



GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Graduate Handbook

2017-2018

~~~~ School of Public & International Affairs ~~~~



College of Architecture and Urban Studies

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This handbook is intended for the use of graduate students in Government and International Affairs (GIA). It provides information on curriculum, course descriptions and schedules, costs and financial assistance, Graduate School forms and regulations, and other matters important to the successful completion of graduate work in GIA. Read the Handbook carefully. If questions arise that are not addressed here, please check with the Chair of the GIA Program. For questions concerning Graduate School or University policies, refer to the Graduate Policies and Procedures and Course Catalog or home page of graduate studies at <http://graduateschool.vt.edu/>

# INTRODUCTION

## Government and International Affairs

School of Public and International Affairs

College of Architecture and Urban Studies

The analysis of government and international affairs during the 21st century clearly constitutes a complex and interdisciplinary set of challenges. To be effective, such study requires knowledge from all of the social sciences and humanities. This program in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) draws insights from these areas of learning into the multidimensional study of governance processes in all levels of society and international affairs. The faculty and students in the Government and International Affairs (GIA) program work jointly to cultivate their experience, knowledge, and skill with regard to the governance practices, political institutions, social dynamics, cultural values, workplace conditions, spatial formations, historical trends, and ethical conflicts that intersect in the workings of government, business, and not-for-profit organizations. Therefore, methodological pluralism is the foundation of GIA's scholarly pursuits. This program approaches the challenges of governance and international affairs comparatively, empirically, and historically at each level of activity and analysis to see how the processes of globalization are being shaped and what their implications may be. We also consider carefully the requirements for more democratic governance of the economy and society. The faculty's key educational objectives are to conduct research, perform service, and train graduate students—at both the masters and doctoral levels of study—in a manner that can engage the GIA program as well as the larger School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) at Virginia Tech in the public life of our nation and the world. Through this work, the GIA program contributes to the development of new knowledge, enhances global well-being, and prepares all SPIA graduates with the latest skills for conducting their research, service, and teaching.

The Government and International Affairs Program offers two graduate degrees: a masters degree, or the Masters in Public and International Affairs (MPIA), and the doctoral degree, or the Government & Globalization stream in the Planning, Governance & Globalization (PG&G) Ph.D. program in SPIA and three Graduate Certificates (Middle East Studies, Security & Global Inequality and Economic Risk). The MPIA and PGG Ph.D. degrees also have individual faculty collaborating with the GIA faculty from four other colleges: Agriculture and Life Sciences, Science, Natural Resources, and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. The goal of these two GIA graduate programs is to prepare SPIA graduates for a life-long, rich, and full engagement in public activity, continuing professional development, and effective service as academics, government officials, journalists or technical experts in the vitally important fields of government and international affairs. The overall unifying focus of the School of Public and International Affairs is politics, policy, planning, and practice. GIA students will work closely with faculty and students in the school's two sister programs—Public Administration and Public Policy as well as Urban Affairs and Planning—and those departments in the other collegiate units at Virginia Tech that can assist them with their education.

As part of their graduate education, each student will accumulate a stock of substantive knowledge, acquire the appropriate research skills, and achieve a sophisticated level of ethical awareness about the world's most important political processes, spatial dynamics, social institutions, and cultural practices at the local, national, and global levels of operation. The GIA program, then, sees itself meeting the following objectives for its students in the School of Public and International Affairs:

- I. Give effective in-depth training in the many disciplines needed to understand government and international affairs—ranging from cultural studies, economics, geography, and history to political science, sociology, technoscience, urbanism, and world systems—through course work and research projects that integrate the most up-to-date theoretical frameworks, methods of analysis, and discursive practices from both quantitative and qualitative schools of analysis.

- II. Cultivate a deep knowledge of the key concepts and basic facts about the political system of the world's major nation-states, including their constitutional and legal foundations, major political ideals and values, government institutions, forms of economy, structures of social influence and cultural power, and distinctive policy-making processes in order to understand their critical role in the world today during the post-Cold War era.
- III. Develop this comparative knowledge of the world's many diverse political systems as well as the dynamics of globalization in order to provide grounded empirical area-specific knowledge and theoretical understanding of the complexities behind international affairs, which are understood to be culturally, economically, politically, socially, and technologically challenging problematics in the private and public spheres of action.
- IV. Provide students with extensive critical awareness of classical, social, modern, ethical, and cultural thought to reveal the fundamental values and perennial issues contested in governance, and of the struggles by women, racial minorities, workers, religious groups, consumers, nationalist movements, and others to articulate alternative moral/ethical frameworks, which examine disparities caused by work, race, income, gender, and culture, for interpreting and evaluating political discourse in governance and international affairs.
- V. Provide students with useful knowledge of the major problems and the leading policy and legal issues confronting all contemporary political systems, but particularly for the U.S.A. in the new struggles of the 21st century over globalization.
- VI. Cultivate the ability to understand and appreciate many facets of human diversity, which will help students analyze and debate the full-range of competing perspectives on contemporary policy issues, to communicate their ideas clearly and effectively in their professional research, public debate, and personal development as they engage themselves as active citizens in community life—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.
- VII. Provide masters students with many diverse opportunities to develop their research and writing skills through course work and research projects that link the theory and practice of government and international affairs to actual problem-solving as they specialize their studies of global security, NGOs, the non-profit sector, health policy, environmental policy, labor policy, and information policy.
- VIII. Prepare doctoral students with a systematic sense of government and international affairs through specialized knowledge and analytic skills in at least three major subfields, and provide advanced training in governance research, scholarly writing, and professional skills that will prepare them either for further advanced research work or for their chosen professional careers in academe, government, not-for-profit organizations, consulting groups, corporate life, or the media.

# FACULTY

## NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

**ARIEL AHRAM**, 2012. Ph.D. Georgetown University (2008), political science. Associate Professor. State formation and state failure, global security, human security, politics of the Middle East and Muslim world, development, and multi-method research techniques.

Phone: 703-706-8111      E-mail: [ahram@vt.edu](mailto:ahram@vt.edu)      Office: 1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**PAUL CARVER**, 2007. Ph.D. University of Essex, (1984), government. SPIA Professor of Practice. Public policy, political ideology, congressional appropriation process, American government and history.

E-mail: [paulgc@vt.edu](mailto:paulgc@vt.edu)

**GISELLE DATZ**, 2007. Ph.D. Rutgers University (2007), international relations. Associate Professor. Economic development, global finance, Latin American comparative politics, qualitative research methods.

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**DAVID ORDEN**, 1984. Ph.D. University of Minnesota, (1984), economics. Professor and Director, Global Issues Initiative. International trade, agricultural policy, macroeconomic econometric modeling, economic development.

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**JOEL PETERS**, 2006. Ph.D. Oxford University (1987), Government and International Affairs, Program Chair. Arab-Israeli peace process, regional cooperation (Middle East/Mediterranean) and post conflict peace building.

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**GEORGETA POURCHOT**, 2003. Ph.D. Old Dominion University (2000), international relations. Adjunct Professor, OLMA/PSCI Director, National Capital Region. US foreign policy, security, post-communist societies, media, environment.

