



University of Sussex  
School of Global Studies

# International Relations

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Global Studies

[www.sussex.ac.uk/ir](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ir)

# What's special about studying International Relations at Sussex?

The International Relations (IR) degree at Sussex is open, progressive, interdisciplinary and critical. IR is not only about foreign policy and state power. We are equally interested in important questions such as: how and why is the world becoming increasingly integrated? How does globalisation impact on state and society? Can humanity govern itself in a just and equitable manner in the 21st century?



## Unique approach at Sussex

We are renowned for challenging the mainstream approach to International Relations. We don't just tell students about international institutions: we go back to first principles about what the international system is, has been and could be. In this sense our approach is highly original, radical and critical.

## Leading international research

Based around our leading research centres in International Security, Political Economy and International Relations Theory, IR research at Sussex spans the globe, has real impact and is ranked 7th out of 69 in the country by the most recent UK Research Assessment Exercise.

## Teaching excellence

Our academic research goes further than the books: it underpins our teaching too. So students don't just read leading global research – they challenge the academics that write it. No wonder that 92% of our students found our course intellectually stimulating, according to the 2012 National Student Survey.

## Expertly connected

Our leading reputation means we attract high-profile speakers to provide guest lectures. These have included Jamie Shea, Director of Policy Planning at NATO, and Anthony Dworkin of the European Council on International Relations. Students also benefit from our membership of Chatham House, the UK's largest international affairs think-tank.

## Global perspectives for global careers

To achieve a global career, graduates need a global perspective. Our students gain this through international placement and study abroad opportunities, being taught by leading global researchers and being part of an international student community. All of which explains why Sussex International Relations graduates go on to a variety of careers at leading international organisations including: Action Against Hunger, the World Bank and the United Nations.

# How can I study International Relations?

There are three different ways of studying International Relations at Sussex: as a single honours degree, as part of a joint honours degree or, in the case of Law and IR, as a minor degree. As well as looking at the degree programme that first attracts you, take time to look at a variety of others.

Sussex degrees are designed so you can explore subjects in ways that interest you, enabling you to choose how your knowledge and understanding develop. As a single honours student you choose several modules from outside your discipline, while joint degrees and minor options allow you to study exciting combinations of different subjects.

We offer the following degrees:

## Single honours

- International Relations

Single honours students can also choose to take four modules in a foreign language, enabling them to graduate 'with proficiency in' that language.

## Joint degrees

- International Relations and Anthropology
- International Relations and Development Studies
- International Relations and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)
- International Relations and Sociology
- Politics and International Relations
- Economics and International Relations
- Geography and International Relations.

If you want to study more than one subject in depth, our joint degrees offer exciting combinations of subjects. What you learn in one subject complements and enhances what you learn in the other. Spending half your time on one subject and half on the other, you can still choose options that interest you in each.

We also offer a joint degree in International Relations and a Language as part of a four year degree, which currently gives you the option of French, Italian or Spanish.

## Major/minor degrees

- Law with International Relations

If you want to have a main area of study, but gain some understanding in another subject as well, we offer an exciting minor alongside the Law main degree programme. This means you spend three-quarters of your time on Law and a quarter on International Relations.

## Study abroad and work placements

Whether you are taking single or joint honours in IR, you are given the opportunity to study abroad while at Sussex, ideally in the spring term of the second year. For those students taking Single Honours IR or Joint IR and Geography/Development/Anthropology that spring term can also be used to take up a work placement, for which the University will provide assistance.

# Course structure

The following tables provide an outline of the modules offered on our undergraduate courses.

## BA in International Relations

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Specialist options</b>
Introduction to International Relations	Contemporary International Theory	Choose two (joint honours) or four (single honours) from:
The Rise of the Modern International Order	Introduction to International Political Economy	<b>Themes</b>
Regions and Institutions	War in International Politics	Conflict and Military Intervention
<b>Elective</b>	<b>Elective</b>	Contemporary Issues in GPE
IR offers: Global Issues	IR offers: Business in World Politics	Ethics in Global Politics
OR	OR	Finance and Power
Module from other department	Module from other department	Global Resistance: Subjects and Practices
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Term 2 options</b>	Law in International Relations
Classical Political Theory and IR	Choose two (joint honours) or three (single honours) from:	Mercenaries, Gangs and Terrorists: Private Security in International Politics
The Short 20th Century and Beyond	Development and the State	NGOs in World Politics
The Local and the Global: IR in Practice	Globalisation and Global Governance	Peace Processes
<b>Elective</b>	<b>Elective</b>	Political Economy of the Environment
IR offers: Global Environmental Politics	IR offers: Gender: Re-thinking Politics	Religions in Global Politics
OR	OR	Sex and Death in Global Politics
Module from other department	Module from other department	The Arms Trade in International Politics
	OR	The Politics of Terror
	Placement*/Study abroad	What is War?
		<b>Approaches</b>
		Capitalism and Geopolitics
		Marxism and IR
		The Reign of Rights: Warring, Governing and Resisting in Global Politics
		<b>Regions</b>
		Development and Geopolitics in East Asia
		IR of the Modern Middle East
		Russia and the Former Soviet Union in Global Politics
		The Political Economy of Latin American Development
		The United States in the World

