U.S., the E.U. and China—come from, and how each sees the politics of information as bound up with the survival of its own regime. We will examine the different vulnerabilities of democracies and autocracies to global information flows, and how each looks to shore up these vulnerabilities, as well as how each tries to project and spread its own approach to information to other countries, creating a new realm of global power politics.

SA.600.755. News Media & International Affairs. 4 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to provide deeper understanding of the interaction between the operations of the news media and the conduct of international relations. This will include an emphasis on how rapidly the major medium of exchange has passed in barely 50 years from newspapers to broadcast to the internet. The instruction will be through a combination of lectures, guest lectures, student discussion and papers. There will be an emphasis on clear and good writing. Student evaluation will be based on participation in discussion and papers.

SA.600.767. Research Design and Causal Inference. 4 Credits.
This course introduces students to research methods that are commonly employed today in the field of international relations. The focus of the course is on research designs aimed at establishing causal inferences. There are four main sections to the class, each of which covers one major type of research design. The first section focuses on qualitative research methods. The second section turns to quantitative methods, particularly methods used for analyzing observational data (i.e. non-experimental data). In section III, we study experimental methods. The final section provides an overview of various quasi-experimental methods.
Prerequisite(s): SA.340.710(C]

SA.600.774. Theories & Methods of Qualitative Political Research. 4 Credits.
Designed to familiarize doctoral candidates with basic epistemological and methodological issues connected with qualitative research. The first part of the course explores various ways that scholars approach matters of conceptualization and evidence. The second part examines how scholars move from the kernel of an idea to a testable research hypothesis and then to a research design. Priority for Ph.D. students. Other students are admitted on a space-available basis and only with the instructor’s permission. Prerequisite: Basic knowledge of political science methods, and some experience with research design.
SA.600.790. Rough Magic: Shakespeare on Power. 4 Credits.

"This, therefore, is the praise of Shakespeare, that his drama is the mirror of life." Samuel Johnson’s judgment applies particularly well to Shakespeare’s account of politics. This course will explore how Shakespeare depicts the acquisition of power, its exercise, and its voluntary or forcible relinquishment. Through a close reading of whole plays and selected scenes and speeches it will examine political education, intrigue, conspiracy, coups, demagoguery, politically motivated assassination, the theater of violence, rhetoric, insurrection, the launching of war, civil-military relations, and ghosts, among other topics. Combines asynchronous lectures and discussion with close reading of texts, analytic memos, and assignments such as the composing of a contemporary soliloquy.

SA.600.791. Democracy and its Discontents. 4 Credits.