

Bachelor's Track Program: Political Science and International Relations

1. Open Doors winner's skill set

The winner is expected to demonstrate a solid command of the following skills:

- identifying and interpreting semantic constructions in texts on political theory and public policy;
- analyzing national, regional, and global processes and phenomena using theoretical categories and taking into account geographical, political, economic, and sociocultural factors;
- exhibiting an orientation in the key terms of modern political theory and public policy;
- explaining the political and historical situation and cause-and-effect relationships;
- demonstrating proficiency in academic writing and speaking;
- building a theoretical and empirical (with the help of examples) argumentation of one's position;
- applying a creative approach to answering assignment questions, providing original examples and problem formulations;
- linking knowledge about socioeconomic, political, and historical processes and individual facts, as well as explaining the activities of participants in these processes.

2. List of degree programs covered by the subject area

2.1 List of bachelor's degree programs

- 41.03.01 Area Studies
- 41.03.03 Oriental and African Studies
- 41.03.04 Political Science
- 41.03.05 International relations
- 41.03.06 Public policy and social sciences
- 46.03.01 History

2. Content

Field of study 1. International relations

History and social studies

1. History of international relations.
2. Modern world politics and international organizations.
3. International law.
4. Contemporary global issues.

Field of study 2. Political science

Social studies

1. Political power and other political categories.
2. Political system and institutions; political process.
3. Political ideologies and political culture.
4. Political participation and electoral systems.
5. Domestic and foreign policy of the state.

Field of study 3. Public administration

Social studies

1. State and public administration.
2. Elements of public policy.

3. Theories and approaches to public policy.
4. • State regulation of the economy.
5. • National public administration systems in education, health, and infrastructure.

Field of study 4. Area studies

History and geography

1. Theoretical foundations of regional studies.
2. Historical-cultural, sociopolitical, and geographical characteristics of regions and individual countries of regions.
3. Regional international relations, foreign policy, and diplomacy of countries comprising a region.
4. Regionalization, integration, and globalization.
5. Regional conflicts.

4. Preparation materials

4.1. Recommended reading

Field of science 1. International relations

Reading list in English

Devetak R. An introduction to international relations: Third Edition, 2017. 1210 p. URL: [https://institutes.abu.edu.ng/idr/public/assets/docs/An%20Introduction%20to%20International%20Relations%20\(%20PDFDrive%20\).pdf](https://institutes.abu.edu.ng/idr/public/assets/docs/An%20Introduction%20to%20International%20Relations%20(%20PDFDrive%20).pdf)

McGlinchey S. International Relations, 2017. 237 p. URL: <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/beginners-textbook-international-relations/> (free access)

Spindler M. International Relations: A Self-Study Guide to Theory, 2013. 232 p. URL: <https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/id/ab86bf74-adb0-4da4-af91-81d1cf34c25a/1007712.pdf>

Field of science 2. Political science

Reading list in English

Heywood A. Political Theory An Introduction, Third Edition, 2004. 433 p. URL: https://ourstudycircle.in/upsc/opt/Political_Science/books/Political_Theory_Andrew_Heywood.pdf

The Politics Book. DK: 2013. 676 p. URL: https://psv4.userapi.com/s/v1/d/DW48mN6wDjMGdTrkynSTM0bMEfD6a3G6g1joBCDiK7n1qFULD2s5NwGknZGoyoe_96fVj5tX95lrBtMga8jxI84-kPq8vai5ayYdanHh9dBu4MyDLLvEbw/The_Politics_Book.pdf

Rom, Mark C., Masaki Hidaka, and Rachel Bzostek Walker. Introduction to Political Science . Houston, Texas: OpenStax, Rice University, 2022. 295 p. URL: https://assets.openstax.org/oscms-prodcms/media/documents/Introduction_to_Political_Science_-_WEB.pdf

Field of science 3. Public administration

Reading list in English

Araral E., Scott F., Howlett M., Ramesh, M. Xun W. Bureaucracy, and the policy process. "Routledge Handbook of Public Policy" Routledge, 2012. 552 p.

