



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

Course dates: Monday May 24- Thursday June 24, 2027 (5 weeks)

Travel dates: Tuesday June 1– Thursday June 10, 2027

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Office hours: check online at

<https://instructors.spcollege.edu/InstructorDetails?InstructorId=c0613ad7-59fe-46ce-a7e5-4e5cf5dddcf3>

Email: email me *only* through **CANVAS email feature**



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.

ITALY

Though this course deals with International Relations (IR), as part of study abroad, it will specifically focus on Italy. 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 Italy, its neighbors, and the United States and how Italy 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 Italian state, the place of Italy in Europe, 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 Italy. This includes the Doge's Palace in Venice, '[Italy's historic floating city](#)'; Galleria dell'Accademia, Medici & Machiavelli Walking and the Palazzo Vecchio tour in Florence; a Political Walking tour and the world's famous Pisa Tower (torre di Pisa) in Pisa; the Vatican Museum where students can admire the Sistine Chapel and its ceiling painted by Michelangelo Buonarroti; the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill in Rome and many other attractions 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. Between \$6.88 (used) and \$19.21 (new).
- [A brief History of Italy](#) (2019). By Jeremy Black. Robinson. ISBN-10: 1472140893; ISBN-13: 978-1472140890. Between \$6.85 (used) and \$17.99 (new).
- [A Concise History of Italy](#) (2014). 2nd Edition. By Christopher Duggan. Publisher: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-10: 0521747430; ISBN-13: 978-0521747431. Between \$17.23 (used) and \$24.96 (new).

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’s 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. **Italy pre-departure student guide** (200 points): before departing for Italy, 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 Italy critical reflection** (400 points): one week after returning from the program, students are expected to critically reflect on their Italian 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

Tentative course schedule

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

WEEK	TOPICS AND READINGS	DUE ASSIGNMENTS
1 (May 24-30)	Intro to IR (basic theories and concepts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online discussions
	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 (June 1-6)	Travel abroad Italy <i>(Departure Tuesday June 1st)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online discussions ▪ Pre-travel Italy guide report due Wednesday May 31st before travel begins
3 (June 7-13)	Travel abroad Italy (<i>return June 10</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online discussions
4 (June 14-20)	Debriefing session 1 and IR discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Online discussions</i> ▪ <i>Post-program Italy critical reflection assignment due Sunday June 20</i>
5 (June 21-24)	Debriefing session 2, IR discussion, and conclusion of the class (<i>course officially ends Thursday June 24</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final reports and finding presentations

College Policies and campus resources

Students can see full description of college policies and available campus policies on CANVAS under the Simple Syllabus heading. Below are a few of those.

Late Work Policy

It is important that students COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME. NO EXTENSION WILL BE PROVIDED. My experience has unfortunately been that students who repeatedly ask for extension further fall behind and, ultimately, don't complete the course. In very few extraordinary cases, when I do allow late submissions, a minimum penalty of 6% per day will be applied.

Availability of Course Content: To gain access to the course materials/modules, students must be logged in CANVAS.

Communication Plan

I will utilize the following communication channels in this class: CANVAS announcements, CANVAS emails, SPaC, Virtual Office Hours in Zoom, and feel free to call me using the number in the syllabus.

Monday – Friday I will respond to emails If you use CANVAS email (If you use SPC email it may go to spam and I may miss your message) and missed phone calls within 24 hours, and 48 hours on the weekends (excluding holidays). I will attempt to grade assignments and provide feedback within 7 days after the due date, except in special circumstances, such as natural disasters and so on.

I will post weekly announcements via CANVAS each Monday.

SPC Policy: 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 the College's standards of academic honesty and integrity. Failure to comply 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.

To better understand what academic integrity means and the potential consequences of violating it, please watch the following videos:

- [What is Academic Integrity? \(1:29\)](#)
 - [Transcript for "What is Academic Integrity?"](#)
- [What Happens When You Violate Academic Integrity? \(2:08\)](#)
 - [Transcript for "What Happens When You Violate Academic Integrity?"](#)

The academic honesty policy and procedures are available online:

- [Academic Honesty Policies, Honor Code](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures](#)

Some of your courses may include online material that is protected by copyright. This means that the work is available for you to use in your studies, but you can't copy and share the

materials (copyright.gov). Please see [SPC's copyright information](#). It's your responsibility to be academically honest in all of your work.

