

SA.100 (CORE COURSES)

Courses

Leadership, Ethics, & Decision Making

SA.100.101. American Foreign Policy Since WWII. 4 Credits.

Covers the history of American foreign policy since World War II, with special attention to analyses and interpretations of the determining factors of continuing significance, including factors and trends in the international and domestic environment of U.S. policy.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.100.720[C]

SA.100.102. Comparative Politics. 4 Credits.

This is a survey course in comparative politics that provides an overview of major theoretical approaches and issue areas in the field of comparative politics. It exposes students to a wide range of themes through reading of foundational work each week. The course starts by introducing competing theoretical approaches adopted by scholars of the field, including the state-centric, comparative historical, rational choice, and institutional perspectives. Using these approaches, the course then proceeds to examine issue areas such as political economy of developed and developing countries, democracy and authoritarianism, voting and parties, nationalism and ethnic politics, and the international context of domestic politics.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.100.750[C]

World Order

SA.100.201. Evolution of the International System. 4 Credits.

Provides an historical and global geopolitical framework for understanding how the modern global system has evolved. Focuses on three broad motifs: (1) the dialectical character of the European state system, (2) the relationship of Europe to the rest of the world and (3) the progressive rise of non-European powers and the growing challenge these have posed to Europe's dominant position in the world. Concludes with reflections on the contemporary international system and its principal actors, with an eye to defining its prospects in the 21st century.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.100.771[C]

SA.100.202. Theories of International Relations. 4 Credits.

This course surveys a variety of broad theoretical approaches to analyzing international politics. Examines approaches to the study of power, state interests, peace and war, international law, and economic cooperation; presents a critique of realist, liberal, and constructivist conceptions of international politics; and introduces basic methodology, weighing the evidence to assess the relative merits of theories.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.100.761[C]

International Economics

SA.100.302. Essentials of International Economics II. 4 Credits.

The course examines key concepts in the areas of Macroeconomics and International Monetary Theory relevant for understanding issues in international affairs. Macro concepts include macro measurement, aggregation, economic growth, inflation, business cycles, government policies to influence the economy, the banking system and interest rates and bond markets. International Monetary concepts include balance of payments, exchange rates, international monetary system, capital flows, and global financial crises. The course is conceptual in nature and requires only basic math skills. Students taking the Essentials International Economics core will not be eligible to take most economic elective classes.

SA.100.303. International Economics I. 4 Credits.

This course provides an introduction to the study of international trade. The first part of the course will focus on theoretical frameworks designed to understand the drivers and implications of international trade and review empirical applications of these models. The second part of the course will cover distributional consequences of trade policy instruments, arguments for trade protection, and the organization of the world trade system. For Non-MAIR students, Principles of microeconomics is a prerequisite for this course; more advanced topics in microeconomics will be introduced throughout the course.

SA.100.304. International Economics II. 4 Credits.

Covers the basic theory underlying international macroeconomics. Topics include international financial markets and the macroeconomics of open economies; balance of payments and the trade balance; exchange rates and the foreign exchange market; expectations, interest rates and capital flows; monetary and fiscal policy in open economies; exchange rate regimes; and macroeconomic policy in open economies. Basic algebra will be used in this class. This course is a prerequisite to most upper-level economics courses.

Research Methods

SA.100.401. Econometrics. 4 Credits.

Provides comprehensive introduction to econometrics. Develops tools for estimating functional relationships and critically reading empirical studies that use different econometric techniques; presents assumptions of multivariate regression and discusses the most common econometric problems and the potential consequences and remedies; and discusses omitted variables, sample selection, heteroscedasticity, autocorrelation, multicollinearity and use of discrete variables. Introduces instrumental variable technique. Uses statistical software in applied exercises.

Prerequisite(s): Statistics for Data Analysis, or Introduction to Statistics (MAGR) is a pre-requisite for this course; Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.340.710[C]; SA.100.501[C] OR SA.340.709[C] OR SA.999.702[C]

SA.100.402. Applied Econometrics. 4 Credits.