Phone: 703-706-8111      E-mail: [georgeta@vt.edu](mailto:georgeta@vt.edu)      Office: 1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**GERARD TOAL** (Gearóid Ó Tuathail) 1989. Ph.D. Syracuse University (1989), political geography. Professor. Critical geopolitics, nationality studies, post-conflict reconstruction, global security, discourse analysis, Washington power structures, US foreign policy, Bosnia, Caucasus, and Russia.

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## **BLACKSBURG FACULTY**

- ILJA LUCIAK**, 1987. Ph.D. The University of Iowa (1987), political science. Affiliated Professor, Political Science and Chair, Political Science. Democratic theory and gender politics, revolutionary movements, reproductive rights, and globalization.  
Phone: 540-231-6571      E-mail: iluciak@vt.edu      Office: 531 Major Williams Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- TIMOTHY W. LUKE**, 1981. Ph.D. Washington University-Saint Louis (1981), political science. University Distinguished Professor, Political Science and Government and International Affairs. Environmental politics, cultural studies, comparative politics, international political economy, history of political thought, contemporary political theory, comparative and international politics.  
Phone: 540-231-6633      E-mail: twluke@vt.edu      Office: 539 Major Williams Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- JOYCE ROTHSCHILD**, 1991. Ph.D. UC-Santa Barbara (1977), sociology. Professor. Workplace relations in modern society; gender and work organizations; worker participation in international perspective; economy, society and social change; workplace democracy; sociology of work and organizations, especially alternatives to bureaucracy; whistle blowing and organizational politics.  
Phone: 540-231-8974      E-mail: joycer@vt.edu      Office: 104 Architecture Annex, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- YANNIS STIVACHTIS**, 2006. Ph.D. University of Lancaster (1996), international relations. Affiliated Associate Professor, Political Science and International Studies. Expansion of international society, expansion of regional international societies, EU foreign, security and defense policy.  
Phone: 540-231- 5816      E-mail: ystivach@vt.edu      Office: 119 Major Williams Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- EDWARD WEISBAND**, 1990. Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University (1969), political science. Diggs Endowed Professor of Political Science. World political economy with an emphasis upon international normative standards, in particular, the role and effectiveness of international institutions in promoting and monitoring such standards during the present era of globalization.  
Phone: 540-231-5298      E-mail: weisband@vt.edu      Office: 501 Major Williams Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061

# STAFF

The office staff is essential to the success of GIA's educational efforts. As members of the staff, each are to be treated with the same, respect and courtesy extended to members of the faculty.

**Julie Hudson**

**Operations Manager MI + SPIA**

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Fax: 703-518-8009

E-mail: juliehudson@vt.edu

Office: 1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**Myriam Lechuga**

**Graduate Student Coordinator (NCR)**

Phone: 703-706-8111

Fax: 703-518-8009

E-mail: mlechuga@vt.edu

Office: 1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**Responsibilities:**

- Force Add/Drop of courses
- Graduate student files
- Distribution of graduate forms (internship, etc.)
- Manage graduate assistantship payroll
- File graduate programs-of-study
- Program information and scheduling

**Han Le**

**Fiscal Tech SPIA**

Phone: 703-706-8123

E-mail: han79@vt.edu

Office: 1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**Responsibilities:**

- Bookkeeping for all programs in SPIA

**Leslie Day**

**Business Manager SPIA**

Phone: 540-231-5176

Fax: 540-231-3367

E-mail: lday@vt.edu

Office: 301 Architecture Annex, Blacksburg, VA 24060

**Responsibilities:**

- Fiscal Planning/Management for SPIA

**Krystal Wright**

**SPIA and PG&G Administrative Assistant**

Phone: 540-231-2291

Fax: 540-231-3367

E-mail: krystal@vt.edu

Office: 110 Architecture Annex, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0130

**PG&G Responsibilities:**

- Force Add/Drop of courses
- Graduate student files
- Distribution of graduate forms (internship, etc.)
- Manage graduate assistantship payroll
- File graduate programs-of-study
- Program information and scheduling

# PROGRAM OF STUDY

## MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTERS' DEGREE

In developing your program of study, you must adhere to the following course requirements set by the Graduate School at Virginia Tech:

| Guidelines for Graduate Course Options                                                                                                                           |                                                  |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| General Courses                                                                                                                                                  | Paper & Project<br>(Final Exam is a Major Paper) | Thesis<br>(Final Exam is a Thesis) |
| <b>5000-level courses (minimum hours)</b><br>(Excludes 5904, 5994: You may only take a maximum of 6 hours in 5974--Independent Study and/or 5984--Special Study) | 33 credit hours                                  | 30 credit hours                    |
| GIA 5904--Project & Report                                                                                                                                       | 3 credit hours                                   | N/A                                |
| GIA 5964--Field Work/Practicum                                                                                                                                   | 3 credit hours                                   | N/A                                |
| GIA 5994--Thesis & Research                                                                                                                                      | N/A                                              | 6 credit hours                     |
| Total Minimum Required Hours                                                                                                                                     | 36 credit hours                                  | 36 credit hours                    |

To be eligible for graduation, all MPIA students must file a Program of Study no later than the end of the semester prior to the proposed final term. However, students and their advisors should begin drafting their Program of Study in their first semester. An example of a Program of Study is included in this Handbook or you may get download versions at <http://www.gia.vt.edu/>. The Program of Study must be signed by all of the appropriate faculty members, including especially your MPIA committee chair in GIA, before being submitted to the GIA coordinator.

Due to resource constraints, National Capital Region part-time students have a major paper or field work/practicum as their option, not a thesis. However, if you are a full time student you have the option of a major paper, field work/practicum or a thesis. Students can consult with the Director for substitutions in their plans of study.

## ONLINE COURSES

A number of GIA courses are offered in an online format throughout the year. Some of those courses form part of the OLMA degree (Online Master's in Political Science). **Students should only enroll in online classes taught by GIA faculty. Online courses taught by other faculty will not be accepted as part of your plan of study – unless you receive written permission prior to enrolling.** Courses will not be accepted retroactively. A list of online courses will be distributed prior to the start of each semester.