### Key

- Single honours only
- Single/joint honours

\*Placements are only available for single honours IR or joint honours IR + Geography/Anthropology/Development

# Module summaries

Year 1
<b>All single and joint honours students take the following modules in their first year:</b>
<b>Autumn term</b>
<b>Introduction to International Relations</b>
This module introduces students to the academic study of International Relations (IR). The module outlines the specific characteristics of IR as a distinct scholarly discipline, separate from other disciplines such as Politics or Sociology. The module considers what has defined IR as a discipline and what constitutes its core conceptual and methodological coordinates at the present time. It approaches these questions by analysing the key debates which make up the history of the discipline. Understanding these debates, the circumstances that have given rise to them, and the methods they have generated will give students a good orientation in the disciplinary terrain of IR theory that they will encounter in the international theory modules in Years 1 and 2.
<b>The Rise of the Modern International Order</b>
Today we take it for granted that the peoples and governments of the world are linked in a single international system. Yet it was only during 'the long nineteenth century' that a truly 'world' politics began to emerge. The aim of this module is to examine how that came about by reviewing some major events and processes of international history in the period from 1789 to 1914. It begins by comparing the modern international system to other geopolitical systems in history, and reviewing a key debate on its origins in 'the rise of the West'. It then moves on to the international impact of the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution. It analyses the role played by Great Britain in organising the Victorian international system, as well as the phenomenon of European imperialism and some of the responses it provoked in the non-European world. Finally, the module reflects upon the combination of factors which caused this 'long nineteenth century' to end in the carnage of the Great War.

Spring term
<b>Classical Political Theory and International Relations</b>
This module will introduce you to the primary texts of authors such as Hobbes, Kant, Machiavelli, Marx, Mill, Thucydides, Vitoria and others who are commonly cited as precursors of contemporary international thought. It asks what relevance these authors have had for the establishment of International Relations as a discipline, and how far they can be used to analyse contemporary international politics. Finally, the module demonstrates how classical authors can also be read to provide a radical critique of contemporary international thought and practice.
<b>The Short 20th Century and Beyond</b>
Few periods in history have been more tumultuous than the 20th century, racked almost from start to finish by wars, revolutions and global ideological conflicts. In the same period, however, the international system also developed new mechanisms of stability and international organisation – the League of Nations and the United Nations, the 'Bretton Woods' institutions and, increasingly, European integration. This module reviews some major international events and processes of 'the short 20th century' (1914-1989), focusing on this theme of order and disorder in international history.





Single honours students also take the following modules in their first year:

#### Autumn term

##### Regions and Institutions

This module introduces two dimensions of the international system – its regions and its institutions. It explores how each of the major regions was incorporated into the international system, how its role in the system has changed over time, and which debates are associated with that region in particular. This is followed by a critical discussion of the limits and possibilities of a regional and comparative approach to IR. The second part of the module will explore international institutions, their formal purposes and goals, the way they work, the conflicts they generate, and the major intellectual debates surrounding them.

#### Spring term

##### The Local and the Global: IR in Practice

This module aims to encourage students to connect their everyday life in Brighton to wider currents in world politics, relating this experience to how we theorise IR and International Political Economy (IPE). Students will undertake research projects (in groups of approximately five) that focus on a Brighton-based empirical phenomenon or issue, and seek to understand the connections between that issue and world politics more generally. In the course of doing their projects, students will be introduced to theoretical debates in IR/IPE and to issues around research design, methodology and method, as well as philosophy of social science.

#### Year 1 electives

Single honours students may choose an elective in both the autumn and spring term from a range of modules across the University including language modules. Students may also elect the following modules from within the IR department:

#### Autumn term

##### Global Issues

The module aims to introduce students to the study of Global Politics and Global Political Economy. To do so, it examines a variety of issues – such as war, free trade, human rights, social movements etc. – that have come to shape contemporary political life at the international, transnational and global levels. This introduction will set the scene for later modules that offer an in-depth analysis of these issues, as well as a thorough examination of the theoretical and conceptual tools used by scholars.

