The Master of Global Affairs is a co-sponsored degree between Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy and the School of Social Sciences. The program offers graduate students a professional master's degree that simultaneously requires high standards of scholarship and practical training for careers in government, the private sector, and international organizations.

The Master of Global Affairs is a two-year, 36 credit hour degree program. The program requires a non-credit bearing pre-term math boot camp held in the evenings before classes begin. The first year core-curriculum requires a sequence of 18 credit hours exposing students to a variety of topics in global affairs. The second year is reserved for pursuit of an Area of Study, participation in a required internship, and completion of a capstone project. The program is considered full-time with classes offered in the evening.

Global Affairs does not currently offer an academic program at the undergraduate level.

**Master's Program**


**Faculty Director**

Mark P. Jones

**Professor**

Songying Fang

**Lecturers**

Michael Ard
Cory Birenbaum
Yvonne Cruz
Scott McHugh
Daniel Potter

**Baker Institute Fellows**

Joe Barnes
Kristian Coates Ulrichsen
Jim Krane

Kelsey Norman
Tony Payan

For Rice University degree-granting programs:

To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)

To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat)
**GLBL 503 - INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS FOR MASTERS STUDENTS**  
**Short Title:** INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS  
**Department:** Global Affairs  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 1.5  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** This course familiarizes students with basic concepts of research design and statistical methodology that used in policy analysis. It covers (1) fundamental concepts of scientific inference and barriers to inference in observational data, (2) the implementation and evaluation of experimental and observational research designs in policy analysis, (3) descriptive and graphical statistics, (4) statistical hypothesis testing, (5) elementary use and interpretation of the generalized linear model, and (6) using the R statistical software environment for data organization and analysis. It is strongly recommended that students complete this course in the fall semester of their first year; in all cases, it must be completed before the end of the first year. Master of Global Affairs students only.

**GLBL 504 - QUANTITATIVE APPLICATIONS IN GLOBAL POLITICS AND POLICY**  
**Short Title:** GLOBAL POLITICS AND POLICY  
**Department:** Global Affairs  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 1.5  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** The course takes a problem-driven approach to practical applications of quantitative research methods in political and policy studies. Using a series of international and domestic policy topics, students will learn to apply and extend their knowledge of research design and statistics as part of developing a systematic approach to the study of global affairs. Student assignments will involve research related to the practice of global affairs, including comparative policy-making, political economy and security. Master of Global Affairs students only.

**GLBL 505 - MACROECONOMICS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**  
**Short Title:** MACROECONOMICS&GLOBAL ECONOMY  
**Department:** Global Affairs  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 1.5  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** This part develops our foundations on topics such as national product and income concepts, measurements, and relationships; interrelationships of the major segments of the national economy; forces affecting the general level of economic activity. Here we study how the major markets (those for labor, capital, and goods) operate. These markets are first studied in isolation. Why some countries have rapid economic development, and others low growth and pervasive poverty? We will explore the ways in which growing economic interdependence shifts global wealth. We will discuss the role of global energy supply and of ongoing technological progress as a force of change in the global economy. Masters of Global Affairs students only. Equivalency: GLBL 506, GLBL 524. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for GLBL 506 if student has credit for GLBL 524.

**GLBL 506 - MACROECONOMICS FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**  
**Short Title:** MACROECONOMICS FOR GLOBAL ECON  
**Department:** Global Affairs  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 1.5  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** The second part of the course puts the markets studied in the first part together and studies their interactions. The key issues here are: (a) how macroeconomic variables behave and (b) how can policy affect these outcomes both domestically and internationally. Students will engage in a short team project to explore the role of economic development in international settings, including topics such as energy supply, labor and employment, population, education, health and nutrition. International economics: balance of payments, foreign exchange markets, international trade theory, tariffs, quotas, and exchange controls. The course will focus on the relationship between international policy and economics. North-South relations, including the US-Mexico economic relation will be discussed. Master of Global Affairs students only. Equivalency: GLBL 505, GLBL 524. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for GLBL 506 if student has credit for GLBL 524.

