GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Sigga Benediktsdottir (sigridur.benediktsdottir@yale.edu), 202 Horchow Hall, 432-3418; jackson.yale.edu/ba-degree

The Global Affairs major, administered by the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, prepares Yale students for global citizenship and service by enhancing their understanding of the world around them. Students in this interdisciplinary major develop expertise in contemporary global affairs that is strongly grounded in the social sciences.

Students in the Global Affairs major have the flexibility to shape their own curriculums according to their interests and ambitions. In the past, students have concentrated their course work on economic development and poverty, global health, global climate policy, international relations, and foreign policy and diplomacy, with topics relevant to national and human security.

COURSES FOR NONMAJORS

Most Global Affairs courses are open to both majors and nonmajors. If a Global Affairs course requires an application, the application will be posted on the Jackson Institute website.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for the Global Affairs major. However, students interested in applying to the major are encouraged to complete the introductory economics sequence (ECON 108, 110, or 115 and ECON 111 or 116) and work toward the foreign language requirement early in their course planning. An introductory analysis course, such as GLBL 121, ECON 131, or S&DS 100–106 is suggested.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Requirements of the Major for the Class of 2021 and Subsequent Classes

Thirteen term courses are required for the major in addition to a foreign language requirement. Introductory courses in microeconomics (ECON 108, 110, or 115) and macroeconomics (ECON 111 or 116) are required, as is ECON 121 or 125. All majors must take the core courses GLBL 235 and 275, and three courses in quantitative and other methods, including GLBL 121 and GLBL 122. Majors also take four electives chosen from an approved group of courses in Global Affairs, History, Political Science, Economics, and other social science departments; and GLBL 499 Senior Capstone Project.

For information about which courses qualify as electives, see the Jackson Institute website and the course listings in this bulletin.

Language Requirement

Global Affairs majors are required to take a course designated L5 in a modern language other than English. In exceptional cases, a demonstration of proficiency can fulfill this requirement.

Credit/D/Fail

Courses taken Credit/D/Fail may not be applied to the requirements of the major, with the exception that a grade of Credit in an L5 language course may be used to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language.

Roadmap

See visual roadmap of the requirements.

Senior Requirement

In the fall term of the senior year, majors must complete a capstone project in GLBL 499. Small groups of students are each assigned to a policy task force in which they apply their academic training in the social sciences to a specific problem relevant to global affairs. Each task force presents its findings and recommendations to a real-world client such as a government agency, a nongovernmental organization or nonprofit group, or a private-sector organization in the United States or abroad.

Advising and Application to the Major

Students apply to the Global Affairs major in the fall of the sophomore year. The number of students accepted into the major is limited, and selection is competitive. The call for applications is posted each year on the Jackson Institute website, circulated through the residential college deans’ offices, and noted on the Advising Resources website. For application information, visit the Jackson Institute website.

Internships

Students in the major are encouraged to take a summer internship in the field of global affairs after their junior year. The Jackson Institute’s Career Services Office can help students find appropriate internships.

Study Abroad

Global Affairs majors who plan to study abroad should consult the director of student affairs, Lily Sutton (lily.sutton@yale.edu), to devise a course of study prior to the term abroad.

Requirements of the Major

Prerequisites: None

Number of Courses: 13 (incl senior req; excluding lang req)
Specific courses required  ECON 108, 110, or 115; ECON 111 or 116; ECON 121 or 125; GLBL 225; 275
Distribution of courses  3 quantitative and other methods courses, incl GLBL 121 and 122; 4 approved electives
Language requirement  Advanced ability (L4) in 1 modern lang other than English
Senior requirement  Senior capstone project in GLBL 499

FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Professors  David Engerman (History), John Gaddis (History), Jacob Hacker (Political Science), Oona Hathaway (Law), Amy Kapczynski (Law, Global Health), Paul Kennedy (History), Robert T. Jensen (School of Management), James Levinsohn (Director) (School of Management), A. Mushfiq Mobarak (School of Management), Samuel Moyn (Law), Catherine Panter-Brick (Anthropology), Peter Schott (Economics, School of Management), Ian Shapiro (Political Science), Timothy Snyder (History), Jing Tsu (East Asian Languages and Literatures), Aleh Tsyvinski (Economics), Odd Arne Westad (History), Steven Wilkinson (Political Science), Ernesto Zedillo (International Economics & Politics)

