

SO YOU WANT TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (IA) MAJOR AT LC? (Updated 3/6/26)

THE 11 COURSES OF AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR:

- 1) IA 100 (Introduction to International Relations)
 - 2) IA 212 (United States Foreign Policy)
 - 3) ECON 100 (Introduction to Economics)
 - 4) POLS 102 (Comparative Politics)
 - 5) A "Global Security, Conflict & Diplomacy" class
 - 6) A "Global Governance" class
 - 7) A "Comparative & Regional Perspectives" class
 - 8) An "Economic Perspectives" class
 - 9) A "Research Methods" class or an additional course in #s 5, 6, 7, or 8
 - 10) IA 310 (IR Theories)
 - 11) IA 430 (Thesis)
- Years ~1-2
(suggested)
- Years ~2-4
(suggested)
- Year 4
(unless you have a compelling reason to take earlier)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL ADVICE:

- 1. Where can I find out more about IA courses?** The most valuable resource for information on the IA Department and its courses is the [LC Course Catalog](#).
- 2. What course(s) should I take first?** IA 100 (Intro to Int'l Relations) unlocks most other course offerings in our department. It is also very popular and usually fills up quickly. We typically offer 3 sections of IA 100 each fall and 1-2 sections each spring.
- 3. In what order should I take courses for an IA major?** We generally recommend taking the four core "introductory" courses—IA 100, ECON 100 (Intro to Economics), POLS 102 (Comparative Politics), and IA 212 (U.S. Foreign Policy)—within your first two years at LC. But this is not a requirement.
- 4. What's the deal with ECON 100?** Like IA 100, ECON 100 is very popular and fills up quickly each semester, so you will likely want to prioritize it in registering for classes for the semester you want to take it.
- 5. Can I take upper-level IA courses in my first year?** *Most* IA courses at the 200 and 300 level are not open to freshmen. The exceptions are 200-level courses with "F1" listed in the course number on WebAdvisor, meaning they are open to freshmen who have taken (or are concurrently taking) IA 100. Two regularly offered courses that are available to freshmen are IA 211 (International Organization) and IA 212 (US Foreign Policy), for example.
- 6. What about the non-introductory core IA courses?** The *other* two required classes for the major are the "advanced" core courses—IA 310 (IR Theories) and IA 430 (Thesis). We recommend that students take these courses during the fall and spring of their senior year at LC (but see #7). IA 310 is only offered in the fall and IA 430 in the spring. IA 310 must be taken before IA 430, so you should plan accordingly.

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7. Are there exceptions to #6? The exception to our recommendation in #6 is students with legitimate conflicting and competing priorities during their senior year (an off-campus program or another capstone project, for example). In this case, we recommend taking the IA 310-IA 430 sequence during the junior year. It is also possible to take IA 310 in the junior year and IA 430 in the senior year.

8. What *else* does an IA major need to take? Aside from the 6 non-substitutable core courses, the other 5 courses of an IA major must come from the 5 IA subject areas: 1) Global Security, Conflict, & Diplomacy, 2) Global Governance, 3) Comparative & Regional Perspectives, 4) Economic Perspectives, and 5) Research Methods. Students must *either* a) take one course from each of these five subject areas, *or* b) take one course from each of the first *four* subject areas (excluding Research Methods) and *one* additional course in *one* of those first four subject areas.

9. When should I take these subject area courses? We generally recommend fulfilling the IA subject area course requirements between the second semester of freshmen year and the first semester of senior year. But this is not a requirement.

10. Can I get IA major credit from off campus programs? An IA-related course on an off-campus program *might* count toward one of the subject area requirements for the IA major, but this requires the written consent of the IA department chair (at present, this is Kyle Lascurettes). In our experience, the IA subject area most likely to be satisfied by such a class is the Comparative & Regional Perspectives category (which is often but not always filled with something like a “Contemporary Politics (or Foreign Policy) of [off-campus program country]” course).

11. What's the deal with Economic Perspectives? Of the four required IA subject areas, Economic Perspectives has the fewest independent course offerings. Many majors satisfy this criterion with IA 340: Int'l Political Economy (though taking this particular class is *not* a requirement). IA 340 has ECON 100 as a required prerequisite, so students will want to map out their schedules accordingly.

12. Are all the catalog IA courses regularly taught? While *most* of the IA courses listed in the [LC Course Catalog](#) are regularly offered by our faculty, not *all* of them are. Faculty also regularly go on leave (for sabbatical, maternity/paternity care, etc.) or lead off-campus programs. We recommend checking in with your IA advisor early and often about when and whether particular courses will be offered during your time at LC.