**GLBL 507 - DECISION MAKING UNDER UNCERTAINTY**  
**Short Title:** DECISION MAKING UNCERTAINTY  
**Department:** Global Affairs  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** The course examines how leaders on the world stage-those in governments, international organizations, and non-state actors-make decisions that alter the course of international affairs. These decisions are made under conditions of uncertainty with limited information, elements of surprise about what will happen next, and often carry high degrees of risk. The course considers key theoretical models of uncertainty in decision making and examines specific foreign policy decisions that managed the uncertainty toward a successful outcome and those that ended in failure or expensive mistakes. Master of Global Affairs students only.

**GLBL 510 - CULTURAL DIRECTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**Short Title:** CULTURAL DIRECTIONS  
**Department:** Global Affairs  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 1.5  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** Investigates the cultural and social dimensions of the development and implementation of international policy; emphasizes historical and ethnographic case studies to understand the variable impacts of policy implementation in different contexts. Master of Global Affairs students only.
GLBL 512 - INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT
Short Title: INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 1.5
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Introduction to a broad range of areas related to the
analysis and resolution of conflict, focusing on the interdisciplinary
study of defining, understanding, and addressing conflict. International
and community conflict, characteristics, negotiation, collaborative
problem solving, process-advice. Students will research international
conflict escalation, stalemate, de-escalation, settlement, resolution, or
management; mediation skills to facilitate the resolution of disputes and
differences, techniques of third party intervention with individuals and
groups. Learning approach includes lectures, simulations, modeling and
practice mediations. Master of Global Affairs students only.

GLBL 513 - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Short Title: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 1.5
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Study of theories and best practices from academia and
governments/NGO’s related to international cooperation, including
international law and treaties, international coalitions and sanctions,
international and transnational organizations, translocal city and NGO
partnerships, government and business partnerships, transnational
governance and publicly diplomacy, including soft power and collective
action for global public goods. Master of Global Affairs students only.

GLBL 514 - THE MIDDLE EAST CAULDRON AND UNITED STATES POLICY
Short Title: M. EAST CAULDRON & U.S. POLICY
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 1.5
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course examines the expanding public dimension of
diplomacy by investigating the growing global interests and trends in the
21st century's diplomatic environment. This course also examines the
underlying political, socio-economic, and cultural trends and surveys US
national security interests, foreign policy, and public diplomacy around
the world. For Master of Global Affairs Students Only.

GLBL 515 - ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY
Short Title: CONTEMP. US FOREIGN POLICY
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 1.5
Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students in the MAGA program.
Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: U.S. foreign policy is in transition. This process began
long before President Donald J. Trump assumed office. We have moved
decisively into what could be called “the post-post-Cold War” era. The
global struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States ended
25 years go. But so has the “unipolar moment” that followed the Cold
War, when the United States possessed unrivalled power in world affairs.
The rise of China, the resurgence of Russia, and continuing turmoil in
the Middle East confront U.S. policy-makers with an array of complex
challenges. This course focuses on these and other issues that are
shaping U.S. foreign policy today. It will include discussions of topics
“ripped from the news” whether we are talking about the Syrian Civil
War, the ongoing low-intensity conflict in the Ukraine, or Chinese military
actions in the South China Sea. Master of Global Affairs students only.

GLBL 519 - MASTER OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS INTERNSHIP
Short Title: MASTER GLOBAL AFFAIRS INTRNSHP
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 1-6
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The Master of Global Affairs internship is a graduate-
level supervised field experience for students in the MGA program.
All internships must be preapproved and must be conducted after the
student has completed a minimum of 18 credit hours in the program.
Master of Global Affairs students only. Instructor Permission Required.
Repealable for Credit.

GLBL 520 - MASTER OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS CAPSTONE
Short Title: MASTER GLOBAL AFFAIRS CAPSTONE
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The Master of Global Affairs capstone course is the
culmination of all graduate coursework and internship experience in
the program; it is a significant piece of work than what is normally
expected of a term paper. The capstone project must reflect a scholarly
and professional analysis informed by the application of analytical
strategies that address a real-world problem or public policy issue.
All MGA students must complete the capstone in their final semester.
Instructor Permission Required.
GLBL 505/GLBL 506. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for GLBL 504 if student has credit for analyze international economic policy. Equivalency: GLBL 505, GLBL 506. 