Associate Professors  Alexandre Debs (Political Science), Kaveh Khoshoonoo (Public Health), Jason Lyall (Political Science), Nuno Monteiro (Political Science), Marci Shore (History), Jonathan Wyrtenzen (Sociology, International Affairs)

Assistant Professors  Lorenzo Caliendo (Economics, School of Management), Zack Cooper (Public Health), Gregg Gonsalves (School of Public Health), Lloyd Grieger (Sociology), Alice Miller (School of Public Health, Law), Thania Sanchez (Political Science), Kristina Talbert-Slagle (School of Medicine, Global Health)

Senior Lecturers  Marnix Amand, Sigga Benediktsdottir, Charles Hill (International Security Studies), Asha Rangappa, Justin Thomas

Lecturers  Michael Brenes, Christopher Fussell, William Casey King, Nicholas Lotito (Political Science), Alice Miller (Public Health, Law), Jaimie Morse, Nathaniel Raymond, Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins, Edward Wittenstein

Senior Fellows  Eric Braverman, David Brooks, Howard Dean, Janine di Giovanni, Robert Ford, Clare Lockhart, Stanley McChrystal, Rakesh Mohan, David Rank, Stephen Roach, Emma Sky

Courses

GLBL 101a, Gateway to Global Affairs  Emma Sky
Collaboration between faculty and practitioners to discuss key topics and themes related to diplomacy, development, and defense.

GLBL 121a, Applied Quantitative Analysis  Justin Thomas
Mathematical fundamentals that underlie analytical approaches in public policy and the social sciences. Development of mathematical skills in areas such as linear functions, single and multiple variable differentiation, exponential functions, and optimization. Statistical approaches include descriptive statistics, principles of sampling, hypothesis tests, simple linear regression, multiple regression, and models for analyzing categorical outcomes.

* GLBL 122b, Applied Quantitative Analysis II  Justin Thomas
This course introduces students to multiple regression analysis and other tools of causal inference and program evaluation. The course focuses on applying these tools to real data on various topics in global affairs and public policy. Applications are drawn from a wide range of areas including education, social welfare, unemployment, security, health, immigration, the environment, and economic development. We develop the core analytical tools of single and multi-variable regression and discuss fixed effects, difference-in-difference, natural experiment, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, event study, and matching approaches. Students are trained to thoughtfully produce their own empirical research and to critically consume empirical research done by others. Prerequisite: GLBL 121 or equivalent.

* GLBL 191a, Research Design and Survey Analysis  Justin Thomas
Introduction to research design through the analysis of survey data. Policy and management issues explored using data from the United States as well as from several developing countries. A bridge between the theory of statistics/econometrics and the practice of social science research. Use of the statistical package Stata. Prerequisites: GLBL 121 or equivalent, and an introductory course in statistics or econometrics.

* GLBL 195b / PLSC 341b, The Logic of Randomized Experiments in Political Science  Alexander Coppock
Instruction in the design, execution, and analysis of randomized experiments for businesses, nonprofits, political organizations, and social scientists. Students learn to evaluate the impact of real-world interventions on well-defined political, economic, and social outcomes. Specific focus on randomized experimentation through field and survey experiments, with design and analysis principles extending to lab and so-called “natural” experiments. Any introductory probability or statistics course.

GLBL 217a / EVST 292a / PLSC 149a, Sustainability in the Twenty-First Century: Environment, Energy, and the Economy  Daniel Esty
Sustainability as a guiding concept for addressing twenty-first century tensions between economic, environmental, and social progress. Using a cross-disciplinary set of materials from the “sustainability canon,” students explore the interlocking challenges of providing
abundant energy, reducing pollution, addressing climate change, conserving natural resources, and mitigating the other impacts of economic development.  