## Proposed Plan of Study - Masters of Public and International Affairs

Trac  
k:

Specialization: \_\_\_\_\_

|                |       |        |       |      |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| Last Name      | First | Middle | Date  | ID # |
| Street Address |       | City   | State | Zip  |

| Area                          | Dept.                                                                                         | Course # | Course Title                         | Sem. Crs. | Year/Term Planned |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Core Courses<br>(12 hrs.)     | GIA                                                                                           |          |                                      | 3         |                   |
|                               | GIA                                                                                           |          |                                      | 3         |                   |
|                               | GIA                                                                                           |          |                                      | 3         |                   |
|                               | GIA                                                                                           |          |                                      | 3         |                   |
| Modes of Enquiry<br>(12 hrs.) | GIA                                                                                           | 5115     | Research Methods 1 [REQUIRED COURSE] | 3         |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          | Elective Choice (6 hrs. *)           |           |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          | Thesis, Major Paper, Practicum*      |           |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          |                                      |           |                   |
|                               | * If choosing the Thesis option: choose 3 hours of Electives and 6 hours of Thesis (GIA 5994) |          |                                      |           |                   |
| Specializations<br>(12 hours) |                                                                                               |          | Foundation Choice                    |           |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          | Elective Choices (9 hrs. total)      |           |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          |                                      |           |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          |                                      |           |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          |                                      |           |                   |
|                               |                                                                                               |          |                                      |           |                   |

☞ (01=Spring, 06=1st Summer, 07=2nd summer, 09=Fall) e.g. 2010/09 = Fall Semester, 2010

|       |                                                |
|-------|------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | Expected Date of Preliminary Examination _____ |
| _____ |                                                |
| _____ | Expected Date of Final Examination _____       |
| _____ |                                                |

**Total Graduate Hours (5000+)**  
**Total Non-Graduate Hours (4000)**  
(Masters Paper option does not allow students to take over 6 cr. hrs. at 4000 level)  
**Grand Total Hours (min. 36 cr. hrs.)**

Comments Written on Back Page (press space bar to X box)

### Signatures

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Student                       | Member                        |
| _____                         | _____                         |
| <small>Type Name Here</small> | <small>Type Name Here</small> |
| <small>Date</small>           | <small>Date</small>           |
| GIA Chair                     | Member                        |
| _____                         | _____                         |
| <small>Type Name Here</small> | <small>Type Name Here</small> |
| <small>Date</small>           | <small>Date</small>           |
| Member                        | Dept. Head                    |
| _____                         | _____                         |
| <small>Type Name Here</small> | <small>Type Name Here</small> |
| <small>Date</small>           | <small>Date</small>           |

# MPIA CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED**

**36 credit hours total**

Some Core or Modes of Inquiry courses also may serve as electives. Students can choose how to use these courses but cannot list them twice in a program of study.

**CORE CLASSES\*:**

**12 credit hours (4 courses)**

|                   |                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| GIA/UAP 5004      | Power and Policy in the U.S.             |
| UAP/GEOG/GIA 5264 | Global Change & Local Impacts            |
| UAP/GIA 5164      | Collaborative Governance & Civil Society |
| GIA/UAP 5274      | Comparative Social Movements             |
| GIA/PSCI 5434     | Politics of Developing Areas             |
| GIA/PSCI 5444     | International Politics                   |
| GIA/UAP/PAPA 5034 | Global Political Economy                 |
| GIA/PSCI 5484     | Contemporary American Foreign Policy     |

**MODES OF INQUIRY: METHODS AND THEORY**

**12 credit hours (4 courses)**

|                                                                                                                                                                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>FOUNDATION: REQUIRED COURSE</b>                                                                                                                                          |                                       |
| GIA/PSCI 5115                                                                                                                                                               | Research Methods*                     |
| <b>ELECTIVES: (6 hours**) selected from below or you may choose from unused foundation course:</b>                                                                          |                                       |
| UAP 5224                                                                                                                                                                    | Quantitative Techniques               |
| GIA/PSCI 5354                                                                                                                                                               | Public Policy Analysis                |
| GIA/PSCI 5214                                                                                                                                                               | Contemporary Political Theory         |
| GIA/PSCI 5224                                                                                                                                                               | Alternative Political Theory          |
| GIA/UAP/PAPA 5464                                                                                                                                                           | Qualitative Methods in Global Studies |
| GIA/PSCI 5474                                                                                                                                                               | Global Governance                     |
| GIA/UAP/PSCI 5504                                                                                                                                                           | Discourse Analysis                    |
| <b>Or other committee approved methods/theory course</b>                                                                                                                    |                                       |
| <b>DEFENSE: Major Paper, Thesis or Practicum: (3 hours***) selected from:</b>                                                                                               |                                       |
| GIA 5904                                                                                                                                                                    | Major Paper (3 cr.)                   |
| GIA 5964                                                                                                                                                                    | Field Work/Practicum (3 cr.)          |
| GIA 5994                                                                                                                                                                    | Thesis (6 cr.)                        |
| *GIA/PSCI 5115 should not be taken as an online course. This course meets Graduate School Ethics Requirement.                                                               |                                       |
| **If choosing the Thesis option: choose 3 hours of Electives and 6 hours of Thesis.                                                                                         |                                       |
| <b>Please Note:</b> As per University policy, students selecting the Masters Paper option may not take over 6 credit hours at the 4000 level in fulfillment of this degree. |                                       |

**Note:** Course delivery includes face-to-face seminars, video conferencing or online modes, and the mix will vary from semester to semester. Some classes may include limited student travel and/or intensive time-clustered sessions.

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION (ELECTIVES)**

12 credit hours (4 courses)

**Governance & Global Security**

|                                                                                                            |                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>FOUNDATION:</b> at least 3 hours (1 course) selected :                                                  |                                       |
| GIA/UAP/PSCI 5254                                                                                          | Global Conflicts                      |
| GIA 5624                                                                                                   | Conflict Resolution & Peace Building  |
| GIA 5514 (PSCI 5514)                                                                                       | Global Security                       |
| <b>ELECTIVES:</b> 9 hours (3 courses) selected from below <b>including unused foundation course above:</b> |                                       |
| GIA/UAP 5274                                                                                               | Comparative Social Movements          |
| GIA/PSCI/UAP 5284                                                                                          | Transnational Migration               |
| GIA/PSCI 5354                                                                                              | Public Policy Analysis                |
| GIA 5404/GEOG 5424                                                                                         | Topics in Political Geography         |
| GIA 5414/PSCI 5414                                                                                         | Industrial Democracies                |
| GIA/PSCI 5424                                                                                              | Communist & Post-Communist Systems    |
| GIA/PSCI 5434                                                                                              | Politics of Developing Areas          |
| GIA/PSCI 5484                                                                                              | Contemporary American Foreign Policy  |
| GIA/PSCI 5534                                                                                              | Regionalism and Political Development |
| GIA/PSCI 5584                                                                                              | Environmental Politics and Policy     |
| GIA 5614                                                                                                   | Israeli Palestinian Conflict          |
| GIA/UAP 5524                                                                                               | International Development             |
| GIA 6114                                                                                                   | Critical Geopolitics                  |
| GIA/PSCI 6124                                                                                              | Topics in Security Studies            |
| GIA/PSCI 6134                                                                                              | Topics in Conflict Analysis           |
| GIA/PSCI 6144                                                                                              | Topics in Global Governance           |
| STS 6234                                                                                                   | Advanced Topics                       |
| GIA 5314                                                                                                   | Middle East Geopolitics               |
| GIA 5664                                                                                                   | Energy and Environmental Security     |
| GIA 5634                                                                                                   | Global Social Policy                  |

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

## Graduate Certificate in Middle East Politics and Society

The certificate focuses on the politics, society, and history of the peoples of North Africa, Southwestern Asia, Asia Minor, and the Arabian Peninsula, related borderlands and island groups, and including emigrant and immigrant groups. It addresses the causes and consequences of conflict in the region, the impact of external interventions, including colonialism, and the drivers of political and social change.