These fundamental concepts will be used to economic activity. Here we study how the major markets (those for labor, segments of the national economy; forces affecting the general level of measurements, and relationships; interrelationships of the major focus will be on topics such as national product and income concepts, economic analysis; use of the aggregate demand/aggregate supply model for the determination of output, employment, and prices. The focus will be on topics such as national product and income concepts, measurements, and relationships; interrelationships of the major segments of the national economy; forces affecting the general level of economic activity. Here we study how the major markets (those for labor, capital, and goods) operate. These fundamental concepts will be used to analyze international economic policy. Equivalency: GLBL 505, GLBL 506. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for GLBL 504 if student has credit for GLBL 505/GLBL 506.

GLBL 523 - QUANTITATIVE APPLICATIONS IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Description: The course takes a problem-driven approach to practical applications of quantitative research methods in political and policy studies. Using a series of international domestic policy topics, students will learn to apply and extend their knowledge of research design and statists as part of developing a systematic approach to the study of global affairs. Student assignments will involve research related to the practice of global affairs, including comparative policy-making, political economy and security.

GLBL 524 - MACROECONOMICS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

Description: This course develops our foundations of aggregate economic analysis; use of the aggregate demandaggregate supply model for the determination of output, employment, and prices. The focus will be on topics such as national product and income concepts, measurements, and relationships; interrelationships of the major segments of the national economy; forces affecting the general level of economic activity. Here we study how the major markets (those for labor, capital, and goods) operate. These fundamental concepts will be used to analyze international economic policy. Equivalency: GLBL 505, GLBL 506. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for GLBL 524 if student has credit for GLBL 505/GLBL 506.

GLBL 525 - INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Description: This course covers two general areas in International Security: (1) traditional (i.e., "state-centered") and (2) non-traditional security issues. The first half of the course is devoted to recent developments in the study of interstate security. We will contemplate unipolarity, American security policy, the rise of some peer competitors, and the changing nature of interstate relations in the 21st century. The second half of the course will explore the growing significance of a number of emerging non-traditional security concerns. In this portion, we will discuss counterinsurgency, civil war, terrorism, humanitarian intervention, among other developing issues.

GLBL 531 - WORLD POLITICS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Description: This course has three parts: First, it will engage cutting edge research on the causes and dynamics of interstate conflict and civil war. Second, it will discuss theories and practices of international organizations such as the UN, IMF, and WID. Finally, with the background knowledge from the first parts, the course will discuss how China's rise may bring changes to both dimensions.

GLBL 532 - INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Description: This is a comprehensive course in how governance of the global economy affects business and investment decisions. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of the main international economic institutions that have been developed to oversee the global economy, and how these institutions affect the international business and investment climate. Lectures and class discussions will focus on real world examples of the impact of the international trade and financial institutions (the G-8, G-20, WTO, IMF, and World Bank) on global and individual country economic environments, with particular emphasis on non-OECD countries.
GLBL 533 - SUSTAINABILITY AND GLOBAL ISSUES
Short Title: SUSTAINABILITY & GLOBAL ISSUES
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Arts in Global Affairs degree.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course aims to familiarize the student with current Sustainability debates as well as with conceptual origins, history and principles. We will study important global and regional landmarks, conferences and agreements that have brought Sustainability to the forefront of the political, private and public spheres. Moreover, this class is expected to provide a systems approach that will help students develop a comprehensive understanding of how local to regional challenges need to be addressed under sustainable frameworks.

GLBL 542 - INTERNATIONAL MACROECONOMIC POLICY FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS
Short Title: INTL MACROECONOMIC POLICY
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: How does exchange rate policy fit into a country's macroeconomic environment? How do international capital markets constrain policy space? Students will model the linkages between exchange rates, interest rates, capital flows, and prices. The course will emphasize emerging economies.