GLBL 233b / HLTH 230b, Global Health: Challenges and Responses  Kristina Talbert-Slagle
Overview of the determinants of health and how health status is measured, with emphasis on low- and middle-income countries. The burden of disease, including who is most affected by different diseases and risk factors; cost-effective measures for addressing the problem. The health of the poor, equity and inequality, and the relationship between health and development.  

* GLBL 235b, Approaches to International Development  Robert Jensen
The unique set of challenges faced by households in developing countries, and the economic theories that have been developed to understand them. Health, education, and discrimination against women in the household; income generation, savings, and credit; institutions, foreign aid, and conflict. Recent econometric techniques applied to investigate the underlying causes of poverty and the effectiveness of development programs. Enrollment limited to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Prerequisite: GLBL 121. QR, SO

* GLBL 233b / ECON 470b / EP&E 232b, Strategies for Economic Development  Rakesh Mohan
How strategies for economic development have changed over time and how dominant strands in development theory and practice have evolved. Students trace the influence of the evolution in thinking on actual changes that have taken place in successful development strategies, as practiced in fast growing developing countries, and as illustrated in case studies of fast growth periods in Japan, South Korea, Brazil, China, and India. Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics.

GLBL 234b / ECON 184b, International Economics  Peter Schott
Introduction to conceptual tools useful for understanding the strategic choices made by countries, firms, and unions in a globalized world. After two terms of introductory economics.  

GLBL 236b / PLSC 182b, The Politics of International Law and Cooperation  Tyler Pratt
This course focuses on the political processes and institutions that facilitate cooperation among states. Students examine the obstacles to cooperation in the international arena, the reasons for the creation of international laws and institutions, and the extent to which such institutions actually affect state policy. Students also explore the tension between international cooperation and concerns about power, state sovereignty, and institutional legitimacy. Course materials draw from a variety of substantive issues, including conflict prevention, trade, human rights, and environmental protection.  

* GLBL 230a / HIST 144Ja, Lessons of the Past  Michael Brenes
This course explores how American policymakers have used or misused history in making foreign policy decisions since World War I. In addition to the course readings on this topic, students examine the archives of American diplomats and policymakers behind those decisions. Students are introduced to the vast archival holdings of the Yale Library in diplomatic and international history, and are expected to use archival collections in their assignments. We discuss historical methods and the process of archival research alongside the history of 20th century American foreign policy.  

* GLBL 233b / ARCH 341b / LAST 318b, Globalization Space  Keller Easterling
Infrastructure space as a primary medium of change in global polity. Networks of trade, energy, communication, transportation, spatial products, finance, management, and labor, as well as new strains of political opportunity that reside within their spatial disposition. Case studies include free zones and automated ports around the world, satellite urbanism in South Asia, high-speed rail in Japan and the Middle East, agri-poles in southern Spain, fiber optic submarine cable in East Africa, spatial products of tourism in North Korea, and management platforms of the International Organization for Standardization.  

* GLBL 261a / PLSC 409a, Civil Conflict  Bonnie Weir
Forms of civil conflict and political violence and theories about reasons for and implications of these types of violence. Natural and philosophical foundations of political violence; the potential roles of ethnicity, economic factors, territory, and political institutions and structures in the onset and dynamics of civil conflict; problems of conflict termination.

GLBL 263b / PLSC 439b, Challenges of Young Democracies  Ana De La O
Challenges faced by young democracies, such as organizing free and fair elections, controlling government corruption, building an accountable system of governance, sustaining development, and curtailting conflict and violence. Factors that lead to the consolidation of democratic politics or to stagnation and a return to nondemocratic political systems.  

GLBL 268b / PLSC 111b, Introduction to International Relations  Nicholas Lotito
Survey of key debates and concepts in international relations. Exploration of historical and contemporary issues using Western and non-Western cases and evidence. Topics include the rise of states; causes, conduct, and outcomes of wars; the emergence of new actors and forms of conflict; and evolution of global economy.  

