



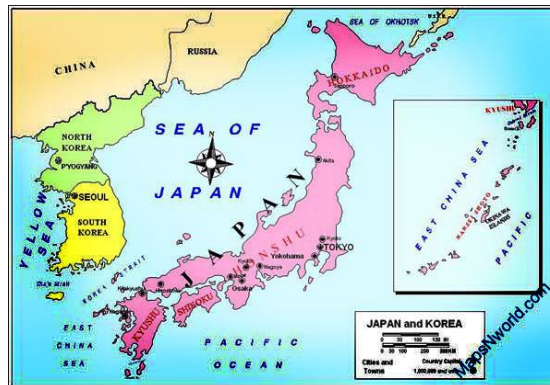
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
INR 2002 – INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (3 credits)
STUDY ABROAD JAPAN

Course dates: May 18 - June 26, 2026

Travel dates: May 28 - June 5, 2026

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Japan political map



SPC 2022-23 Catalog Course Description

INR 2002 International Relations. Prerequisite: POS 2041. This course is an introductory study of the factors that affect relations among nations, including the development of nationalism; the elements that determine national power; the formulation of foreign policy; the art of diplomacy; the history and application of international law; international economics; international organizations; militarism and war; case studies involving the above; and contemporary events in international relations. (Note: This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements. Credit is only given for INR 2002 or INR 2002H. Study Abroad opportunities may apply to this course (<https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/study-abroad/>).

Course objectives and Major Learning Outcomes

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of various theories central to the understanding of international relations as a field of study.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the development of the nation-state system and the elements of power that determine a nation's international effectiveness.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the theories and practicalities that shape foreign policy and the application of foreign policy through diplomatic conduct.
4. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of international law and the agencies of its application today.
5. The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of the operation of international economics. The student will demonstrate an understanding of international development as it relates to emerging nations in the global economic system.
6. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the concerns found in international environmental politics and the aspects of global interdependence.
7. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose, objectives and organization of the major international bodies.
8. The student will demonstrate knowledge of integration in the international system as it relates to regional or global unions.
9. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the causes and effects of war and international conflict.
10. The student will demonstrate an understanding of contemporary international problems based on methods developed in the course.

Japan

Though this course deals with International Relations (IR), as part of study abroad, it will specifically focus on Japan. Through this study abroad opportunity, where SPC students will get to experience a different culture and learn in a foreign context, attention would be paid to relations between Japan, its neighbors, and the United States and how the Japan experience can inform life in different settings such as the U.S. Beyond an introduction to key theories and concepts of IR, such as states and non-state actors, the course will attempt to cover topics such as the modern Japanese state, the place of Japan in world affairs, and international cooperation, to name a few.

Generally, students can look forward to visiting multiples historical sites dealing with political, economic, and social issues in Japan. This includes Himeji Castle, Japan's largest castle; the city of Hiroshima where the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945; various Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples found throughout the country and many more as detailed in the accompanying program itinerary.

Required Texts

- [*International Relations: A Very Short Introduction*](#) (2007). 1st edition. By Paul Wilkinson. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978019280157. Used (from \$2.45) and new (\$11.99) on Amazon.
- [*A Brief History of Japan: Samurai, Shogun and Zen: The Extraordinary Story of the Land of the Rising Sun*](#) (2017). 1st edition. By Jonathan Clements. Tuttle Publishing. ISBN-10:

4805313897; ISBN-13: 978-4805313893. Used (from \$10.99) and new (\$11.99) on Amazon.

- [*A History of Japan: Revised Edition*](#) (1997). Used (from \$1.98) and new (\$10.49) on Amazon. By R. H. P. Mason, and J. G. Caiger. Tuttle Publishing. ISBN-10: 080482097X; ISBN-13: 978-0804820974.

Class assignments [***SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO COURSE START***]

1. **Discussion posts (200 points):** students will be required to contribute to a discussion forum in MyCourses on selected topics.
2. **Team player behavior (200 points):** in this travel course, students are always expected to behave professionally and be respectful of other people cultures. This is a team program and while students are expected to enjoy this journey, it is paramount that they follow all rules and procedures for their own safety.
3. **Japan pre-departure student guide (200 points):** before departing for Japan, students are expected to develop their program guide. The graded program guide should be well researched and comprehensive. It should provide students enough information about the country, culture, customs, political system, and so on that would be helpful to them during this program. *Expected length: 1, 000 words.*
4. **Post-program critical reflection (400 points):** one week after returning from the program, students are expected to critically reflect on their Japanese experience. Further details will be provided in time. Students will then share their experience during our debriefing session back here in the USA. *Expected length: 1,500-2,000 words.*

Grading Procedures

A =	90-100%	900-1,000 points
B =	80-89%	800-899 points
C =	70-79%	700-799 points
D =	60-69%	600-699 points
F =	Below 60%	0-599 points

College Policies and campus resources

ACADEMIC HONESTY: ‘St. Petersburg College expects students to be honest in all of their academic work. By enrolling at the College, students agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty and integrity and understand that failure to comply with this pledge may result in academic and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College. As members of the College community, students also have an ethical obligation to report violations of the SPC academic honesty policies they may witness.’

Cheating, plagiarism, copying and any other behavior that is contrary to SPC’s standards of behavior will not be tolerated. **Any forms of academic dishonesty will automatically lead you to failing this course (‘F’ grade). Students may also face expulsion from the college.** It is the student’s responsibility to become familiar with SPC policy regarding academic honesty and to avoid violating such policies. Policy information is found at: <https://go.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/>

How to Be A Successful Student: SPC Syllabus Addendum Link:

<http://www.spcollege.edu/addendum/>

Important dates:

See academic calendar: <https://spcollege.edu/academic-calendar>

Students with disabilities

St. Petersburg College is committed to providing academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Accessibility Services Department (<https://go.spcollege.edu/Accessibility/>) and provide appropriate documentation. SPC encourages students with disabilities to follow these procedures as early as possible within the semester.

Mental health help:

As a SPC student it's vital that you know Titans Care. You can access resources through SPC's Student Assistance Program (SAP) (<https://mycoursesupport.spcollege.edu/student-assistance-program>), a collaborative resource for students with mental health or general life issues. SAP provides help and education in suicide prevention, mental health, substance abuse awareness and more. It is SPC's belief that supporting mental wellness is everyone's charge, and that one loss as a result of substance abuse, mental illness, or suicide is one too many. If you or a loved one are considering suicide, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

Student Survey of Instruction:

The Student Survey of Instruction (SSI) is administered in courses each semester. It is designed to improve the quality of instruction at St. Petersburg College. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement. The SSI will be given online using the **MyCourses**.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

(To be adjusted at the discretion of the instructor, especially the non-travel part)

WEEK	TOPICS AND READINGS	DUE ASSIGNMENTS
1	Intro to IR (basic theories and concepts)	
	States and non-states actors and preview of Japan program through a look at the evolution of modern Japan and its place in world affairs	
2-3	Travel abroad Japan	<i>Japan pre-departure student guide assignment due before travel starts</i>
3-4	Continue discussion of Japan program and IR topics and debriefing session 1	
5	Continue discussion of Japan program and IR topics and debriefing session 1	<i>Post-program critical reflection assignment due</i>

6	Debriefing session 2 and conclusion of the class	
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