GLBL 543 - ENERGY POLICY
Short Title: ENERGY POLICY
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students in the MAGA program. Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Energy is credited with many contradictory properties. It is a curse that enables dictatorship and war, undermines the work ethic, and taints our environment. It is also the world’s largest business and a chief ingredient of state power, stitching together disparate countries in webs of mutual dependence. Energy shapes our physical landscapes and personal habits, providing services that make us comfortable and secure, while producing waste that threatens this way of life. These are the areas where energy and politics intersect, the topics of concern to this course. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for GLBL 543 if student has credit for GLBL 541/POST 401/POST 501.

GLBL 551 - CYBERPOLITIK: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION
Short Title: CYBERPOLITIK
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: How are the evolving cases of cyber-attack and breach as well as the actions of government and corporations shaping how cyberspace is governed? What object lessons are there in security cases such as those involving WikiLeaks and the Snowden affair? This course examines the widely pervasive and enormously effective nature of cyber threats today, explaining why cyber-attacks happen, how they matter, and how they may be managed.

GLBL 552 - INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: DE-RISKING NATIONAL THREATS AND BUSINESS THREATS
Short Title: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course seeks to define the risks and risk-mitigation strategies employed by both nation-states and multinational businesses. We will examine how businesses control their risks by following compliance laws around the world. We will also examine what a superpower is within the context of the geopolitical challenges America is facing (fracturing of national institutions/will/consensus, our potential relative decline, shifting alliances, China’s rise, the European Union stagnation and diminution, and Russian aggression) as we look to answer the following question: who would even want to be a superpower.

GLBL 553 - INTERNATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN A MULTI-RISK, INTER-CONNECTED WORLD
Short Title: INTERNATIONAL CRISIS MGMT
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course seeks to define the risks and risk-mitigation strategies employed by both nation-states and multinational businesses. We will examine how businesses control their risks by following compliance laws around the world. We will also examine what a superpower is within the context of the geopolitical challenges America is facing (fracturing of national institutions/will/consensus, our potential relative decline, shifting alliances, China’s rise, the European Union stagnation and diminution, and Russian aggression) as we look to answer the following question: who would even want to be a superpower.

GLBL 554 - ENERGY POLICY
Short Title: ENERGY POLICY
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students in the MAGA program. Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Energy is credited with many contradictory properties. It is a curse that enables dictatorship and war, undermines the work ethic, and taints our environment. It is also the world’s largest business and a chief ingredient of state power, stitching together disparate countries in webs of mutual dependence. Energy shapes our physical landscapes and personal habits, providing services that make us comfortable and secure, while producing waste that threatens this way of life. These are the areas where energy and politics intersect, the topics of concern to this course. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for GLBL 543 if student has credit for GLBL 541/POST 401/POST 501.
GLBL 554 - UNDERSTANDING TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM
Short Title: COUNTERTERRORISM SEMINAR
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students in the MAGA program. Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course reviews the history of terrorism and counterterrorism and focuses on the experience of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Israel. The course will include topics such as the evolution of terrorism, intelligence collection and analysis, the use of technology, and policing.

GLBL 555 - SECURITY, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST
Short Title: MIDDLE EAST SECURITY & ECONOMY
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The Middle East and North Africa plays a key role in international patterns of energy, human rights, migration, development, and security and remains in a state of transition a decade after the Arab uprisings of 2011. This course offers a survey of critical political, social, and economic topics in the Middle East and North Africa region with a particular focus on political economy, international and regional security, and international development. Over the semester, students will gain an understanding of the intersecting drivers of change in the region and the ability to put them into historical and comparative context. The course also will equip students with the skills to analyze cross-cutting conceptual developments and to identify nuance and variation in their public policy applicability across the region.

GLBL 573 - NON-THESIS GRADUATE RESEARCH
Short Title: NON-THESIS GRADUATE RESEARCH
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 3-9
Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students in the MAGA program. Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Individual research for graduate students in the Master of Global Affairs.

GLBL 677 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Global Affairs
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Lecture/Laboratory, Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate or Visiting Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
• Course offerings/subject code: GLBL

Program Description and Code
• Global Affairs: GLBL

Graduate Degree Description and Code
• Master of Global Affairs degree: MGA

Graduate Degree Program Description and Code
• Degree Program in Global Affairs: GLBL

CIP Code and Description ¹
• GLBL Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 45.0901 - International Relations and Affairs

¹ Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/