<http://ndl.ethernet.edu.et/bitstream/123456789/26874/1/131.Eduardo%20Araral%2C%20Scott%20Fritzen%2C%20Michael%20Howlett%2C%20M.%20Ramesh%2C%20Xun%20Wu.pdf> (free access) Please do an online search of the book if the link does not load

Hague R., Harrop M., McCormick J. Comparative government and politics. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. T. 6. 336 p. Part 4.
<https://hostnezt.com/cssfiles/politicalscience/Comparative%20Government%20and%20Politics%20Rod%20Hague%20and%20Martin%20Harrop.pdf> (free access) Please do an online search of the book if the link does not load

Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods. Edited By Frank Fischer, Gerald J. Miller. Talor and Francis group, 2007. 670 p.
http://lib.ysu.am/disciplines_bk/39e551265b67a043a84bfd8f7b84c536.pdf (free access) Please do an online search of the book if the link does not load

Field of science 4. Area studies

Reading list in English

Balogun E. Comparative Regionalism // Oxford Research Encyclopedias. P. 1-21. URL: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61d36686f4535c37b507a7f1/t/6206b5783304fa13701e67b6/1644606841823/Balogun_Comparative_Regionalism_OREIS-FINAL.pdf

Börzel T. A. Comparative Regionalism : A New Research Agenda // KFG Working Paper. 2011. № 28. URL: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/239806879_Comparative_Regionalism_-_A_New_Research_Agenda

Buzan B., Waever O. Regions and Powers : The Structure of International Security. 7th ed. N. Y., 2010. 598 p. URL: https://arsennazoyan.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/buzan_and_waever_regions_and_powers.pdf

Flint C., Taylor P. J. Political geography : world-economy, nation-state, and locality. 7th edition. Routledge, 2018. 391 p. URL: https://kvmwai.edu.in/upload/StudyMaterial/Political_Geography_world_economy_nation_state_and_locality.pdf

Pekkanen S., Ravenhill J., Foot R. The Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. 840 p. URL: <https://hostnezt.com/cssfiles/internationalrelations/The%20Oxford%20Handbook%20of%20The%20International%20Relations%20of%20Asia%20By%20Sssdia%20M%20Pekkanen.pdf>

4.2. Recommended online courses

Field of science 1. International relations

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
International Relations (Alison)	URL: https://alison.com/course/international-relations	This course presents a complete introduction to international relations, covering its history, main theories, and basic principles. Participants learn about the evolution of inter-state relations, causes of war, the development of global cooperation, and key institutions like the

		Bretton Woods system. The course also explores topics such as collective security, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on globalization, and the roles of theories of international relations, equipping learners with knowledge to analyze and understand world politics.
International Relations (Cursa)	URL: https://cursa.app/en/free-course/international-relations-diic	This course offers an introduction to international relations, covering core concepts such as sovereignty, anarchy, and the causes of global conflicts. It explores key theories, the dynamics of war and peace, and strategic dilemmas including the Prisoner's Dilemma and democratic peace theory. The program examines real-world issues such as the rise of China, civil wars, nuclear security, and the workings of the UN Security Council. Participants gain practical knowledge and analytical skills to understand and evaluate contemporary international affairs.
Power and Foreign Policy in International Relations (Coursera)	URL: https://www.coursera.org/learn/power-and-foreign-policy-in-international-relations	This course explores the concept of power in international relations, examining how it shapes the strategies and actions of nation-states on the global stage. It addresses how power is defined, measured, and transformed over time, and outlines the main components of foreign policy. Through case studies involving great, middle, and small powers, the course links theoretical frameworks to contemporary global events, enabling participants to understand real-world foreign policy decisions and develop the analytical skills needed to interpret and anticipate future trends in international politics.

Field of science 2. Political science

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
Comparative Political Systems (edX)	URL: https://www.edx.org/learn/politics/universita-degli-studi-di-napoli-federico-ii-comparative-political-systems	This course offers a systematic study of different political systems, with an emphasis on contemporary democracies and the challenges they face. Key topics include the comparative method, typologies of political regimes, structure and forms of government, electoral systems, and party

		systems, as well as coalition dynamics and rotation of power. Participants develop the ability to critically evaluate the effectiveness of democratic institutions and explore potential avenues for their reform.
Introduction to Political Science (Alison)	URL: https://alison.com/course/introduction-to-political-science	This course provides an overview of key political theories and systems, analyzing their impact on policy-making and decision-making processes at different levels. Key topics include the relationship between politics and economics, as well as the most important political trends of the 21st century. Participants develop critical thinking skills and gain basic knowledge of political institutions, ideologies, and contemporary challenges in politics.
Understanding Political Concepts (edX)	URL: https://www.edx.org/course/understanding-political-concepts	This course offers a deep dive into key political science concepts such as party, bureaucracy, and constitution using the Hyperpolitics innovative interactive tool. Participants explore the diversity of meanings of political concepts in different theories and learn methods of conceptual thinking and theory building. The course includes lectures, visualizations, readings, and practical assignments designed to develop critical analysis and foster independent rethinking of political concepts. As a result, students acquire skills for systemic understanding and creative use of political concepts in scientific and practical contexts.