Total Number of Credit Hours: **9 credit hours.** (Transfer credits are not permitted)

Students will **choose three courses:**

GIA 5314 Middle East Geopolitics (3 credits)

GIA/PSCI 5614 (HIST 5544) Understanding the Israeli Palestinian Conflict (3 credits)

ASPT 5134 Islamic Political Thought (3 credits)

ASPT/HIST/RLCL 6124 (PSCI 6234) Pre-Modern Christian and Islamic Political Theory (3 credits)

Another 5000-level or 6000-level course subject to approval by the certificate candidate's advisor.

## Graduate Certificate in Economic Risk and Global Inequality

The Certificate features courses that cover: global social policy, inequality international development, global political economy, and transnational social movements. This certificate broadens addresses the issue of human security by addressing issues of global social policy, financial representation in the global economy.

Total Number of Credit Hours: **12 credit hours.** (Transfer credits are not permitted)

**Four courses** must be selected **from the courses listed below:**

GIA/PAPA 5034 Global Political Economy (formerly, Democratic Governance of the Economy) (3 credits)

GIA/UAP 5274 Comparative Social Movements (3 credits)

GIA 5434 Politics of Developing Areas (3 credits)

GIA/UAP 5524 International Development (3 credits)

GIA 5654 Global Social Policy (3 credits)

GIA 5474 Global Governance (3 credits)

## Graduate Certificate in Security Studies

This Certificate covers the area of global security, broadly defined and the myriad of security challenges and threats facing the United States on the global stage.

Total Number of Credit Hours: **12 credit hours.** (Transfer credits are not permitted)

**Required courses: (6 credit hours)**

PSCI 5444 - International Politics

PSCI 5484 - American Foreign Policy

**Electives (6 credits hours)**

PSCI 5324 - Executive Branch

PSCI 5464 - Critical Security Studies

PSCI 5474 - Global Governance

PSCI 5514 - Global Security

PSCI 5524 - U.S. Foreign Policy after 9/11

PSCI 5534 - Regionalism and Political Development

# GRADUATE COURSES

\* **Note:** All course contents are revised periodically. For the latest version of a course of interest, please contact individual course instructors or one of GIA's administrative assistants

## **GIA 5004 - Power and Policy in the U.S.**

Social science theory and research on the distribution of power in the US, especially as it shapes important national policy outcomes. Institutional and class bases of power will be examined, including membership on corporate boards and in policy-shaping think tanks. Implications for democracy in society will be drawn. Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

## **GIA 5034 (UAP 5034) (PAPA 5034) – Global Political Economy**

The course delves into the contemporary history of capitalism since the crash of 1929 to present, highlighting episodes of financial instability, their impact on global governance, and domestic political consequences. Case studies explored include the Asian crisis of 1997, the global credit crisis of 2007-08, Brexit and other current challenges to the endurance of the European Union.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

## **GIA 5104 (UAP 5104) - Urban and Regional Development Theory**

An examination and critique of theories relating to socio-economic development and change at three major scales (international, national/regional, and intra-urban) and of theories relating to the linkages between the dominant processes operating at these major scales. Particular emphasis is given to the role of the state in urban and regional development.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

## **GIA 5115 - Research Methods I**

The purposes, problems, and strategies of political science research, emphasizing concept and hypothesis formulation, operationalization, research design, data collection techniques, data processing, and multivariate data analysis.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

## **GIA 5116 - Research Methods I**

The purposes, problems, and strategies of political science research, emphasizing concept and hypothesis formulation, operationalization, research design, data collection techniques, data processing, and multivariate data analysis.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

## **GIA 5164 (UAP 5164) (PSCI 5164) - Collaborative Governance**

Theoretical foundations of collaborative policy and governance approaches are examined. Strategies and methods for forming and sustaining collaborative coalitions are discussed. Case studies are used to illustrate the effectiveness of collaborative approaches in different policy domains.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

## **GIA 5214 (PSCI 5214) - Contemporary Political Theory**

Selected topics in contemporary political theory, including different models of social science inquiry and the use of basic concepts like power, ideology, rationality, and the state in the study of politics.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

## **GIA 5224 (PSCI 5224) – Alternative Perspectives in Political Theory**

Analysis of selected perspectives on politics including rational choice theory, critical theory, neo-Marxism, neo-conservatism, post-industrialism, and post-structuralism.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5254 (UAP 5254) (PSCI 5254) - Global Conflicts**

Examines theoretical issues in the study of global conflicts. Reviews theories of nationalism, states and territory as factors. Examines dynamics of contemporary conflicts from different regions of globe as case studies illustrating theoretical issues. Reviews role of leaders in conflict processes. Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5274 (UAP 5274) - Comparative Social Movements**

This course will investigate the forms of public protest that occur all over the world, with special attention to activism in poor nations and to the recent emergence of transnational movements. Also examines why and when governments repress social movements. Explores movements that are grounded in collective identities based in class, race/ethnicity, gender, religion, and culture. Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5284 (UAP 5284) (PSCI 5284) - Transnational Migration**

Overview of the dynamics, policies, governance, and citizenship regimes associated with the phenomenon of transnational migration. The course will emphasize local, national, and supranational examples and comparisons to explore these themes. Graduate standing

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5314 - Middle East Geopolitics**

Key issues in international relations in the Middle East, including impact of political geography, emergence of regional systems, relationship between identity and citizenship, domestic and transnational political contestation, and U.S. regional policy. Application of theories of social change to examine linkage between citizenship, religion, and political authority. Focus on Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and Persian Gulf region.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5354 (PSCI 5354) - Public Policy Analysis**

Approaches to policy analysis and program evaluation including the techniques appropriate to various stages of the policy process.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5364 (STS 5364) (PSCI 5364) - Public Ecology**

Examines policy developments and practices that move beyond the conceptual divisions and policy operations begun during the 1970's, which largely divided the more natural science- based environmental sciences from social science-based environmental based studies. Mixes the insights of life science, physical science, social science, applied humanities, and public policy into a cohesive conceptual and operational approach to environmental protection in the 21st century. Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5374 (PSCI 5374) (PAPA 5374) - Electronic Governance**

Examines applications of information technology in government from the point of view of governments and citizens. Survey of the relationship between e-government and e-democracy and of government management techniques. Explores problematic issues related to e-government, such as privacy, the digital divide, and information security.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5384 - Global Economic Diplomacy**

Examines dynamics of international trade, institutional structure, and treaty-based rules under which trade takes place. Economic theory of trade, multilateral governance structure of the World Trade Organization; political economy of trade negotiations; and the legal system of multilateral dispute settlement.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5404 - Topics in Political Geography**

Territorial basis of political systems, political processes, and political behavior from local to global scales; evolution of contemporary political geographic patterns, territorial divisions, and process of partitioning the earth.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5414 (PSCI 5414) - Industrial Democracies**

Political pattern and processes of development in selected democracies in Europe, North America, and Asia emphasizing the political problems of contemporary industrial societies and their likely evolution in a "post-industrial" era.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5424 (PSCI 5424) - Communist & Post-Communist Systems**

Political processes and developmental trends in communist and post-communist systems in Russia and other CIS states, Eastern Europe, the People's Republic of China, and the Third World. Current economic, political, and social issues and their likely development.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5434 (PSCI 5434) - Politics of Developing Areas**