Focuses on recent empirical issues in international economics and development. Examines both econometric methods and findings. Emphasizes the econometrics models used, estimation problems encountered and techniques developed to address these problems. Aims to evaluate evidence from existing research and extend understanding of econometric methods to carry out independent research. Prerequisite: Econometrics.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.340.731[C]; SA.100.401[C] OR SA.340.710[C]

SA.100.404. Macro Econometrics. 4 Credits.

Course seeks to discuss and apply the techniques used in time series econometrics applied to macroeconomics and financial markets, always from a practitioner's point of view. Provides a comprehensive set of tools and techniques for analyzing various forms of univariate and multivariate time series and shows how to use computer programs EViews and Stata to estimate macroeconomic and financial time series models; through extensive use of computers, students have the opportunity to apply in class every technique learned. Aimed at students who wish to pursue a career in macroeconomic policy analysis or financial markets forecasting and for whom grasping concepts such as stationarity, cointegration, causality and changing volatility will be valuable. Prerequisite: Econometrics. Some knowledge of linear algebra and calculus, as well as proficiency with computers, is recommended.

Prerequisite(s): SA.100.401[C] OR SA.340.710[C]; Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.340.735[C]

SA.100.406. Practical Research Methods. 4 Credits.

This course covers the most common quantitative and qualitative research methods used in practical applications such as by program implementers and their partners and in policy analysis. It focuses mainly on observational methods and those for primary data collection, but will touch on longitudinal research designs, experiments, and secondary data analysis to situate observational research in context and consider creative combinations of designs and methods to answer complex questions. Students will develop the ability to design and implement surveys, focus groups, and interviews, including ethical approval, sampling procedures, and developing budgets and timelines. Additional quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods are reviewed as well. Ethical issues are considered extensively throughout the course. This course was previously titled "Practical Research Methods in International Development".

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.400.700[C]

SA.100.408. 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.100.401[C] OR SA.340.710[C]; Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.600.767[C]

SA.100.409. Risk in International Politics & Economics. 4 Credits.

The purpose of this course is to help students work through the challenge of understanding risk in international political and economic relations. That challenge is both methodological and substantive. Students will have to tackle 'how' we understand and 'what' we understand at the same time. Along the way, they will have to consider those things we cannot understand or anticipate with any meaningful degree of precision. They will have to deal with the 'uncertainty' that lies beyond the boundaries of 'risk'. The subject matter is open-ended. Virtually every aspect of politics or economics can be cast in terms of risk and uncertainty, no matter whether we look to the future or reflect upon the past. Therefore, the course builds on a thematically structured, case study approach. Each week introduces a new principle that is useful in understanding risk; each week provides cases that illustrate the usefulness of that new principle. Moreover, as our understanding of risk becomes more sophisticated, the cases become more complex. The ultimate goal is to be able to analyze matters of risk and uncertainty as they manifest around decisions taken by leaders in government or business in the real world.

SA.100.410. Theories & Methods of Qualitative Political Research. 4 Credits.

Research in the social sciences calls upon different methods for gathering information, interpreting data, drawing inferences, and advancing arguments. Qualitative methods rely on direct observation, narrative forms, and tools such as interviews, archival sources, media, participant observation, ethnographic analysis and historical documentation. Qualitative approaches may draw upon inductive techniques (assessing evidence directly) and deductive reasoning (drawing on stylized or logical relationships) when identifying patterns and crafting propositions. The purposes of qualitative methods are broadly similar to those of quantitative methods: drawing inferences (resilient generalizations) from evidence, developing causal arguments about the sources and mechanisms of events, and testing propositions about political behavior. Qualitative methods are also frequently partnered with quantitative methods in "mixed-method" research designs. However, the assumptions and procedures of qualitative methodology are distinct. Initial registration for this course is restricted to PhD students. Interested non-PhD students can register via SIS and request "Pending Approval". Separately, students must submit a maximum one-page statement of interest and relevant experience to Professor Lewis at plewis18@jhu.edu; please copy jyoungsl1@jhu.edu. Prof. Lewis will review and decide whether or not to approve.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.600.774[C]

SA.100.411. Methods in Comparative-International Research. 4 Credits.

