General International Relations Learning Goals

General International Relations concentrators fashion a program that is unique, specific to his or her career needs and relevant to the demands of the 21st century. A student will learn to define the most pressing problems of world order, to determine how power and foreign policy role condition statecraft, to understand how the balance of power limits aggression and furthers foreign policy interests, and how the ideals and objectives of world politics involving the environment and energy, human rights and obligations, international regimes, and international trade and investment all come together in a comprehensive understanding of future world order.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will master the basic concepts of international relations, articulate the goals of foreign policy and to link means with ends in the context of world order that is legitimate and encompassing;
2. Delineate the major problems of statecraft and foreign policy making;
3. Articulate the concepts in international relations such as alliance, balance of power, and international regimes that are the vocabulary of world politics;
4. Understand the nature of aggression, the relationship of power to purpose, and the frameworks of law, organization, and conflict management that help sustain world order;
5. Relate to issues such as global warming, shale gas and oil, human rights, democratization, coalition formation, and treaties in a manner that makes sense in terms of priority and action;
6. Shape a dynamic understanding of the evolution of the international system and of how history provides insights into contemporary statecraft; and
7. Express the arguments and the concepts of statecraft that illuminate international relations, and that facilitate a clear and plausible statement regarding how world order is to be shaped and sustained.