#### Spring term

##### Global Environmental Politics

This module takes a critical look at the actors and issues implicated in the emerging global debate on sustainable development. It engages with competing theoretical perspectives about the drivers of environmental change and how best to explain the nature of international cooperation on the environment. The module begins with an overview of the relationship between environment and development in world politics. It sets out a range of theoretical tools for understanding the global politics of these issues before focussing in on a range of issue areas. It concludes with reflection on prospects for change and the viability of alternative proposals for better addressing the environment and development in world politics.



#### Year 2

Single and joint honours students will take the following modules in the autumn term of their second year:

##### Contemporary International Theory

This module examines the development of contemporary international theory (post-1945) and the role this plays in the establishment of orthodoxy in IR. Major approaches and debates in the discipline will be examined and evaluated, and placed in the more general context of what is problematic about developing cumulative knowledge of social relations. Varieties of realism, liberalism and the English school approach will be considered as well as more recent critical engagements coming from Marxism, feminism, constructivism, postmodernism and globalism.

##### Introduction to International Political Economy

The intensity and scope of the relationship between politics and economics has become a central element of studying IR. This module offers a distinctive perspective in terms of which traditional issues of IR – such as war, trade, integration and international society – can be studied. It considers the central theoretical traditions of international political economy: liberalism, realism, Marxism, neo-institutionalism, and critical theory. It then applies these diverse theoretical traditions in an analysis of the evolution of the state system from the 16th to the 20th century, paying particular attention to the relationship between class and state power, on the one hand, and the capitalist world economy, on the other.

All Single honours students will also take the following module in their autumn term:

#### War in International Politics

This module introduces students to the central role played by war in international politics. What is war? And what is the relationship between war and state-formation in the modern period? What is the constitutive function of war in the international system more broadly? After addressing these fundamental questions, the second part of the module examines how war is shaped by other major structures of international relations, including political economy, law, ethics and gender. Against this background, the third and final part of the module examines a variety of different forms of warfare, including conventional war, guerrilla war and insurgency, counterinsurgency, civil war, and genocide as a form of warfare.

For those students not embarking on study abroad or a work placement in the spring term, there is a choice of two of the following modules for joint honours students or three for single honours:

#### Development and the State

This module is concerned with the role of the state in development. It explores debates in state theory and the relationship between the state and development; empirically, by investigating a range of historical and contemporary state forms, and the impacts of these state forms on processes of development; and normatively, by posing questions about what the nature and role of the state should ideally be. The module introduces the main theoretical approaches to the state and examines a range of historical state forms and their attendant development experiences that have been common to the global North and South.

#### Globalisation and Global Governance

This module complements Introduction to International Political Economy by providing a holistic, political and economic analysis of the changing character of the contemporary world. It examines the post-war emergence and subsequent decline of the multilateral system and the rise of globalisation, especially the nature of global institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the G8 meetings. The module also examines the

changing character of the development project, from decolonialisation and the decline of the formal empires to the emergence of the third world and the contemporary debates concerning the nature of development, economic growth, human welfare and the environment.

#### Issues in International Security

This module introduces the broad issue agenda that shapes the contemporary study of (in)security. Issues examined include the following: genocide; ethnic conflict; the war on terror; terrorism; environmental and resource conflicts; war and peace in the international order; weapons of mass destruction and proliferation; the arms trade; gender insecurity; security and development; security and poverty; peace processes and peace building; economic insecurity. The module will also examine the range of possible conceptual perspectives (including, but not limited to, realist, liberal, historical materialist, post-structuralist, feminist and postcolonial perspectives) that can be used to understand international security.

#### The Politics of Foreign Policy

The module draws on classical and critical literature in foreign policy analysis to explore the broad tension between agency and structure (domestic and international) in international politics. All too often, in IR theory the answer seems to be states, or other collective actors, with their interactions determined by the logic of broad systemic forces. This however leaves out that actors may have choices, and how they arrive at such choices. The module asks how decision-making in international politics may be less than rational, for a variety of reasons; how lobby groups and (perhaps) public opinion may influence foreign policy, and whether foreign policy still matters in an age of globalisation.