* GLBL 271a / MMES 271a, Middle East Politics  Emma Sky
Exploration of the international politics of the Middle East through a framework of analysis that is partly historical and partly thematic. How the international system, as well as social structures and political economy, shape state behavior. Consideration of Arab nationalism; Islamism; the impact of oil; Cold War politics; conflicts; liberalization; the Arab-spring, and the rise of the Islamic State.  

* GLBL 274a or b / PLSC 137a or b, Terrorism  Bonnie Weir
Theoretical and empirical literature used to examine a host of questions about terrorism. The definition(s) of terrorism, the application of the term to individuals and groups, the historical use and potential causes of terrorism, suicide and so-called religious terrorism,
dynamics within groups that use terrorism, and counterterrorism strategies and tactics. Theoretical readings supplemented by case studies. so

* GLBL 275a, Approaches to International Security  Nuno Monteiro
Introduction to major approaches and central topics in the field of international security, with primary focus on the principal man-made threats to human security: the use of violence among and within states, both by state and non-state actors. Priority to Global Affairs majors. Non-majors require permission of the instructor. so

* GLBL 284b / PLSC 167b, Mass Atrocities in Global Politics  David Simon
Examination of the impact of global politics and institutions on the commission, execution, prevention, and aftermath of mass atrocities. so

* GLBL 288b, Civil-Military Relations and Democratization  Nicholas Lotito
This course explores the role of the military in politics, with a focus on processes of democratization. It introduces students to concepts of civilian control, professionalization, and military intervention. The course introduces significant cases from twentieth-century history and surveys contemporary military politics. Topics include coups d'etat, responses to revolution, and democratic transition. so

* GLBL 289b / HIST 245jb / PLSC 431b, War and Peace in Northern Ireland  Bonnie Weir
Examination of the theoretical and empirical literature in response to questions about the insurgency and uneasy peace in Northern Ireland following the peace agreement of 1998 which formally ended the three-decade long civil conflict known widely as The Troubles and was often lauded as the most successful of its kind in modern history. Consideration of how both the conflict and the peace have been messier and arguably more divisive than most outside observers realize. so

* GLBL 306a / AFST 306a, Social Enterprise in Developing Economies II  Robert Hopkins
Summer research developed into a case-study project on a topic related to the use of social enterprise in regional economic development. GLBL 305

* GLBL 310a / ECON 407a, International Finance  Ana Fieler
A study of how consumers and firms are affected by the globalization of the world economy. Topics include trade costs, the current account, exchange rate pass-through, international macroeconomic co-movement, multinational production, and gains from globalization. Prerequisite: intermediate macroeconomics or equivalent. so

* GLBL 311a / ECON 480a, Banking Crises and Financial Stability  Sigridur Benediktsdottir
Focus on systemic risk, banking crises, financial stability and macroprudential policies. Additional emphasis on systemic risk and prudential policies in peripheral European economies and emerging economies. Prerequisites: ECON 115 and 116, or equivalent. so

* GLBL 312b / EAST 454b / ECON 474b, Economic and Policy Lessons from Japan  Stephen Roach
An evaluation of modern Japan’s protracted economic problems and of their potential implications for other economies, including the United States, Europe, and China. Policy blunders, structural growth impediments, bubbles, the global economic crisis of 2008, and Abenomics; risks of secular stagnation and related dangers to the global economy from subpar post-crisis recoveries. Focus on policy remedies to avert similar problems in other countries. Prerequisite: an introductory course in macroeconomics. so

* GLBL 315b, Economics of the EU  Marnix Amand
The functioning of the economy of the European Union, both from a theoretical perspective (trade theory, monetary union, etc.) and from a practical perspective. Particular emphasis on the recent crises of the last ten years with effort to put these crises in a larger geopolitical context. Prerequisites: ECON 110 or 115 and ECON 111 or 116. so

GLBL 318a / EAST 338a / ECON 338a, The Next China  Stephen Roach
Economic development in China since the late 1970s. Emphasis on factors pushing China toward a transition from its modern export- and investment-led development model to a pro-consumption model. The possibility of a resulting identity crisis, underscored by China’s need to embrace political reform and by the West’s long-standing misperceptions of China. Prerequisite: introductory macroeconomics. so

