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 coursework 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 strongly encouraged to complete the following required introductory economics sequence (ECON 108, 110, or 115, and ECON 111 or 116) and work toward the language requirement early in their course planning. An introductory analysis course, such as GLBL 121, ECON 117 or S&DS 100–106 is also suggested. These courses are all required for the major and progress towards completing them, at the time of application, will be considered.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR
Thirteen term courses are required for the major in addition to a language requirement. Introductory courses in microeconomics (ECON 108, 110, or 115) and macroeconomics (ECON 111 or 116) are required, as is one intermediate course in either microeconomics or macroeconomics (ECON 121, 122, 125 or 126). All majors must take the core courses GLBL 225 and 275, and two courses in quantitative analysis, GLBL 121 and 122. GLBL 121 is recommended but can be replaced by other analysis courses including ECON 117 and S&DS 100–106, with approval of the director of undergraduate studies (DUS). Majors also take four electives and one methods course chosen from an approved group of courses in the departments of 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 Yale Course Search.

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 requirement–s 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 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, 122, 125, or 126; GLBL 225; GLBL 275; GLBL 121; GLBL 122

Distribution of courses  4 approved electives and 1 methods course

Language requirement  Advanced ability (L4) in 1 modern lang other than English

Substitution permitted  With DUS approval, GLBL 121 may be replaced by other analysis courses including ECON 117 and S&DS 100–106

Senior requirement  Senior capstone project in GLBL 499

The Global Affairs major, administered by the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, prepares Yale students for global leadership and service by enhancing their understanding of the world around them. Students in this interdisciplinary major develop expertise in contemporary global affairs that is informed by 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 coursework on economic development; poverty; global health; global climate policy; international relations; and foreign policy and diplomacy, with topics relevant to national and human security. All majors are required to take foundation courses, global affairs core courses, quantitative analysis and other methods courses, and to take at least four additional approved electives. During the senior year, each major completes a capstone course in which a group of eight to ten students addresses a specific policy issue and presents its findings and recommendations to a real-world organization.

Students apply to the Global Affairs major during the fall term of the sophomore year. The number of students accepted into the major is limited, and selection is competitive. Interested students are encouraged to consider the introductory economics and foreign language requirements in their course planning for the first and sophomore years. Each year the call for applications is posted on the Jackson Institute website, is circulated through the residential college deans’ offices, and is noted on the Advising Resources website.

Most Jackson Institute courses are open to nonmajors, including GLBL 101. For more information about courses and the major in Global Affairs visit the Jackson Institute website.

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 Khoshnood (School of Public Health), Jason Lyall (Political Science), Nuno Monteiro (Political Science), Marci Shore (History), Jonathan Wyrtzen (Sociology, International Affairs)

Assistant Professors  Lorenzo Caliendo (Economics, School of Management), Zack Cooper (School of 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

View Courses

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
This course is an introduction to statistics and their application in public policy and global affairs research. Throughout the term we cover issues related to data collection (including surveys, sampling, and weighted data), data description (graphical and numerical techniques for summarizing data), probability and probability distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, measures of association, and regression analysis. The course assumes no prior knowledge of statistics and no mathematical knowledge beyond calculus.

GLBL 159a / ECON 159a, Game Theory  Benjamin Polak and Joyce Deb
An introduction to game theory and strategic thinking. Ideas such as dominance, backward induction, Nash equilibrium, evolutionary stability, commitment, credibility, asymmetric information, adverse selection, and signaling are applied to games played in class and to examples drawn from economics, politics, the movies, and elsewhere. After introductory microeconomics. No prior knowledge of game theory assumed.
The subject of this course is fascism: its rise in Europe in the 1930s and deployment during the Second World War as a road map to understanding the resurgence of nationalism and populism in today’s political landscape, both in Europe and the United States. The course begins with an examination of the historic debates around fascism, nationalism, populism, and democracy. It then moves geographically through the 1930s and 1940s in Europe, looking specifically at Weimar Germany, Vichy France, the rise of fascism in England in the 1930s, and how fascist ideology was reflected in Italy’s colonial ambitions during the Abyssinian War. The course examines fascism and the implementation of racial theory and the example of anti-Semitism as an ideological and political tool. It also looks at the emergence of fascism in visual culture. The second part of the seminar turns to fascist ideology and the realities of today’s political world. We examine the political considerations of building a democratic state, question the compromise between security and...
the preservation of civil liberties and look at the resurgence of populism and nationalism in Europe and the US. The course concludes by examining the role of globalization in contemporary political discourse. SO