#### Year 2 electives

Single honours students may take an elective each in the autumn and (if they are not studying abroad or on a work placement) the spring term from a range of modules across the University including language modules. Students may also elect to study the following modules from within the IR department:

#### Autumn term

##### Business in World Politics

This module explores the role of business in world politics from the perspectives of both International Relations and Management Studies. Drawing on the literature on global governance, non-state actors, co-regulation, and private governance the module will explore different roles that businesses play in world politics, including as lobbyists, partners in governance and agents of implementation. It will also examine whether and, if so, why the role of business in world politics has increased. Drawing on Management Studies literature on non-market strategy, corporate

political activity and international business, the module will explore the role of the political environment for corporate strategy, and analyse what the non-market environment of business consists of.

#### Spring term

##### Gender: Rethinking Politics

This module interrogates how an understanding of gender helps us ask critical questions about the spaces and practices of politics and the nature and emergence of 'the political'. In order to achieve this, it examines a number of theories of gender: biological, psychological, social constructivist, etc. Moreover, it surveys the historical evolution of feminism as critical theory and practice and the theorization of masculinity. From such theoretical bases it then examines the gendered nature of central political institutions, such as 'the state', law, democracy, citizenship, as well as political practices: war, security, the extension of human rights, development.

### Year 3

In Year 3, single honours students take four modules and joint honours students take two from the following list:

Some modules may not run every year.

#### Capitalism and Geopolitics

This module is designed to retrace the historical development of the divide between theories focusing on geopolitics and those focusing on capitalism by setting it in its practical historical context – the origins and development of the European or ‘Westphalian’ system of states. It examines a series of historical settings – the feudal, the absolutist, and the capitalist – with a view to understand the historical construction and development of the ‘Westphalian’ system, explore the historically-situated rise of the discourses of ‘Realpolitik’ and capitalism, and examine the relative explanatory power of these two rival perspectives in relation to the historical material. The module ends with a reflection on whether and how this theoretical divide can be overcome.

#### Conflict and Military Intervention

This module analyses what might loosely be called the “new security environment” and its impacts on international relations. It provides a theoretical and policy relevant analysis of the security threats that have led to a growing incidence of inter-state and intra-state conflict. It examines the causal factors, dynamics and domestic as well as international efforts at managing and resolving intra-state conflicts. Beyond examining the relevant theoretical concepts and viewpoints, the module explores their propositions within the framework of case studies from a variety of conflict areas. Finally, the conduct of the ‘Global War on Terror’ and its implications for international security will be examined in detail.

#### Contemporary Issues in the Global Political Economy

This module examines how the architecture of existing capitalism has to be adjusted or brought into balance with the needs of expanding markets. The module begins by examining attempts by global governance institutions to create a largely deregulated world market. It examines how financial systems are expanding and how the stock

market has become a key institution of modern capitalism. It then looks at the changing nature of multinational corporations and the state as they reorient themselves towards a global market. We examine empirically the post-Cold War expansion of capitalism into Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. Finally, the module analyses the most recent developments in world affairs from a political economy perspective.

#### Development and Geopolitics in East Asia

This module examines the rise of East Asia through an analysis of the interconnections between regional development and geopolitical contestation. It begins with an examination of the legacies of European and Japanese imperialism in East Asia and an analysis of the establishment of post-war US hegemony in the region and its implications for subsequent economic development. It looks at the implications of the decline of Cold War geopolitical rivalry and the rise of ‘globalisation’ and its role in explaining subsequent trends such as the East Asian financial crisis, East Asian regionalism and the changing nature of US-China relations. Within this historical context, varying analytical frameworks and debates concerning late development will be examined.

#### Ethics in Global Politics

The module covers conceptual and normative questions about ethics in global politics. It begins by exploring its origins in contemporary Anglo-American political philosophy, and situating it within ‘normative International Relations.’ Students explore the substantive areas of international distributive justice and international human rights, which are thought by many to constitute the core of the subject of global ethics. This is followed by the more cutting-edge areas of agency, responsibility, judgement and authority. Finally, several sessions are devoted to bridging the theoretical concerns of global ethics with particular areas of contemporary practical and policy relevance, including: security, the responsibility to protect human rights, international criminal justice, and climate justice.

#### Finance and Power

This module considers the globalisation of finance and the structure of the power relations that drive it. It examines the ways in which global finance is constructed on the basis of power struggles, and how financialisation empowers certain actors over others. The module begins by examining various forms of financial systems and their social ramifications. It looks at how the process of globalisation affects the evolution of these financial systems and the social struggles over the direction of change. The module addresses the impacts of financialisation on the project of development, the convergence of various economic systems. Finally, the module considers the regulation of finance and the various challenges it raises for political authorities and social forces.

