

International and Public Affairs

The concentration in International and Public Affairs equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be engaged global citizens. This concentration offers three tracks: Development, Policy & Governance, and Security. All students take a common core of five classes, beginning with a choice of thematic gateway lecture courses (ideally taken during freshman or sophomore year), and then building through a required junior seminar and a required senior seminar (eligible students may choose to write an honor's thesis to satisfy the senior seminar requirement). All students choose one of three tracks of substantive specialization: Development, in which students explore issues of human development in local and global contexts, and across both the developing world and advanced industrial settings; Security, which allows students to explore issues of security in both local and global contexts; and Policy and Governance, in which students explore the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies to resolve societal challenges, as well as the governing structures that yield those policies. The concentration is committed to engaging students in the classroom, enabling research opportunities with faculty and in the field, and supporting experiential learning opportunities. Advisors' office hours and an online appointment scheduler are available here.

Concentration Requirements

The concentration comprises 11 courses (12 for an honors degree). Students take a Gateway course, which introduces them to multidisciplinary perspectives on social challenges that cut across global regions. The Foundational course introduces students to central themes and texts in the three IAPA tracks: Development, Policy and Governance, and Security. Gateway and Track Foundational courses are not interchangeable or substitutable with courses offered in other concentrations. They should both be taken in the first or second year.

Once a student has chosen a track, they take five electives, selected from a pre-approved list for each track on our website. Approval of track elective courses not on the pre-approved list is permitted only in extenuating circumstances. Note that that list of electives is subject to change. We encourage students to cluster two or three of these electives around a region, theme, or social problem to create coherence in their plan of study and prepare for future work.

Students also take courses in qualitative and quantitative methods (a high-level course in language instruction can substitute for one of the two methods courses).

All International and Public Affairs concentrators take a junior seminar (1700 level) during the fall or spring semester of the junior year. The seminars, which are not track specific, focus on issues in international and public affairs that can be studied in comparative perspective, that can be subjected to multidisciplinary analysis, and that often cut across concerns about development, policy and governance, and security. The seminars are designed to help students hone skills of critical thinking, argumentation, and the design and operation of social science research and scholarship. Junior seminar students write papers on topics that can later be pursued as capstone or thesis projects. Junior seminars are not interchangeable or substitutable with courses in other concentrations. Junior seminars are typically WRIT-designated.

All International and Public Affairs concentrators complete a capstone course during their senior year. Designated IAPA Senior Seminars (1800 level) require students to write a research paper or extended policy brief that draws on analytic expertise, thematic expertise, regional expertise, and foreign language skills, if applicable. The capstone research project is typically about 20-25 pages in length. Senior capstone seminars are not interchangeable or substitutable with courses offered in other concentrations. Senior seminars are typically WRIT-designated. Eligible seniors may choose to write a two-semester honors thesis to satisfy the senior capstone requirement.

Track Specialization and Electives

IAPA students must take the track foundational course associated with their track specialization (Development, Security, or Policy & Governance).

Track foundational courses are not interchangeable or substitutable with courses offered in other concentrations. Students select 5 elective courses from the list of pre-approved electives consistent with their track specialization. Approval of track elective courses not on the pre-approved list is permitted only in extenuating circumstances. Note - the list of electives is subject to change.

Concentration Requirements Summary

Gateway Course		1
IAPA 0300	Costs of War	
IAPA 0400	Fiscal Plumbing 101: The American Tax State in Comparative and Historical Perspective	
IAPA 0900	How We Compete: The Race for Industrial Supremacy Over Time and Place	
ECON 1000	Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems	
POLS 1020	Politics of the Illicit Global Economy	
SOC 1490	Power, Knowledge and Justice in Global Social Change	
Track Foundational		1
IAPA 1001	Foundations of Development	
IAPA 1002	Foundations of Policy and Governance	
IAPA 1003	Foundations of Security	
Track Electives (See tables below)		5
Qualitative Research Methods ¹		1
IAPA 1500A	Ethnographic Research Methods	
SOC 1020	Methods of Social Research	
Quantitative Research Methods ²		1
ECON 1620	Introduction to Econometrics	
IAPA 1502	What Works: Evaluating the Impact of Social Programs	
POLS 1600	Political Research Methods	
SOC 1100	Introductory Statistics for Social Research	
Junior Seminar ³		
IAPA 1700P	Displaced: How Global Systems Shape Refugee Families	
IAPA 1700R	Inequality, Policy, and Economics	
IAPA 1700S	Survey of Time: Temporality, Social Theory, and Difference	
IAPA 1701M	Justice, Gender, and Markets	
IAPA 1701N	Diplomacy, an Art That Isn't Lost	
IAPA 1701V	Democratization	
IAPA 1701W	The Cold War in Latin America	
IAPA 1701X	American Education Policy in Historical and Comparative Perspective	
IAPA 1701Y	Climate Change, Power, & Money	
IAPA 1701Z	Animals and War	
IAPA 1702D	Beyond Refugeehood: Politics of mobility, border regimes, and humanitarianism	
IAPA 1702H	The Politics of Industrial Transformation	
IAPA 1702I	Governance from Socialist to Post-socialist China	
Senior Capstone ⁴		
IAPA 1800D	Introduction to Corporate Law and Public Policy	
IAPA 1801D	Politics & Journalism: A Practical Guide to How We Got Here and Where We're Going	
IAPA 1801F	Prison Abolition as Policy	