Political structures, economic growth, and cultural frameworks of developing nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America emphasizing the political and economic challenges of industrial development in a global economy.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5444 (PSCI 5444) - International Politics**

Theories of international organizations and relations among nations focusing on research in foreign policy formulation and implementation, international integration, conflict resolution, and global political economy.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5454 (SPIA 5454) (PSCI 5454) - Adv Info Tech Policy**

In-depth study and critical evaluation of selected complex issues related to information technology, society, governance, and public policy. Focused attention is given to theoretical and methodological foundations of the area of inquiry and to specific domains of policymaking and implementation. Topics will be selected from IT-related issues in such areas of concern as: cities, local communities, nonprofit organizations, governments, and global networks. May be repeated on a different topic. Must meet prerequisite or have permission of instructor.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5464 (UAP 5464) (PAPA 5464) - Qualitative Research Methods in Global Studies**

Examines the philosophies and procedures guiding various qualitative methods used in the social science fields, such as global studies, planning and policy. Exploration of alternative understandings of normal science and consideration of the merits of adopting qualitative research approaches to disciplined analysis, including ethical issues in research. Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5474 (PSCI 5474) - Global Governance**

Examination of the norms, institutions and practices developed by the international community to address systemic global governance problems: genocide, failed states, transnational corruption, displaced persons, AIDS, poverty. Role of United States in world community examined. Power of international organizations versus states. Capacity problems of both. Future of United Nations and global governance considered. Graduate Standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5484 (PSCI 5484) (HIST 5484) - Contemporary American Foreign Policy**

Covers U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War, the stalemate with the Soviet Union, armament and arms control, containment and deterrence, detente and Reaganism, and the end of the Cold War. Briefly covers events from 1989 to the present. Designed for students with an interest in foreign policy and global affairs. Prerequisite or instructor's permission.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5504 (UAP 5504) (PSCI 5504) - Discourse Analysis**

Examines the key theoretical sources and major practical applications of discourse analysis as a contemporary social science methodology. Origins, major variants, and critical uses of discourse analysis in cultural studies, semiotic methods, policy analysis, and organizational communication techniques also are considered. Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5514 (PSCI 5514) - Global Security**

Security examined as an essentially contested concept. Traditional national security and emergent global security discourses and agendas explained. Security institutions and organizations analyzed. Questions of power, identity and representation examined as factors delimiting security conceptions, practices and agendas. Graduate Standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5524 (UAP 5524) - International Development**

Social and cultural factors in the development of societies, including the role of women in development. Contemporary developing countries, and historical material from developed countries; policy issues facing governments of developing countries and those interested in assisting their development.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**PSCI 5524 - U.S. Foreign Policy After September 11 (GIA cross listing pending)**

Course offers a historical and analytical evaluation of U.S. foreign policy after this epochal change especially with regard to the war on terror, geopolitics in the Middle East, and relations with new global powers after the end of the Cold War.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture/Online

**GIA 5534 (PSCI 5534) - Regionalism and Political Development**

Provides a systematic review of regional organizations, the theories and factors that explain their recent emergence and an analytical framework for studying regional policy objectives such as peace and security, economic growth, environmental protection and the pursuit of human rights. Regional variations between Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East are examined.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5554 (SPIA 5554) (PSCI 5554) – Culture, Politics and Society in Networks**

Historical origins, institutional foundations, and theoretical interpretations of cultural, political, and social interaction through computer mediated communication are examined. Particular attention is given to new types of discourse, sources of power, and structures of society at all geographical levels in global computer and communications networks.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA (PSCI) (WS) 5564 - Women and Globalization**

Feminist theoretical paradigms that analyze impacts of globalization on women and girls. Impacts of globalization on households and families. Relationship between globalizing processes and gender inequalities. Addresses feminist controversies and women's transnational resistance.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5574 (UAP 5574) (PSCI 5574) - Arts, Culture, and Society**

Considers the role of the arts in society, including architecture, music companies, or theater productions to heritage sites, science museums, and art galleries. Effective arts policy in revitalizing urban economies also examined.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5584 (UAP 5584) (STS 5584) (PSCI 5584) - Environmental Politics and Policy**

Course provides a broad introduction to the key ideas, actors and institutions related to environmental politics and policy in the United States, with some coverage of global issues. It is intended to provide students with basic interdisciplinary knowledge and an intellectual framework for understanding and thinking critically about environmental politics and policy.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5614 (PSCI 5614) (HIST 5544) - Israeli Palestinian Conflict**

Dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Critical issues that underlie the conflict and divide Israel and the Palestinians. Diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the conflict. Pre: Graduate Standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture



**GIA 5624 (PSCI 5624) - Conflict Resolution & Peace Building**

Comprehensive guide to contemporary conflict resolution. Strategies and approaches for mitigating and resolving conflict. Process of conflict transformation and reconciliation. Pre: Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5634 - Global Social Policy**

History of national and global welfare regimes since WWII. Theories of comparative welfare regimes and the emergence of global welfare regimes. Application of theories of social rights and human rights to contemporary issues in social policy at a global level and intersections with international development policy.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5654 (UAP 5654) - Environmental Risk Analysis**

This course will provide an overview of risk analysis as it pertains to environmental policy, including distinguishing among various concepts of risk, methods employed in risk analysis, public policies regarding risk analysis, the risk communication, proposed alternative approaches to risk assessment, and the political controversies surrounding risk analysis in the broad field of environmental regulation.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5664 - Energy and Environmental Security**

Effect of energy and natural resources on conflict, security, and risk. Theories of scarcity and human ecology pertaining to causes of wars and insecurity. Identification drivers of risk, resilience, and sustainability through case studies and statistical data related to different natural resources.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5904 - Project and Report**

The major paper is one option (together with the Practicum and Thesis) which GIA candidates may elect to complete their degree requirements. It provides the candidate with an opportunity to demonstrate: (1) a required degree of comprehension of the concepts, principles and theories relevant to their fields and (2) the ability to apply this understanding in a professional manner to a specific policy, planning or methodological issue by means of a sustained analytic argument. The exact character of the concerns to be examined in a major paper will be approved by a student's committee and may take the form of case studies, literature reviews, or sustained examination of policy or planning processes or outcomes.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5964 - Field Work/Practicum**

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5974 - Independent Study**

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5984 - Special Study**

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 5994 - Research and Thesis**

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6114 - Critical Geopolitics**

Critical analysis of geopolitics as spatial discourse about world politics. Examines major concepts in critical geopolitics. Critically reads colonial, fascist, Cold War and post-Cold War geopolitical discourses. Discusses geopolitical knowledge in popular culture. Reviews latest research in the field of critical geopolitics. Graduate standing.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6124 (PSCI 6124) - Topics in Security Studies**

