Spring 2018 International Affairs courses

Core:

RINT 504 International Economics  
Kenneth Coates  
Thursday 5:45PM - 9:25PM  
This course introduces students to the principles, policies, and practices of international trade and finance that are fundamental for understanding international economic relations and the global economy. The course will also examine microeconomic applications in political economic analysis of international trade and finance. Prerequisites: Completion or concurrent enrollment in RINT 503 Quantitative Approaches to International Affairs; completion or placing out of RINT 502 Economics for Global Affairs.

RINT 505 Global Security  
Christopher Clary  
Monday 5:45PM - 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 5:45PM - 9:25PM  
This course focuses on tensions and trade-offs between important values in public administration and the institutional foundations of public service in cross-national political, bureaucratic, and legal settings. It examines management within the administrative structures, international organizations and agencies of the UN system and the foreign ministries of UN member states as well as functional agencies of national governments and sub-national governments (e.g. provinces and cities) engaged in trans-governmental relations. Major topics include dimensions of the public sector, characteristics of institutional settings, environmental context, and functions, roles, behaviors, and structures.

Electives:

RINT 511 International Law  
David Guinn  
Tuesday 5:45PM - 9:25PM  
This course is an introduction to international public law in its political context. It examines the role of law in the functioning of the international system of states, including operation of international organizations and activities of non-state actors and individuals. It also includes an examination of the theory, development, and practice of international law, the interplay between law and politics, and the content and process of international legislation and authoritative decisions. It will introduce students to the International Court of Justice, the international law governing the use of force, the laws of war (international humanitarian law or the law of armed conflict), and the development of international criminal courts.

RINT 541 Homeland Security in Comparative and International Perspective  
Rey Koslowski  
Wednesday 5:45PM - 9:25PM
This course introduces students to the concepts, institutions and policy issues of security as they relate to the administrative practices of interior and home ministries around the world. The course examines the following topics: counterterrorism; intelligence gathering and information sharing; governmental reorganization; border security and immigration; transportation, trade and port security; cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection; all-hazards prevention, preparedness and response. The course also examines how countries have responded to terrorist attacks and security threats by engaging in international cooperation on travel, border, trade and cyber security.

RINT 542 Intelligence and National Security Policymaking
James Steiner
Tuesday 5:45PM - 9:25PM
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
Thursday 5:45PM - 9:25PM
This course examines the relationships among, and differences between, the following activities in the international political system: political violence, insurgency, and terrorism. The course will include a consideration of the causes of these activities, their effects on national and international politics, and an evaluation of governmental responses to them.

RINT 599 Selected Topics in International Affairs: International Development Project Management
Gina Volynsky
Wednesday 5:45-9:25 PM
This course focuses on the real life challenges and solutions of implementing international development assistance projects on the ground, in country. It helps prepare students for work, particularly in the field, in international NGOs, such as Mercy Corp, multilateral organizations, such as UNICEF, and donors, such as the US Agency for International Development. 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. The course is divided into three modules, and each provides students with a set of practical and tried tools and methodologies as well as useful sources of information online. The first module focuses on project design, and students learn how to evaluate the needs of the beneficiaries, map the local context, analyze the stakeholders, understand available resources, and finally, develop a theory of change that will lead to the desired results. The second module follows the nuts and bolts of running a project from start-up to implementation, to close-out and transfer locally. The final module is dedicated to understanding how to monitor the project through its life, to evaluate results and determine when and how course corrections may be necessary. The professor utilizes real life examples and cases drawn from her own experience working on the ground in developing countries for the UN, the World Bank and USAID, as well as current industry best practices. At every stage, the student will be introduced to current readings, up to date research, and useful online resources from organizations such as the State Department. 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.