* GLBL 331a / ECON 454a / EP&E 254a, Evolution of Central Banking  Rakesh Mohan
Changes in the contours of policy making by central banks since the turn of the twentieth century. Theoretical and policy perspectives as well as empirical debates in central banking. The recurrence of financial crises in market economies. Monetary policies that led to economic stability in the period prior to the collapse of 2007–2008. Changes in Monetary Policies since the Great Financial Crisis. Prerequisite: ECON 122. so

* GLBL 336a / EP&E 243a / LAST 423a / PLSC 423a, Political Economy of Poverty Alleviation  Ana De La O
Overview of classic and contemporary approaches to the question of why some countries have done better than others at reducing poverty. Emphasis on the role of politics. so

* GLBL 342b / HIST 482jb / PLSC 321b, Studies in Grand Strategy I  Beverly Gage
The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. The spring term focuses on key moments in history that illustrate strategic thinking in action. During the summer, students undertake research projects or internships analyzing strategic problems or aspects of strategy. The following fall, students put their ideas into action by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for
any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.  

* GLBL 344a / HIST 483Ja / PLSC 161a, Studies in Grand Strategy II  Beverly Gage  
The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. During the fall term, students put into action the ideas studied in the spring term by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Prerequisite: PLSC 321. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.  

* GLBL 346a, Four Conflicts through a Human Rights Lens  Janine di Giovanni  
This course focuses on four conflicts of the 1990s—Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Kosovo—specifically through the lens of human rights. Why are these four conflicts important when other current conflicts—Syria, Yemen, South Sudan—are urgent and pressing? The 1990s was the era of supposed “humanitarian intervention” and “just” wars. Can we learn from what happened in that decade? The course instructor reported extensively on all four conflicts and will use her own on-the-ground knowledge to dig deep into the roots of the conflicts; the specific battles; turning points; the case studies of human rights abuse; and finally, political solutions and post-conflict resolution.  

* GLBL 349b / ENGL 240b, Reporting and Writing on War  Janine di Giovanni  
This course examines how to identify, interview, and document human rights violations in the field while reporting on war. It is aimed at students who want to work as journalists, advocates or policy makers, or anyone who wants to work as a practitioner during a conflict or humanitarian crisis. The instructor brings her twenty-five years as a field reporter in war zones into the classroom: the goal is to make the learning functional. The course teaches students how to compile their findings in the form of reports and articles for newspapers, magazines as well as advocacy letters, op-eds, and Blogs. We develop skills for “crunching” talking points for presentations and briefing papers. Each week focuses on a theme and links it to a geographical conflict. Students emerge with practical research, writing, and presentation skills when dealing with sensitive human rights material—for instance, victims’ evidence. Course open only to juniors and seniors.  

* GLBL 355b, The United States, China, and the Origins of the Korean Peninsula Crisis  David Rank  
This course looks at the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and the interaction of the major players there through historical and diplomatic practitioners’ perspectives. The strategic interests of major powers intersect on the Korean Peninsula to a degree found in few other places on earth. In a part of the globe China long viewed as within its sphere of influence, four nuclear powers now rub shoulders and the United States maintains a military presence. With the Armistice that ended the Korean War still in place, Northeast Asia is the Cold War’s last front, but today’s nuclear crisis makes it more than a historical curiosity. Drawing on original diplomatic documents and other source materials, as well as first-hand experience of current-day diplomats, this course considers the trajectory of the two Korea’s relationships with the United States and China and their role in the international politics of East Asia.  

* GLBL 376a / GLBL 552a, Asia Now: Human Rights, Globalization, Cultural Conflicts  Jing Tsu  
This course examines contemporary and global issues in Asia (east, southeast, northeast, south), in a historical and interdisciplinary context, that include international law, policy debates, cultural issues, security, military history, media, science and technology, and cyber warfare. Course is co-taught with a guest professor.  

* GLBL 381b / PLSC 140b, Military Power  Nuno Monteiro  
The foundations, applications, evolution, and limits of military power. Reading of Clausewitz’s On War in conjunction with contemporary works. Issues include civil-military relations, military power and political influence, coercion, small wars, occupation and insurgency, and the revolution in military affairs.  