Currently regularly offered: IA 100, 211, 212, 244, 245, 257, 290, 296, 299, 303, 310, 315, 330, 333, 340, 342, 348, 350, 430

Currently *not* regularly offered: IA 220, 230, 231, 232, 238, 262, 312, 313, 318, 320, 362

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FALL 2026

NUMBER	COURSE NAME	INSTRUCTOR	MAJOR REQUIREMENT FULFILLED
IA 100-01	Introduction to Int'l Relations	Kyle Lascurettes	Required Major Course
IA 100-02	Introduction to Int'l Relations	Matt Scroggs	Required Major Course
IA 100-03	Introduction to Int'l Relations	Elizabeth Bennett	Required Major Course
IA 212	United States Foreign Policy	Matt Scroggs	Required Major Course
IA 310	IR Theories	Kyle Lascurettes	Required Major Course
IA 340	Int'l Political Economy	Elizabeth Bennett	Economic Perspectives
ECON 100	Principles of Economics (x 2 sections)	Anna Miromanova	Required Major Course
ECON 103	Statistics	Xiang Li	Research Methods
HIST 328	The British Empire	David Champion	Comparative/Regional
POLS 102	Intro to Comparative Politics (x 2 sections)	Ben Gaskins or Leah Gilbert	Required Major Course
POLS 201	Research Methods in Political Science	Ellen Seljan	Research Methods
POLS 435	Topics in Comparative Politics	Leah Gilbert	Comparative/Regional
SOAN 200	Ethnographic Research Methods	Kabir Heimsath	Research Methods
SOAN 260	Global Inequality (pending LC approval for counting toward IA major)	Maryann Bylander	Comparative/Regional

SPRING 2027 (preliminary and subject to change)

NUMBER	COURSE NAME	INSTRUCTOR	MAJOR REQUIREMENT FULFILLED
IA 212	United States Foreign Policy	Matt Scroggs	Required Major Course
IA 290	Middle East Politics	Matt Scroggs	Comparative/Regional
IA 315	Crises in Global Governance	Matt Scroggs	Security/Conflict/Diplomacy **OR** Global Governance
IA 348	Global Order	Kyle Lascurettes	Security/Conflict/Diplomacy **OR** Global Governance
IA 350	Social Justice in the Global Economy	Elizabeth Bennett	Economic Perspectives
IA 430-01	Thesis Seminar	Elizabeth Bennett	Required Major Course
IA 430-02	Thesis Seminar	Kyle Lascurettes	Required Major Course
ECON 100	Principles of Economics	Anna Miromanova	Required Major Course

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NUMBER	COURSE NAME	INSTRUCTOR	MAJOR REQUIREMENT FULFILLED
ECON 103	Statistics	Xiang Li	Research Methods
ECON 232	Economic Development	Aine McCarthy	Economic Perspectives
HIST 121	Modern Europe	David Campion	Comparative/Regional
HIST 217	The Emergence of Modern South Asia	David Campion	Comparative/Regional
HIST 142	Modern Latin American History	Elliott Young	Comparative/Regional
POLS 201	Research Methods in Political Science	Ellen Seljan	Research Methods
POLS 325	European Politics	Leah Gilbert	Comparative/Regional
SOAN 266	Social Change in Latin America	Staff	Comparative/Regional

****Note 1: Suparna Chaudhry will be on leave for the 2026-27 academic year****

****Note 2: Bob Mandel's status for the 2026-27 academic year is TBD***

IA COURSES REGULARLY OFFERED BY FACULTY MEMBER

Elizabeth Bennett

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 340: International Political Economy
IA 350: Social Justice in the International Economy
IA 430: Thesis Seminar

Suparna Chaudhry

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 296: Human Rights in International Relations
IA 303: Dynamics of Civil Conflicts
IA 333: International Law
IA 430: Thesis Seminar

Kyle Lascuresses (Chair of the IA Department)

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 211: International Organization
IA 340: International Relations Theories
IA 348: Global Order
IA 430: Thesis Seminar

Bob Mandel (*On leave for the 2025-26 academic year*)

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 257: Global Resource Dilemmas
IA 330: Global Security
IA 342: Perception and International Relations

Matt Scroggs

IA 100: Introduction to International Relations
IA 212: United States Foreign Policy
IA 290: Middle East Politics
POLS 201: Research Methods in Political Science

This document does NOT include 1) Courses taught by IA faculty in other departments/programs that do not count towards the IA major (Words/Numbers, etc.), 2) IA courses that count for fewer than 4 credits, 3) independent study and internship offerings, and 4) classes taught by faculty outside the IA department that nonetheless count toward the IA major.

For a complete list, see [our section of the LC Course Catalog](#).