* GLBL 251b / EALL 256b / EAST 358b / HUMS 272b / LITR 265b, China in the World Jing Tsu
Recent headlines about China in the world, deciphered in both modern and historical contexts. Interpretation of new events and diverse texts through transnational connections. Topics include China and Africa, Mandarinization, labor and migration, Chinese America, nationalism and humiliation, and art and counterfeit. Readings and discussion in English. HU

GLBL 253b / ARCH 341b / LAST 318b / URBN 341b, 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, agripoles 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. HU

* GLBL 259a / EP&E 302a / HIST 469Ja / PLSC 391a, State Formation Didac Queralt
Study of the domestic and international determinants of functional states from antiquity to date. Analysis of state-formation in Europe in pre-modern and outside Europe from colonial times to date. Topics include centralization of power, capacity to tax, and contract enforcement. SO

GLBL 260b / PLSC 350b, Nuclear Politics Alex Debs
The pursuit, use, and non-use of nuclear weapons from the Manhattan Project to the present. The effect of the international system, regional dynamics, alliance politics, and domestic politics in the decision to pursue or forgo nuclear weapons. The role of nuclear weapons in international relations, the history of the Cold War, and recent challenges in stemming nuclear proliferation. SO

* 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. SO

* GLBL 274b / PLSC 137b, 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 / PLSC 188a, Approaches to International Security Dawn Brancati
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 282b / EVST 255b / F&ES 255b / PLSC 215b, Environmental Law and Politics: Global Food Challenges John Wargo
We explore relations among food, environment, health, and law. We consider global-scale avoidable challenges such as: starvation and malnutrition, obesity, other food related human diseases, climate instability, soil loss, water depletion and contamination, microbial hazards, chemical contamination, food waste, dietary convergence, air pollution, energy, packaging, culinary globalization, and biodiversity loss. We focus on laws that influence the world’s food system, including those intended to reduce or prevent environmental and health damages. Other laws protect rights of secrecy, property, speech, confidential business information, free trade, worker protection, equal opportunity, and freedom from discrimination. Ethical concerns of justice, equity, and transparency are prominent themes. Examples of effective law, consumer movements and corporate innovations provide optimism for the future of responsible food. SO

* GLBL 289a or b / HIST 245Ja or b / PLSC 431a or b, War and Peace in Northern Ireland Bonnie Weir
Examination of 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 290a / EP&E 290a / PLSC 332a, Philosophy of Science for the Study of Politics Ian Shapiro
An examination of the philosophy of science from the perspective of the study of politics. Particular attention to the ways in which assumptions about science influence models of political behavior, the methods adopted to study that behavior, and the relations between science and democracy. Readings include works by both classic and contemporary authors. SO

* GLBL 307a / ECON 467a, Economic Evolution of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries Ernesto Zedillo
Economic evolution and prospects of the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. Topics include the period from independence to the 1930s; import substitution and industrialization to the early 1980s; the debt crisis and the “lost decade”; reform and disappointment in the late 1980s and the 1990s; exploration of selected episodes in particular countries; and speculations about the future. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomics. SO
GLBL 308a / ECON 424a, Central Banking  William English
Introduction to the different roles and responsibilities of modern central banks, including the operation of payments systems, monetary policy, supervision and regulation, and financial stability. Discussion of different ways to structure central banks to best manage their responsibilities. Prerequisites: Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, and Introductory Econometrics.  SO

GLBL 309b / EAST 310b / PLSC 357b, The Rise of China  Daniel Mattingly
Analysis of Chinese domestic and foreign politics, with a focus on the country’s rise as a major political and economic power. Topics include China’s recent history, technology, trade, military, diplomacy, and foreign policy.  SO

* 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 330b / ECON 465b / EP&E 224b, Debating Globalization  Ernesto Zedillo
Facets of contemporary economic globalization, including trade, investment, and migration. Challenges and threats of globalization: inclusion and inequality, emerging global players, global governance, climate change, and nuclear weapons proliferation. Prerequisite: background in international economics and data analysis. Preference to seniors majoring in Economics or EP&E.  SO RP