Generative AI Not Permitted

The best-known example of Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) is ChatGPT, a chatbot that allows you to type a question as if you were talking to a real person, and it quickly offers a seemingly meaningful, original answer. Tools like this are powerful and can be useful in many contexts, but you must be aware of their limitations, as they can produce inaccurate, fabricated, and even offensive content. In addition, the work produced is not technically your own. In order to avoid violating [SPC's academic integrity policy](#), students must be sure to follow the course's policies regarding the use of artificial intelligence in academic work. The AI policies for this class are outlined below.

You are strictly prohibited from using use Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence), including ChatGPT and similar AI tools, in this course. The work produced by AI writing tools is not your own original work and is therefore unacceptable for the assignments in this course. If you cite AI-generated content, the work will be considered incomplete and receive a zero. If you do not cite, the work will be considered plagiarism and receive a zero. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to me.

Copyleaks

The instructor of this course may require the use of Copyleaks as a tool to promote learning. The tool identifies similarities and potential issues in written work that merit review. Use of the service enables students and faculty to pinpoint areas that can be improved through enhanced paraphrasing, source integration, or proper citation. Submitted papers are analyzed for originality and remain confidential within the Copyleaks system for this purpose only. Students retain full copyright to their work. Review the [Copyleaks Usage Agreement](#) for full details. Students who do not wish to submit work through Copyleaks must notify their instructor via course email within the first seven days of the course. In lieu of using Copyleaks, faculty may require a student to submit copies of sources, preliminary drafts, a research journal, or an annotated bibliography.

Use the following links to view web sites on SPC's:

- [Free Tutoring](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)
- [Academic Support](#)
- [On-Campus and Online Support](#)
- [Student Services](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Learning Resources](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [International Student Services](#)
- [Veterans Services](#)

Course Specific Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

The behavior of all students in class should reflect a professional, respectful, and compassionate environment. Inappropriate or inconsiderate behavior will result in

consequences. Students must be thoughtful of their comments, actions, and decisions, considering how these impact classmates and instructors.

Online Student Participation and Conduct Guidelines

The practices of courtesy and respect that apply in the on-campus classroom also apply online. Any discriminatory, derogatory, or inappropriate comments are unacceptable and subject to the same disciplinary action applied in courses offered on campus.

Netiquette

Whether you are in an online class or a physical classroom, certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with your peers and your instructors. You need to contribute to a positive learning/teaching environment, respecting the rights of others and their opportunity to learn. No one has the right to interfere with the teaching/learning process. Below are the traits of a successful student. These guidelines pertain whether your course is online or in the classroom. When communicating, you should always:

- Treat everyone with respect in every communication
- Use your professor's proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you are in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Use clear and concise language
- Remember that college level communication should use correct grammar, whether written or spoken. Avoid slang.
- Use correct spelling and avoid texting abbreviations
- Avoid using the caps lock feature as it can be interpreted as yelling online
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and, even when spoken, your message might be misunderstood
- Be cautious with personal information (both yours and others')

When you send an email to your instructor, department chair, dean, or classmates, you should:

- Use a subject line that describes what you are writing about
- Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them
- Be clear, concise, and courteous
- Sign your message with your name
- Use your SPC email account to ensure delivery. Sometime emails from non-SPC accounts are stopped by the spam filter and the recipient may not receive it.

When posting to a discussion board, you should:

- Write posts that are on-topic and within the scope of the course material
- Take your posts seriously; review and edit your posts before sending
- Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source
- Read all messages in a thread before replying
- Avoid repeating someone else's post without adding something of your own to it
- Avoid short, generic replies such as, "I agree." You should include why you agree or add to the previous point
- Always be respectful of others' opinions, even when they differ from your own
- Express any differing opinions in a respectful, non-critical way
- Not make personal or insulting remarks
- Be open-minded

Student Survey of Instruction

The Student Survey of Instruction 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.