IAPA 1802M	Rwanda Past and Present	
IAPA 1803	Humanitarian Response in Modern Conflict	
IAPA 1804	Diplomacy, Crisis, and War in the Modern Era	
IAPA 1804A	Iran and the Islamic Revolution	
IAPA 1804D	Legal Methods for Public Policy	
IAPA 1804M	Overcoming Threats to Human Security	
IAPA 1810	Democratization and Autocratization	
IAPA 1811	Contemporary Digital Policy and Politics	
IAPA 1821P	Political Psychology of International Relations	
IAPA 1816A	Senior Honors Seminar	1
IAPA 1817A	Senior Honors Thesis	1
Total Credits		11

- ¹ A comparable course from an outside department (including ANTH 1236, ANTH 1940, BIOL 1575, EDUC 1240, SOC 1117, SOC 1260, SOC 1340) may also be used.
- ² A comparable course from an outside department including (APMA 1650, CPSY 0900, CSCI 0300, CSCI 0111, ECON 1620, EDUC 1230) may also be used.
- ³ Other 1700-level approved IAPA courses may also fulfill the Junior Seminar requirement
- ⁴ Other 1800-level approved IAPA courses may also fulfill the Senior Seminar requirement. Students pursuing honors are required to take the IAPA Honors Seminar (IAPA 1816A or IAPA 1850) in the fall and a directed reading independent study with their primary thesis reader in the spring.

Examples of track electives include the following: (Note that a full list is available on the IAPA website (<https://home.watson.brown.edu/iapa/requirements/track-electives/>)).

DEVELOPMENT TRACK

Five courses from the following (approval of track elective courses not on the pre-approved list is permitted only in extenuating circumstances):		5
ANTH 1150	Middle East in Anthropological Perspective	
ANTH 1301	Anthropology of Homelessness	
ECON 1500	Current Global Macroeconomic Challenges	
ECON 1560	Economic Growth	
ENVS 1554	Farm Planet: Hunger, Development, and the Future of Food and Agriculture	
HIST 1267	The Global British Empire, 1600-The Present	
IAPA 1401	Economic Development in Latin America	
IAPA 1402	Beyond Sun, Sea and Sand: Exploring the Contemporary Caribbean	
JUDS 1711	History of the State of Israel: 1948 to the Present	
PHP 1460	Public Health Law and Policy	
POLS 1290	The Rise of China	
POLS 1440	Security, Governance and Development in Africa	
SOC 1270	Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the Modern World	
URBN 1871G	Urban Asia: Beyond Tradition, Modernity, and Crisis	
Total Credits		5

Development Professional Track

The requirements for all undergraduate professional tracks within concentrations are standardized and additional information can be found here:

<https://bulletin.brown.edu/undergradprotrack/>

SECURITY TRACK ELECTIVES

Five courses from the following (approval of track elective courses not on the pre-approved list is permitted only in extenuating circumstances):		5
CSCI 1800	Cybersecurity and International Relations	
ECON 1340	Economics of Global Warming	
HIST 1080	Humanitarianism and Conflict in Africa	
IAPA 1201B	Victory, Defeat, and Everything In-Between: History, Strategy, and Politics	
IAPA 1203	History of American Intervention	
POLS 1225	Nuclear Weapons	
POLS 1500	The International Law and Politics of Human Rights	
POLS 1822I	Geopolitics of Oil and Energy	
SOC 1128	Migrants, Refugees and the Mediterranean	
UNIV 1001	The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Contested Narratives	

Total Credits 5

Security Professional Track

The requirements for all undergraduate professional tracks within concentrations are standardized and additional information can be found here:

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POLICY & GOVERNANCE TRACK ELECTIVES

Five courses from the following (approval of track elective courses not on the pre-approved list is permitted only in extenuating circumstances):		5
AFRI 1170	African American Women's History	
ANTH 1300	Anthropology of Addictions and Recovery	
CSCI 1580	Information Retrieval and Web Search	
ECON 1385	Intergenerational Poverty in America	
ECON 1570	The Economics of Latin Americans	
IAPA 1201B	Victory, Defeat, and Everything In-Between: History, Strategy, and Politics	
ENVS 1400	Sustainable Design in the Built Environment	
HIST 1121	The Modern Chinese Nation: An Idea and Its Limits	
HIST 1531	Movement Politics in Modern America	
PHP 1450	COVID-19, Public Health, and Health Policy	
PHP 1681	Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice	
POLS 1090	Polarized Politics	
POLS 1280	The Rise of India: History, Politics, Economics and Society	
SOC 1116	Criminal Courts and the Law in an Era of Mass Incarceration	
URBN 1250	The Political Foundations of the City	

Total Credits 5

Policy & Governance Professional Track

The requirements for all undergraduate professional tracks within concentrations are standardized and additional information can be found here:

<https://bulletin.brown.edu/undergradprotrack/>

Honors

Students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance and scholarly achievement in the International and Public Affairs concentration have the opportunity to be recommended for graduation with honors. Students submit applications to the Honors Program (<https://home.watson.brown.edu/iapa/honors/>) in the spring semester of their junior year. Students who are graduating in December can apply for the honors program in the spring semester (their 5th) to complete their thesis in the 7th semester with the spring cohort.

To apply, students must meet IAPA honors course and GPA prerequisites and turn in a well-developed social science research question, method, and bibliography along with a plan for completing the thesis by April of senior year. They must also have secured signatures of a primary thesis advisor and a second reader. Only those students with an approved thesis application will be permitted to enter the senior thesis seminar in the fall and /or receive thesis grant funding for the summer.