Surveys the interface of globalization and security and the changing paradigm of security within global society. Reviews the impact of globalization on traditional understandings of state security, and provides an advanced understanding of the emerging challenges and threats to human and state security. May be repeated with a different topic content for a maximum of 12 credits.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6134 (PSCI 6134) - Topics in Conflict Analysis**

Provides a comprehensive guide to the understanding of contemporary global conflicts and conflict resolution. Reviews the field of conflict analysis, demonstrates the various approaches to conflict resolution and explores the dynamics of conflict settlement. May be repeated with a different topic content for a maximum of 12 credits.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6144 (PSCI 6144) - Topics in Global Governance**

Provides a comprehensive guide to understanding of contemporary power pressures and responses to global economic and financial change along with its political and social repercussions. Reviews the fields of international political economy, demonstrates the various approaches to adherence and resistance to globalization, and explores the dynamics of the relationship between states and markets. May be repeated with a different topic content for a maximum of 12 credits. Graduate standing required.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6204 (PSCI 6204) (ASPT 6014) - Theories of Globalization**

Examination of past and present eras of globalization through various theoretical perspectives. Addresses colonialism and emergence of western models for development of poor countries. Controversies about impacts of current globalization on the nation-state, cultures, ecosystems, and racial/ethnic/gender inequalities. Explores present trends, such as globalization of agriculture and food systems, industrial production, migration, human rights, and anti-globalization resistance. Pre-requisite may be substituted for any equivalent 5000 level international course.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6214 (PSCI 6214) – Democracy Beyond the Ballot**

Forms of ultra or enhanced democracy outside of state institutions, particularly those developing in third sector organizations, theories of democracy and research on functioning deliberative democracies at the grassroots level, in societal or international institutions. Graduate standing required.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6224 (PSCI 6224) – Competing Conceptions of the Third Sector**

Examines competing theories and conceptions of the third sector in relation to the for-profit firm and in relation to the state. International perspectives on voluntary grassroots action and its challenges, along with its potential for social transformation. Integration of theoretical and research literatures in the field.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**GIA 6984 - Special Study**

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

**Credit Hours:** 1 to 19

**GIA 7994 - Research and Dissertation**

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3      **Level(s):** Graduate      **Instruction Type:** Lecture

# STUDENT ADVISING

The faculty members in GIA take their teaching and advising responsibilities seriously. Any faculty member will be available for either academic or career advising upon request. Simply be certain to make appointments. In developing your program of study, you must adhere to the following requirements:

## ADVISING REQUIREMENTS

All full-time graduate students in GIA must:

- Have a major paper, field work/practicum or thesis advisor determined in the first semester.
- Have an advisory committee appointed by the first semester of their second year.
- File a program of study by the end of the fall semester of the second year.
- Complete prelims by the end of the third year (Blacksburg campus and doctoral students).
- File an application for degree (available online) in the last semester of the second year by March 1.

## ASSIGNMENT OF ADVISORS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Upon entrance into the program, all first year students are assigned an interim advisor by the Director. Assignments are made based on students' academic interests as stated in their application and faculty advising loads. Students should take the opportunity to introduce themselves to their advisor and meet with them sometime early in the semester to begin preliminary planning for their program of study.

If a student eventually wishes to change advisors, this may be done simply by:

- Obtaining approval from the new advisor,
- Notifying the old advisor, and
- Notifying the program director of the change.

During spring semester of the first year, the student should work with his/her advisor to establish a capstone project advisory committee. Committee membership varies depending upon the form of capstone project a student selects. The Director must approve final membership.

The role of the advisory committee is to:

- Approve the student's program of study;
- Serve as the student's thesis, major paper, or practicum committee; and,
- Provide final approval on the student's thesis, major paper, or practicum.

Before the Program of Study is signed by the advisory committee, changes in the composition of the committee can be done following the procedure for changing advisors above. After the Program of Study is signed, committee changes are made with the Graduate School "Change of Committee" form requiring signatures of both old and new members and the Director. This form may be obtained from the GIA secretary.

**Note: Beginning in Fall 2014, an ethics statement has been added to the Plan of Study.**

# FINANCES AND FINANCIAL AID

## UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS (GAs)

GAs are awarded on the recommendation of the Program for 10, 15, or 20 hours.

Those holding a Graduate Assistantship are paid on a bi-weekly basis. Out-of-state students on at least 10-hour assistantships pay tuition at the in-state rate (see page 22). University graduate assistantships are awarded annually. If an assistantship is granted on a semester basis at the beginning of the fall or spring semesters, continuation is dependent upon the availability of funds.

Students must enroll for at least twelve hours of graduate credit each semester to be eligible for financial assistance and must make acceptable progress toward the degree to have assistance renewed. Students may apply for more than four semesters of financial assistance. However, there are a limited number of awards available, and students cannot depend on receiving support for more than two academic years.

## GRADUATE INSTRUCTIONAL FEE SCHOLARSHIPS (GIFS)

All GA students receive GIFS which cover their in-state tuition and Academic Fee\* in proportion to their GA support: 20-hour GAs receive full tuition GIFS, 15-hour GAs receive three-quarter tuition GIFS, and 10-hour GAs receive one-half tuition GIFS. Students on graduate assistantships or graduate project assistantships are required to work the number of hours per week specified in the assistantship (10, 15, or 20). Assignments are based, when possible, on matching student interests and faculty needs. This is not always possible, however, and students may not be given their first choice of assignment. Faculty evaluate students' assistantship work at the end of each semester, and continuance of the assistantship is contingent upon both academic and assistantship performance.

Decisions concerning financial aid are made solely on the basis of merit, that is, academic performance, recommendations, GRE scores and any exceptional characteristics, e.g., prior professional work experience. While GIA would like to provide funding for all students admitted to the graduate programs, available resources do not permit it. Students eligible for student loans should contact the University's financial aid office: Scholarships and Financial Aid, 200 Student Services Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Phone: 540-231-5179, E-mail: [finaid@vt.edu](mailto:finaid@vt.edu) or [www.finaid.vt.edu](http://www.finaid.vt.edu)

Students interested in exploring other sources of funding are encouraged to obtain the publication, *Graduate Student Financial Support* from: Council of Graduate Schools, One DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 430, Washington, D.C. 20036-1173, Phone: (202) 223-3791 or <http://www.cgsnet.org/>

\*Comprehensive & Other Fees are paid by the graduate student.

## GRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDS

When funds are available, GIA has a program to support students' thesis research when it involves fieldwork or it has substantial data collection costs. Funds are allocated on a competitive grant basis. Students must submit a proposal for funds by March of their first year. Those interested in applying for this support should discuss it with their advisor prior to submission of the proposal. Maximum award is \$500.

## TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees for graduate school are revised each year by the Board of Visitors to adjust for inflation and changes in the costs of education. Different tuition rates are levied for in state and out-of-state residents. To qualify for in-state tuition, a student must be able to show proof of Virginia residency or be appointed to a graduate assistantship which earns more than \$4,000 for the year. Out-of-state graduate students who are on a graduate assistantship of 10 hours or more qualify for the in-state rate. Tuition scholarships for all or portions of a semester's tuition are awarded by the department on an annual basis.