#### Global Resistance: Subjects and Practices

This module introduces students to key events in the recent trajectory of resistance to global order-building, and locate contemporary “global resistance” in historical context. It explores the main concepts and theories used to make sense of resistance, by scholars but also by those engaging in struggles themselves (including Marxist, post-structuralist, decolonial and feminist approaches). It also considers the different political subjects that have been hailed as the locus of emancipatory or revolutionary struggle (e.g.

the “anti-globalization movement”, the “global working class” or the “multitude”), as well as the variegated politics of resistance, the ways in which anti-systemic struggles may become entangled in relations of power and the various modes of intervention geared toward repressing, managing or disciplining dissent.

#### International Relations of the Modern Middle East

This module takes a three-dimensional – international, social and historical – approach to a modern political history of the Middle East. It consists of three parts:

1. a critical survey of the traditional theoretical approaches to analysing Middle East politics;
2. a description of the historical contours of the politics of the region, by retracing the socio-international context and outcomes of the formation of ‘modern’ Middle Eastern states;
3. an in-depth analysis of three major contemporary political developments in the region; the Iranian Revolution, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq War.

The module concludes with an evaluation of the implications of an international-historical approach to the study of the Middle East, for both the theory and practice of international relations.





### Law in International Relations

This module provides a historical overview of the political context and development of international law, an introduction to the most important theoretical issues arising out of the relationship of international politics and law, and a discussion of the relevance and meaning of recent changes in international law. Finally, it introduces three important areas and their respective institutions and issues: public international law, the International Court of Justice and issues of sovereignty and intervention; private international law, the World Trade Organisation, and issues of property; criminal international law, the International Criminal Court and tribunals, and issues of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

### Marxism and International Relations

This module enables you to engage systematically with the Marxist tradition of theorising about international relations. It provides an introduction to Marx's own thought, using selections from primary texts, and then examines how later Marxist writers have applied and developed these ideas across a range of themes in international studies, including, sovereignty, imperialism, the Cold War, international political economy and globalisation theory.

### Mercenaries, Gangs and Terrorists: Private Security in International Politics

The module looks at the nature of security in international politics from the non-traditional perspective of private actors who are willing to use force to advance their objectives. Students develop their ideas about: what 'security' is and how it relates to other values; why sovereign states are often treated as the starting-point for the study of global security; the ways in which the private use of force can be conceptualised as both a problem and a solution to security dilemmas; and the ways in which actors in the global South face security challenges that are often unique from the challenges of those in the North.

### Peace Processes

The aim of this module is to analyse ongoing peace processes within the context of global and local political, economic and social change. Exploring cases from the Middle East, South Asia, Europe and elsewhere, it poses questions such as: what accounts for the relative success of some peace processes, and the failure of others? Is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict simply intractable? Does social and economic liberalisation, or globalisation, tend to promote peacemaking? What forms of third party intervention are most supportive of peacemaking? The module will thereby provide an introduction to the study of peace processes, and fresh insights on contemporary international relations and the global political economy.

### Political Economy of the Environment

This module seeks to understand the environmental dilemmas that confront us in the contemporary world through moving beyond the limitations of mainstream economic analysis. It seeks to provide a broader socio-cultural understanding of production that 'de-naturalises' the way we view and exploit the natural world. The module also examines the extent to which the pursuit of greater distributional justice in the global political economy is amenable to facing the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change. It looks at the opportunities and risks associated with the expansion of the global market, as well as the practicability of notions of sustainable development.

### Religions in Global Politics

This module examines the implications of the 'return' of religions, both for world politics and for thinking about international relations. It looks at the renewed centrality of religious identities as strategic frames of reference for politics in the post-Cold War world. It will problematise the implicit and predominant reading of religion in international relations as the ultimate threat to international order and stability (especially in the forms of the identity politics of the 'new wars' and the terrorist attacks of religious fundamentalists), it will engage critically with Huntington's thesis of the 'clash of civilisations' and will explore the implications of this 'return' for the future of foreign policy and the normative structure and world order of contemporary international society.



### Russia and the Former Soviet Union in Global Politics

This module explores the international politics of post-Soviet Russia and the former Soviet space. After a period of relative decline in the 1990s, Russia has more recently been described as 'rising Great Power.' The module will investigate the background for and current development of international relations in the region – in particular Russia's status as Great Power, the 'colour revolutions' in Ukraine and Georgia, NATO and the US in the former Soviet space, the question of Europe's 'energy security' and its relations with Russia, and what has been called the 'new Great Game' between Russia, China and the US in Central Asia.