Field of science 3. Public administration

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
Data, Economics, and Design of Policy: Public Policy part "Microeconomic Theory and Public Policy" (Classcentral)	https://www.classcentral.com/course/mitx-online-data-economics-and-design-of-policy-public-policy-451298	This course discusses the transformation of public policy and decision-making systems resulting from the emergence of big data and related analytical methods. Students develop the ability to explain how big data and advanced analytics are changing policy-making processes; assess the opportunities and challenges of data-driven governance; critically assess evidence-based policy proposals in key areas of

		public debate; compare traditional and data-enhanced approaches to policy formulation and implementation; identify best practices for integrating big data into government decision-making; and evaluate issues of privacy, bias, and transparency in the use of big data for public policy.
Solving Policy Problems (Openedu)	https://www.open.edu.au/subjects/griffith-university-solving-policy-problems-grf-gir301	This course provides introductory knowledge of political analysis and public policy processes. Beginning with foundational concepts, it explores the policy-making cycle, key institutions, and the interplay between political and technical decision-making. Students learn to dissect complex policy issues. After completing this course, students develop a clear understanding of political issues at both macro levels and within specific policy areas and acquire the ability to construct and articulate persuasive arguments to strengthen verbal and analytical skills, apply problem-solving techniques to political challenges and ethical dilemmas, and produce professional policy documents, including briefs and cabinet submissions. The curriculum combines theoretical foundations with practical applications to prepare you for engaged political discourse and effective policy work.
Systematic Approaches to Policy Design (Harvard)	URL: https://pll.harvard.edu/course/systematic-approaches-policy-design?delta=0	The course is designed to make learners greater use of data and evidence in their everyday decision-making. This unit presents a few overarching frameworks that are helpful in approaching complicated decisions. Participants learn how to organize your thinking, how to break a problem down into parts, and how to figure out where evidence can be most useful in making a decision
Unitary system and federal system of government (Youtube)	https://youtu.be/N5mw2azjQMo?feature=shared	This video lecture prepares students for exams on the structure of the state, focusing on federalism as opposed to unitary systems, the role of different levels of government in decision-making and implementation, the relationship between parliaments and executive authorities in various state types, and examples of

		different governmental structures.
Using Public Policy for Social Change (Coursera)	https://www.coursera.org/learn/using-public-policy-for-social-change	This course offers an introduction to public policy and its role in addressing societal challenges. It examines key policy areas such as social welfare, public health, environmental protection, education, and criminal justice. Students learn the fundamentals of policy design and analysis, exploring how policymaking functions across various levels of government and interest groups in democratic systems. Through insights from real-life policymakers and advocates, the course develops analytical, critical thinking, and advocacy skills essential for driving positive social change. Participants also acquire the ability to identify and define each step of the policy-making cycle, analyze social issues from a policy perspective, and explore the role of advocacy in shaping public policy.

Field of science 4. Area studies

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
GEOG101: World Regional Geography (Saylor)	URL: https://learn.saylor.org/course/view.php?id=1145	This course provides an introduction to explore the physical and human landscapes of the world by dividing them into ten regions. It is designed to develop basic understanding of physical characteristics, such as location, climate, terrain, and natural hazards, and anthropogenic characteristics, such as culture, ethnicity, language, economics, and politics.
History of International Relations: the Cold War Years (Stepik)	URL: https://stepik.org/course/125888/promo?search=7243261342	This course provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of the complex history of the Cold War, the policies of the major powers, key developments, and specific issues on the international agenda.
Russia, China and the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific Region (Stepik)	URL: https://stepik.org/course/50042/promo?search=7243261328	This course provides students with a conceptual and historical perspective on the interaction between China, Russia, and the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. It pays special attention to the development of the Asia-Pacific great powers' foreign policies, their evolution over recent

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		decades, and the relations among these powers following the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.
World history (Khan Academy)	URL: https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history	In this course, students learn world history from the earliest civilizations to the modern world. The course includes lecture materials accompanied by presentations and consists of several thematic modules. Each module focuses on a specific period in world history, from the origin of humans and early human societies to the very end of the 20th century. Watching sections 4 through 6 is advised.