| National Capital Region Campus<br>2017-2018 Tuition Rates<br>per Semester |                            |                                          |                                      |                                 |                                                                   |                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Semester Credit                                                           | Tuition--Virginia Resident | Technology, Library ,<br>NVC Fee (Total) | Virginia Resident Total Per Semester | Tuition - Non-Virginia Resident | Technology, Library, NVC, Non-Resident Facility/Equip Fee (Total) | Non-Resident Total Per Semester |
| 1Cr.                                                                      | 795.75                     | 75.50                                    | <b>\$871.25</b>                      | 1,550.50                        | 226.50                                                            | <b>\$1,777.00</b>               |
| 6 Cr.                                                                     | 4,774.50                   | 75.50                                    | <b>\$4,850.00</b>                    | 9,303.00                        | 226.50                                                            | <b>\$9,529.50</b>               |
| 9 or more                                                                 | 7,159.50                   | 151.00                                   | <b>\$7,310.50</b>                    | 13,953.00                       | 453.00                                                            | <b>\$14,406.00</b>              |

## TUITION DEFERMENT PLANS

Virginia Tech offers students a budget tuition plan, which allows tuition and fees to be paid over a four-month period for one semester or an eight-month period for the academic year. Information concerning this plan can be viewed on the Bursar's website ([www.bursar.vt.edu](http://www.bursar.vt.edu)). The application form can be downloaded from this website or you can request information and an application by calling (540) 231-6277.

# SUPPORT SERVICES

## REGISTRATION

Graduate students in GIA can register for classes online using the Hokie SPA drop/add system.

Preregistration is done online in the fall (for spring semester) and in the spring (for the summer and following fall semesters). Students should meet with their advisors prior to or during the pre-registration week to discuss course registration.

## JOB PLACEMENT

The Program assists students in job placement:

- Notifies students of job announcements as it receives them.
- Works with alumni to identify job possibilities for students.

Students, of course, are ultimately responsible for their career choices, but individual faculty and the program assist as much as possible in securing job opportunities for our students.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

Students in Government and International Affairs participate in an active organization, the Graduate Student Association (GSA), which maintains links with professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels and is the liaison between the students and the faculty on departmental issues. The GSA student representatives represent the program for the following:

Faculty meetings  
Alumni Committee

GIA curriculum committee  
University and college student committees

GIA visiting speakers committee

The GSA also sponsors a speaker series for students. Professionals from the local area are invited to present their perspectives on issues germane to the planning and policy fields. The GSA also organizes social activities for graduate students, including parties, athletic teams, and various outdoor events.

There are a number of graduate student organizations on campus to help students successfully complete their programs-of-study and integrate them into campus life. The Graduate Student Assembly is the legislative body representing the interests of graduate students on campus. Election to that body is through your college. A list of student organizations is available from the Student Affairs Office or at <http://www.dsa.vt.edu/>.

COMPUTER FACILITIES: See Myriam Lechuga for details.

## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

GIA sponsors a number of social functions during the year. Attendance is, of course, discretionary. They do however; provide a chance to get acquainted with other students, faculty, staff, and spouses in an informal setting.

## STUDENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

The National Capital Region Graduate Student Services Office (GSSO), located at the Northern Virginia Center, Falls Church, is a satellite office of the Graduate School on the main campus in Blacksburg and handles academic and administrative matters. For further information, contact the GSSO at:

Virginia Tech, Northern Virginia Center  
7054 Haycock Road  
Graduate Student Services Office  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
Phone: (703) 538-8327 Fax: (703) 538-8320  
**Email:** [gssoncr@vt.edu](mailto:gssoncr@vt.edu)

# THESIS AND MAJOR PAPER POLICIES

All students must successfully write and defend a thesis, major paper or practicum. The document must be completed and certified as “defensible” by members of the students committee before the final exam can be scheduled. The student committee shall consist of:

- Thesis: Three faculty members with two members— including chairperson—from GIA
- Major Paper: Three faculty members with Chair from GIA: the Chair must also sign the Graduate School examination form.
- Field work/practicum: Three faculty members with Chair from GIA: the Chair must also sign the Graduate School examination form.

*Completed thesis must be submitted electronically to the Graduate School and conform to its guidelines. Completing a major paper during the summer is not an option at the NCR.*

While a specific schedule and details, relating to completion of degree requirements will be established by a student’s committee chair, there are certain general expectations, which follow.

## THE THESIS

Expectations regarding the character and quality of the research carried out in order to complete the thesis are outlined below. Full time students at the NCR may do a thesis as an option but are not required to do so. Students selecting this option should enroll in GIA 5994-Research & Thesis. The thesis presents the results of a well-defined and original research effort that involves either:

- The analysis of primary or secondary data sources;
- The analysis of primary or secondary document sources;
- The analysis of primary or secondary ethnographic sources; or
- The use of another academically legitimate analytical technique with approval and guidance of your thesis advisor and your committee.

The student rather than the faculty is responsible for defining the research problem and developing the research design for the study. A proposal for the thesis, signed by all committee members and the Program Chair, must be on file before a student may enroll for thesis credit. This proposal should include:

- An introduction, including a rationale or justification for the research;
- A discussion of the relevant literature on the topic;
- A specific statement of the hypotheses to be tested;
- A detailed outline of the data and methodology to be used; and
- A statement of expected findings.

The process for completing and obtaining approval of a thesis is:

- Select a general thesis topic or problem.
- Choose a faculty member to chair your thesis committee. In most cases, this will be your advisor and/or the faculty member with whom you have been working most closely while a student.
- In consultation with your advisor, develop a specific research outline.
- Write a formal research proposal. The proposal must clearly define the problem, state the rationale for exploration of the problem, specify the methodology and outline the organization of the study.
- With the advice of your chair, select a thesis examination committee.
- Present your proposal to your committee for approval.



- File your approved proposal with the Program Chair. A signed copy of the cover page of your proposal must be in your file before you can register for thesis credits.
- Research and write the thesis.
- After all members of your committee have reviewed the document and agreed that it is in “defensible” form, schedule your oral defense and final examination through the Graduate School.
- After all committee members have certified that you have passed your defense/final examination you have two weeks to make minor editorial changes and file copies of your completed thesis, signed by all committee members, with the Graduate School and the Program Chair.

We recommend you allow one full semester to complete steps 1-6 plus at least one semester to complete steps 7-9. Completion of the thesis, from beginning to end, generally takes one year, so you should begin the process one full year before you expect to graduate. The following schedule is highly recommended:

- First draft due September 15 for fall completion or February 1 for spring completion;
- Final draft due November 1 or March 15; and
- Oral defense no later than the week before Thanksgiving or the first week of April.

## THE MAJOR PAPER

Students selecting this option should sign up for GIA 5904 - Project & Report. The major paper can be considered as a “scaled-down thesis.” It does not necessarily involve formal analysis of primary sources. Instead, the major paper may consist of a case study or a comprehensive review of the theoretical literature related to a specific policy, planning, methodological issue or technique. The exact nature of the activities reported in a major paper will be approved by a student’s committee, and should be reflected in a written proposal signed by committee members and the Program Chair. Students receive three semester credits for completing and successfully defending a major paper. The defense is part of the student’s final oral examination. The schedule to follow for completing this option is:

- First draft due October 1 or February 15;
- Final draft due November 1 or March 15; and
- Oral examination no later than the week before Thanksgiving or by mid-April.

