



INS 3004

Perspectives in International Studies

A comprehensive introduction to the field of international studies, the major regions of the world, and major issues in world politics today.

Fall '21 | Dr. Matt Jacobs | TR Period 5-6 | 3 hrs

This course serves as the introduction to the International Studies major, but you do not need to be in the International Studies major to take it. The class covers a wide variety of issues and ground, both chronologically and geographically. It will provide you with a brief historical overview of the making of the contemporary world. It will introduce you to some of the various scholarly disciplines (Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, etc.) that contribute to the very interdisciplinary field of International Studies. It will offer an initial foray into a range of issues that have been important historically, become increasingly more important over the last couple of decades, and will remain significant for the foreseeable future, such as international conflict, the role of technology and media in societies, the international economy, the question of development and poverty, the role of

culture and globalization, and the challenges of the global commons (the environment, migration and refugees, human rights, and global health). In short, this class provides a forum to grapple with many of the fundamental issues that define our world of today and your world of tomorrow. With that in mind, we will also spend some time talking about what it means to work in the places and spaces that define International Studies. To do well in this class you will need to attend both lectures and discussions regularly, complete the assigned readings, and be willing to engage intellectually with a broad range of perspectives on challenging issues. Success in this class will help set you up to do well in the International Studies major if you choose to pursue it, but will also help you become a more engaged participant in the world you inhabit.