* GLBL 388a, The Politics of American Foreign Policy  Howard Dean  
This seminar addresses the domestic political considerations that have affected American foreign policy in the post–World War II world. The goals of the course are to (1) give historical context to the formation of major existing global governance structures, (2) give students an opportunity to research how major foreign policy decisions in the past were influenced by contemporary political pressure, and (3) assess what effect those pressures have had on today’s global issues. Case studies include, but are not limited to: Truman and the Marshall Plan; Johnson and the Vietnam War; Nixon and the opening of China; Reagan and the collapse of the Soviet Union, George HW Bush and Iraq, Clinton and the Balkans, and Obama and the development of a multipolar foreign policy for a multipolar world.  

* GLBL 390b, Cybersecurity, Cyberwar, and International Relations  Edward Wittenstein  
Analysis of international cyberrelations. Topics include cybercrime, cyberespionage, cyberwar, and cybergovernance. Readings from academic and government sources in the fields of history, law, political science, and sociology.  

* GLBL 392a, Intelligence, Espionage, and American Foreign Policy  Edward Wittenstein  
The discipline, theory, and practice of intelligence; the relationship of intelligence to American foreign policy and national security decision-making. Study of the tools available to analyze international affairs and to communicate that analysis to senior policymakers. Case studies of intelligence successes and failures from World War II to the present.
* GLBL 398a / HIST 426Ja, Yale and the World: Global Power, Local History  
David Engerman

This course uses moments in the history of Yale University to shed light on the forms, functions, and trajectory of U.S. global power from the late 19th century through the early 21st century. Key episodes include missionary work in East Asia, scientific expeditions in South America, mobilization for war and Cold War, and the internationalization of the student body. Students investigate these episodes by reading scholarly work as well as archival sources, and through discussions with Yale faculty and staff. HU

* GLBL 444a / DEVN 198a / EP&E 329a / HIST 122a / PLSC 405a, Power and Politics in Today’s World  
Ian Shapiro

A comparative study of power and politics since the Cold War. Topics include the decline of trade unions and increased influence of business; growing inequality and insecurity; changing attitudes towards democracy and authoritarianism; and the character and durability of the new international order. We start with the impact of the USSR's collapse, both in former communist countries and the West, focusing on reordered relations among business, labor, and governments. Next we take up the Washington Consensus on free trade, privatization, and deregulation, and agendas to fight terrorism, prevent human rights abuses, and spread democracy. Then we turn to the backlash that followed the financial crisis, as technocratic elites lost legitimacy, the global war on terror became mired in quagmires, and humanitarian intervention and democracy-spreading agendas floundered. The new politics of insecurity is our next focus. We examine the populist explosions of 2016 and the politics to which they have given rise. This leads to a consideration of responses, where we discuss the policies most needed when congenital employment insecurity is going to be the norm, and the political reforms that would increase the chances of those policies being adopted. Introductory courses in twentieth-century European, American or global history, comparative politics, or political economy are helpful but are not required. HU, SO

* GLBL 450a or b, Directed Research  
Sigridur Benediktsdottir

Independent research under the direction of a faculty member on a special topic in global affairs not covered in other courses. Permission of the director of undergraduate studies and of the instructor directing the research is required.

* GLBL 460b, Turning Points in American Foreign Policy  
Robert Ford

Examination of American policy decisions and strategies from the founding of the republic to modern day. Topics include American engagement with France and Britain during the American Revolution; post-WWII construction of the modern international order; the breakdown of the Communist system; and the failed states in Yugoslavia and Syria; as well as America's responses to the current challenges of modern world order, emerging multipolarism, and climate change.

* GLBL 499a, Senior Capstone Project  
Staff

Students work in small task-force groups and complete a one-term public policy project under the guidance of a faculty member. Clients for the projects are drawn from government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and nonprofit groups, and private sector organizations in the United States and abroad. Projects and clients vary from year to year. Fulfills the capstone project requirement for the Global Affairs major.