*Students in the NCR should consult the document 'Major Paper Rules' as they contemplate this final project.*

# CHANGING YOUR DEGREE

Some students decide they would prefer to change degree programs between Urban and Regional Planning and Public and International Affairs. This can be accomplished without difficulty or loss of time if done during the first year of study. To change programs:

- Discuss with your advisor or, if appropriate, the Program Chair;
- Obtain a change of major form from the secretary and obtain necessary signatures;
- Return form to secretary; and
- Get assigned to a new advisor, if necessary.

# GRADUATION PROCEDURES

## SCHEDULE FINAL EXAM/FINAL DEFENSE

All graduate students must schedule a final exam or final defense. Requests to schedule examinations must include the time, date, building and room number, title of dissertation or thesis, and the names and signatures of the Examining Committee. ***These requests are due in the Graduate School at least two weeks before the examination date requested.*** Notification of the approval of the examination scheduling and the examination form/card will be sent electronically to the student and all members of the Examining Committee. To request, log on electronically at <https://ess.graduateschool.vt.edu/pages/login.php>  
***The examination should not be conducted if the Advisor has not approved/received notification that the examination has been scheduled.***

## GRADUATION FEES

Thesis fees are charged through Hokie SPA.

## APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

Complete your application for degree in Hokie SPA by March 1 for Spring or October 1 for Fall commencement. If you do not apply for your degree on time, your name will not appear in the commencement bulletin and there may be a delay in receiving your diploma.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING DIPLOMA

This form must be submitted, even for those who plan to attend Commencement. The diploma will be mailed 3-4 months after completion (except for Spring graduates). The diploma will be held at the Programs and Clearances office until this form is received.

## SUBMISSION OF FINAL ELECTRONIC THESIS/DISSERTATION (ETD)

Students have two weeks after the date of the exam to submit the electronic copy of the thesis to the Graduate School office. The Graduate School does not require students to submit Major Papers to the ETD process. If additional time is needed, the advisor will need to submit a request in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School indicating the reason and date to be submitted.

## RECORD REVIEW

It is strongly suggested that all students stop by the Programs and Clearances office to verify that all records are complete before leaving campus.

## DEFENDING STUDENT STATUS (1 HOUR)

Students not registered for classes during the semester of their defense must register at the Programs and Clearances office in the Graduate School under GRAD 6864. The advisory committee chair's signature is required on the form. To be eligible for registration as a defending student, the degree candidate should have completed all course and degree requirements including writing of the thesis. Further, they need to schedule and pay for the defense before the academic term begins and they need to have the exam take place during the first twenty class days of the term. Exceptions to this requirement, such as inability to get the advisory committee together, must be requested on the form used for defending student registration and certified by the advisory committee chair's signature. **Please note:** This fee is non-refundable. The form is found at <http://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/forms>.

For additional graduation procedures on the *Blacksburg campus*, please contact the Graduate School, at 231-8636 or E-mail: [grads@vt.edu](mailto:grads@vt.edu) Website: <http://graduateschool.vt.edu/>

For additional graduation procedures at the *National Capital Region campus*, contact Myriam Lechuga, GIA Coordinator at 703-706-8111 or E-mail: [mlechuga@vt.edu](mailto:mlechuga@vt.edu)

# GIA PROGRAM POLICIES

## GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Graduate students on assistantships are required to work the number of hours defined in their assistantship contracts. GTAs are assigned by the GIA Program in a manner that best serves program, faculty, and student needs. While every attempt is made to match students with faculty of similar interests, that is not always possible. In addition, the Program has certain needs that require GTA support.

The following policies have been the practice of GIA and should be the basis of faculty and student responsibilities regarding GTA work.

- It is the responsibility of the faculty to define clearly the manner in which the weekly GTA hours are to be assigned and monitored. Some faculty prefer weekly progress meetings, while others set meeting dates less regularly. Both the student and the faculty member should understand the schedule they develop.
- A purpose of the graduate assistantship is to provide students with the opportunities to enrich their academic experiences outside of the classroom setting. This includes supporting faculty research, assisting faculty's instructional duties, participating in public service activities, and providing technological support for faculty or the department.
- GTA work commitments do not apply to Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Spring break periods. However, faculty and students may negotiate use of those time periods for GTA work to fulfill future or past work commitments.
- Graduate assistants are evaluated at the end of the year to determine whether they should be continued. Failure to fulfill GTA responsibilities will result in the loss of the assistantship for the following year.
- In the event a student or faculty member is dissatisfied with their assigned arrangement, the chair and or executive committee of GIA will review the situation and make appropriate adjustments. GTAs that change duties are still responsible for any hours not fulfilled by their original assignment. The normal procedure would be a two-week notification to both the student and faculty of any reassignment. Exceptions are at the discretion of the GIA Executive Committee.
- Faculty are not to make work assignments that interfere with a student's ability to progress satisfactorily toward completion of his/her program. Assignments that require students to miss class, interfere with normal study schedules, or otherwise place an undue burden on a student's academic performance are not appropriate.

## CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION POLICY

The Government and International Affairs program values the role of participation and active engagement by students in the learning process. Moreover, we believe a prerequisite for learning is that students attend class regularly, participate fully when called upon, and have command of the assigned readings at the scheduled time. Students missing more than 3 class sessions per course jeopardize their status in the course and may receive an F (Fail) grade. To accomplish these ends, faculty in GIA are encouraged to evaluate participation by monitoring attendance, by including class participation in the evaluation of student performance, and by assessing student comprehension of assigned readings through appropriate means.

## PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING ALLEGATIONS

In the possible event of student allegations of faculty misconduct, the University and the GIA program have developed procedures for resolving conflicts. It is the belief that most student complaints can be resolved at the program level. GIA's procedures are intended to help students and faculty achieve resolution. The procedures are available from the GIA graduate coordinator.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

The Department of Government and International Affairs is committed to the idea of equal opportunity. Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, or veteran status; or otherwise discriminate against employees or applicants who inquire about, discuss, or disclose their compensation or the compensation of other employees, or applicants; or any other basis protected by law.

For general information about graduate study, contact:

**National Capital Region:**

*Professor Joel Peters, Program Chair  
Government and International Affairs,  
National Capital Region  
1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-706-8113  
Fax: 703-518-8009  
E-mail: [peters25@vt.edu](mailto:peters25@vt.edu)*

**Blacksburg:**

*Professor Timothy W. Luke, Director  
Government and International Affairs,  
Blacksburg  
531 Major Williams Hall (0130)  
220 Stanger Street, Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Phone: (540) 231-6572  
Fax: (540) 231-6078  
E-mail: [twluke@vt.edu](mailto:twluke@vt.edu)*

For information about application, assistance with the Graduate School, or degree completion, contact:

**Myriam Lechuga**

*Graduate Student Coordinator (NCR)  
School of Public and International Affairs  
1021 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-706-8111  
Fax: 703-518-8009  
E-mail: [mlechuga@vt.edu](mailto:mlechuga@vt.edu)*