This class introduces students to different research designs in comparative and international analysis. The discussion will be based mainly on examples of high-impact studies. Methods covered include cross-national large-N survey, ethnography, interview, small-N comparison, paired comparison, and process tracing. Through intensive engagement with the readings, which are composed of classics and cutting-edge research, students are expected to develop critical appreciation of the diverse methodological strategies underlying different empirical studies and the capability of employing some of the methods in their research.

SA.100.412. Quantitative Research Methods. 4 Credits.

Today's world relies a lot on the accumulation, presentation, and interpretation of large quantities of information. Statistics and Econometrics are tools that enable us to organize our data in an efficient manner and provide us with methods that help to understand the relationships that occur in our data and our increasingly complex world. In this course, we will draw examples from multiple disciplines, such as political science and economics, to demonstrate how to search for and evaluate patterns in large amounts of data, as well as to interpret what these patterns tell us about the world. The course develops tools for estimating functional relationships and critically reading empirical studies that use different econometric techniques.

SA.100.413. Qualitative Methods for Global Policy. 4 Credits.

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SA.100.414. Research Methods: Victories and Pitfalls. 2 Credits.

The course is a critical review of human-centered quantitative and qualitative research applications in international affairs, with a particular focus on learning the tools used by social scientists to evaluate the quality and feasibility of different research approaches in developing country contexts. The first half of the course delves into the practical uses of validity theory as the gold standard to assess the victories and pitfalls of experiments, quasi-experiments and non-experiments in real-world cases around the world. The second half of the course is devoted to understanding qualitative research methods (in-depth interviews, focus groups, and a variety of observational tools such as photography and graphic novel techniques), and learning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative work in hard-to-access contexts across Africa, Asia and Latin America. The course provides a practical knowledge foundation for professionals who aspire to critically assess the real value of quantitative and qualitative evidence presented to them, while it helps them to determine the right opportunities to generate new knowledge for more informed and effective policy and program design.

SA.100.415. Social Network Analysis: Understanding Relationships and Interdependence. 2 Credits.

Relationships between individuals and the social networks those relationships form can be crucial to explaining important sociopolitical outcomes, such as a group's power dynamics, the spread of information, or governmental decision-making processes. This course introduces students to the foundations of social network analysis, an increasingly popular approach for social scientists interested in understanding interdependence between actors and the properties of social network structures. Starting with an introduction to the conceptual foundations of social network analysis methods, the course then moves to consideration of their contemporary applications to understanding phenomena in international affairs as diverse as wartime mobilization or state status.

SA.100.416. Research Methods: Victories and Pitfalls. 4 Credits.

The course is a critical review of human-centered quantitative and qualitative research applications in international affairs, with a particular focus on learning the tools used by social scientists to evaluate the quality and feasibility of different research approaches in developing country contexts. The first half of the course delves into the practical uses of validity theory as the gold standard to assess the victories and pitfalls of experiments, quasi-experiments and non-experiments in real-world cases around the world. The second half of the course is devoted to understanding qualitative research methods (in-depth interviews, focus groups, and a variety of observational tools such as photography and graphic novel techniques), and learning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative work in hard-to-access contexts across Africa, Asia and Latin America. The course provides a practical knowledge foundation for professionals who aspire to critically assess the real value of quantitative and qualitative evidence presented to them, while it helps them to determine the right opportunities to generate new knowledge for more informed and effective policy and program design.

Prerequisite(s): Cannot take if you have already received credit for SA.100.414[C]

SA.100.418. Historical Methods. 4 Credits.

Data Analytics

SA.100.501. Statistics for Data Analysis. 4 Credits.

Covers basic statistical tools for data analysis. Emphasizes facility in problem-solving in statistical inference and two-variable regression and correlation analysis. Presents descriptive statistics, probability and probability distributions and their use in hypothesis testing. Uses computer to solve problems and to reinforce statistical concepts.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.340.709[C]