Spring 2019 International Affairs Courses

Core courses:

RINT 505 Global Security
Christopher Clary
Thursday 5:45-9:25PM
This course introduces students to the basic concepts and issues of security in the contemporary world. After briefly reviewing the historical development of war, the course examines deterrence, alliances, collective security, conventional war, and the nuclear revolution. The course then analyzes emerging transnational threats such as terrorism, the challenges of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, the tensions between economic globalization and the imperatives of homeland security and the technological changes giving rise to new weaponry such as military robotics as well as the prospects of cyber warfare.

RINT 506 International and Comparative Public Management
Jeffrey Straussman
Tuesday 5:45-9:25PM
The purpose of this course is not to make you a virtual globetrotter or a superficial expert on several vastly different administrative systems. Rather, students will gain a deeper appreciation of the concepts and tools of public administration in countries with different cultures, histories and political regimes. The course will also include analysis of collaborations between non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the public sector, especially in the area of policy implementation. In addition, we will also give attention to international organizations and their interaction with governments and international non-governmental organizations on specific global policy challenges. The objective of the course is to broaden and deepen your managerial repertoire. This is achieved through the comparative method; therefore, readings will cover a variety of national and international environments, organizations and policy areas. In addition, most class sessions will include a case analysis that will require active participation by students. The case method, how it works and the students’ responsibilities, will be described in detail during the first class session.

RINT 507 Statistics for Intl Affairs Managers and Policy Analysts
Brian Greenhill
Monday 5:45-9:25PM
Introduction to the statistical methods that are commonly used by international affairs professionals. This course will help students understand the findings of academic and policy research that relies on quantitative methods and present the findings of their own analysis of real-world data using regression analysis and other statistical methods.

Electives:

RINT 542 Intelligence and National Security Policymaking
James Steiner
Tuesday 5:45-9:25 PM
This seminar examines the role of intelligence in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy in the United States. Through critical analysis and case studies, students will develop techniques to increase intelligence’s contribution to policy deliberations. The course will assess the most appropriate role for national intelligence agencies and the international intelligence community in supporting executive branch processes, including such aspects as key players and institutional bias. Much of the course is devoted to a series of mock intelligence and policy meetings on international crises to critically analyze intelligence agencies’ proper role in supporting the policy process.
RINT 543 Political Violence, Insurgency and Terrorism
Ian Anderson
Monday 5:45-9:25PM
This course will provide an overview of a wide range of topics and theories dealing with political violence, with a particular focus on terrorism. Students will explore what the various forms of political violence are, apply theories on political violence, understand why terrorism constitutes a distinct form of political violence, and study how nations (particularly the United States) respond to the various terrorist threats today. The course will also integrate interactive exercises and structured discussions which will be used to dig deeper into the theory and practice of political violence.

RINT 599 Selected Topics: International Development Project Management
Gina Volynsky
Tuesday 5:45-9:25PM
This course focuses on the real-life challenges and solutions of implementing international development assistance projects on the ground, in country. Students will follow how a project is designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated. A strong emphasis is placed on designing and running projects that are impactful, address the needs of the local populations, especially vulnerable groups such as women and indigenous groups, and are sustainable economically, politically and environmentally. Throughout the course, students will also be introduced to the types of interventions or tools employed by International development projects to improve the lives of people in developing countries in a sustainable way. Rather than a static textbook, students will be introduced to current readings, up to date research, and useful online resources from organizations such as the State Department, and the World Bank. Classroom time will include lectures, guest speakers who are experts in the industry from Albany and the US, analysis of case studies, and most importantly, hands on exercises on each topic area. The course is intended for students who are considering a career in international development or international affairs. No pre-requisite is necessary.

RINT 599 Selected Topics: Weapons Mass Destruction and International Security
Christopher Clary
Tuesday Thursday 2:45-4:05PM
This course provides an introduction to the causes and consequences of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Each week we will explore a different dimension of WMD proliferation, drawing on academic theory and historical evidence. Questions the course will address include: How different are nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons in their physical and political effects? Do nuclear weapons make the world more or less dangerous? Will the future for new nuclear states be more or less dangerous than the historical superpower experience? Is nuclear deterrence easy or hard? Is nuclear terrorism a real or over-hyped threat? Do ethical concerns about nuclear weapons make them different than other weapons? Answers to these questions ought to inform how students understand historical events and contemporary policy problems.

RPOS/RPAD/RINT 605 Politics of Migration and Membership
Rey Koslowski
Wed 5:45- 9:25 PM
This graduate seminar examines the domestic and international politics of migration and considers the dilemmas faced by local, national and international policymaking bodies addressing population movement. After examining the historical context and theories of international migration, we will consider comparative political analysis of labor migration to advanced industrial states, the question of state control over migratory flows, including increasing human smuggling and trafficking. We will then examine the impact of migration on international politics with particular emphasis on international security, the influence of emigrants on political change in home countries, refugee policies and the potential for international cooperation on migration and refugees. We will then shift from politics of control and security to comparative analysis of political incorporation, naturalization and citizenship rights. At the end of the course, we apply the comparative perspectives gained to an examination of the contemporary politics of U.S. immigration policy.