### Sex and Death in Global Politics

This module explores the multiple connections between gender and violence in contemporary international politics in historical and theoretical perspective. War and other forms of collective violence seem to be everywhere in world affairs, but it has often been commented that the many manifestations of gender are less visible, even

invisible, to the realms of high politics. Topics will include: gender in war and society; the intersection of race, class, and gender in collective violence; military masculinity; women at war; wartime sexual violence; sex industries and violence; homosexuality and military culture (including queer theory perspectives and recent debates about 'pink-washing' and 'homonationalism'); feminism, anti-feminism and gender studies in the academy; and gender violence in popular culture.

### The Arms Trade in International Politics

This module investigates the social and international relations of the arms trade. You may already be familiar with allegations of corruption, human rights violations and war profiteering associated with the arms trade. You may also have heard justifications in terms of national security, international alliances and jobs. This module analyses these, and other, claims through a series of historically and theoretically informed empirical case studies. We will ask: what are the main features of global patterns of arms production and transfers? How have these patterns developed historically? What international relations are



fostered through arms transfers, and (how) have these changed over time? Also, how is military production embedded in the economic, political and social life of societies and states?

### **The Political Economy of Latin American Development**

This module provides a long-term historical account and analysis of Latin America's formation and integration into the modern world system. It investigates patterns of growth and distribution of wealth over different periods of time and between countries. Key issues to be discussed in the module include: the Iberian political economic legacy; attempts at constructing cohesive state structures and state-led economic development; the influence of rural and urban social movements on the political-economic structures of different countries; responses to globalisation, including the attempt at creating regional blocs across the region; and a discussion of the extent to which the current 'pink tide' constitutes a realistic alternative political-economic trajectory for the mass of the continent's population.

### **The Politics of Terror**

This module addresses the relationship between fear, security and identity in international politics. It explores the argument that security constitutes identity in relation to fear; and rather than simply defending extant entities, discourses of security produce novel identities. The module begins by considering the nature of fear and identity in international politics. It looks at the broadened security agenda of the post-Cold war era in order to show the multiple ways in which fear is mobilised and the manifold identities thus produced. Finally, the module examines the consequences of such fears and identities in relation to cases such as ethnic nationalist conflict.

### **The Reign of Rights: Warring, Governing and Resisting in Global Politics**

This module interrogates the global rise of human rights. It examines the history and evolution of rights within the history of liberalism and introduces the prominent ways of defining and understanding human rights. It explores new theorisations of rights as practices of governing and forms of subjectification in global politics,

as well as the challenges that rights present to state sovereignty. Finally, the module investigates the use of rights in practices of resistance, analysing how rights delegitimise other paths of action whilst inciting rights-holders as appropriate political subjectivities. The final part concludes by discussing the practical ethico-political problems of the reign of rights and of our own acceptance of this language in global politics.

### **The United States in the World**

The aim of this module is to examine the contemporary debate on American grand strategy and the US role in the future of world politics. Particular attention is paid to the recent works of some of the protagonists of this debate; US foreign policy towards some key geopolitical regions of the world; and the contemporary theoretical and policy debate on the role of US in the post-9/11 era of 'war against terror'. Some of the questions that will be explored include: what is the US grand strategy to maintain its exceptional position in the world? Are the US showing signs of decline? What are the main strategic challenges to the US hegemony?

### **What is War?**

The module examines the place of war in the political world. What is war and how, if at all, is it different from other forms of violence? What is the relationship between war and politics? The module asks what war is and investigates its relation to the fields of ethics, gender, sexuality, and culture. It investigates specific forms of warfare, including genocide as a war of annihilation, insurgency/ guerrilla warfare, and counterinsurgency. It concludes by addressing anti-war activism and related forms of civil disobedience as alternatives to war. Finally, the module provides the advanced knowledge and analytical skills necessary to think, talk, and write about war in an informed and critical manner.





## Contact us

Department of International Relations  
Arts C  
University of Sussex  
Falmer, Brighton BN1 9SJ

**T** +44 (0)1273 877540

**F** +44 (0)1273 876513

**E** [UGAdmissions@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:UGAdmissions@sussex.ac.uk)

**[www.sussex.ac.uk/ir](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ir)**

## Photo acknowledgements

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*Page 5: Sven Torfinn/Panos*

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The logo consists of the letters 'US' in a large, white, serif font.

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