* GLBL 341b / PLSC 450b, The Geopolitics of Democracy  Lauren Young
The threats to liberal democracy are being widely debated, from the US and Europe to developing nations. In order for democracy to continue to thrive as the cornerstone of Western governance, it must adapt and be relevant to citizens of the 21st century. This course examines our appreciation of what constitutes democracy today and how to apply those understandings to the challenges of the 21st century. Our discussions look at the characteristics of democratic leaders and debate whether America, the bulwark of liberal democracy in the 20th century, is still an exporter of democracy and how that matters in today’s world. We then look at how to protect and adapt democratic institutions such as free elections, civil society, dissent, and the free press in the face of a rising wave of populism and nationalism. The course examines how refugee crises from conflict regions and immigration impact democracies and debate the accelerating paradigm shifts of income inequality and technology on democratic institutions. We conclude the course with a discussion of the forms of democratic governance that are meaningful in the 21st century and the practicalities of designing or reforming democratic institutions to confront current challenges.  SO

* 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.  SO

* GLBL 376b / GLBL 552b, 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.  HU, SO

* 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 effects 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.  SO

GLBL 392a, Intelligence, Espionage, and American Foreign Policy  Ted 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.  SO

* GLBL 393a / ANTH 386a, Humanitarian Interventions: Ethics, Politics, and Health  Catherine Panter-Brick and Sigridur Benediktsdottir
Analysis of humanitarian interventions from a variety of social science disciplinary perspectives. Issues related to policy, legal protection, health care, morality, and governance in relation to the moral imperative to save lives in conditions of extreme adversity. Promotion of dialogue between social scientists and humanitarian practitioners.  WR, SO
* GLBL 394a / ANTH 409a / ER&M 394a / EVST 422a / F&ES 422a, Climate and Society from Past to Present  Michael Dove
Discussion of the major currents of thought—both historic and contemporary—regarding climate, climate change, and society; focusing on the politics of knowledge and belief vs disbelief; and drawing on the social sciences and anthropology in particular.  WR, SO

* GLBL 395a, Data Governance in the Digital Age  Nathaniel Raymond
The information revolution is causing the rapid mass adoption of information communication technologies (ICTs) across nations, demographics, and sectors in the early 21st Century—such as mobile devices, social media platforms, “big data,” artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning, geospatial mapping applications, and the Internet of Things (IoT). However, 20th Century international data governance policies, normative frameworks, and domestic regulations are struggling to keep pace with the disruptive impacts ICTs are having on an increasingly digitally networked world. This seminar explores critical issues, trends, and events relevant to both the adaption of existing data governance regimes to meet these challenges and the creation of new regimes by international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and national governments. The primary learning goal of the course is to equip students with the skills to critically read and apply extant international data governance policies in concrete sector-specific contexts (i.e. corporate, governmental, humanitarian, development, etc.). Additionally, students learn to identify gaps in current regimes and to be literate in the major ongoing debates on these issues at the United Nations, the EU, the United States Congress, and other critical loci of policy development.  SO

* 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 420a / HLTH 490a, Global Health Research Colloquium  Robert Hecht
How can health gains for low and middle-income households and nations be accelerated and sustained through better policy and resource allocation choices by governments, communities, and international organizations? Using data and customized analytical techniques, students explore ways to formulate and assess policy and program options to address the most pressing health challenges of our times (e.g., HIV, vaccine-preventable illness, non-communicable diseases, pandemics such as Ebola and Covid-19). We examine a series of 8-10 leading analytical frameworks and tools and see how they can be applied to major health issues in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to generate important insights and impacts on the ground. Students contribute to shaping the agenda for further development of innovative methods for global health policy research and advisory services and implementation and pursue their own mini project on a topic of their choosing. Prerequisite: HLTH 230. This is a required course for the Global Health Scholars in their senior year. Enrollment is limited to 18, and preference is given to Global Health Fellows. Students must have completed global health fieldwork.  RP

* GLBL 450a, 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 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.

GLBL S268Eb / PLSC 111b / PLSC S111E, Introduction to International Relations  Kenneth Scheve
Course closed to further enrollment. Online Course. 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. Enrollment limited to 20 students. 1 Credit. Technology Fee: $85. Tuition: $4,500. Session A: June 7 - July 9.  SO