Welcome to the International Relations Learning Community!

Hello and welcome to the International Relations Learning Community (IRLC). The Faculty and Staff working with the IRLC are eager to meet and work with you this upcoming year.

As members of the IRLC you will have additional opportunities offered to you, and we hope you will take advantage of them. All members of the learning community will live and learn together in Day Hall. Situated atop our own “Mt. Olympus,” Day Hall houses over 600 undergraduate men and women, and features a large study lounge, spacious recreation area and direct access to the Mount Inn. In addition, Mount Olympus boasts three other Learning Communities, its own University Bookstore branch, a computer cluster and a late night snack bar.

The faculty and staff who make up the advising board for the IRLC are individuals devoted to your success here at SU. Within the hall, the Resident Director is Brad Stalter, the Resident Advisors (RA) are Arielle Alvarez and Ashley Haskins, and the peer mentor is Valerie Crowder. Professor Francine D’Amico, Director of Undergraduate Studies for the International Relations Program, will be teaching your introductory course and advising students, with help from Professor Terrel Northrup and Nell Bartkowiak, the Associate Director of Graduate Studies for the International Relations Program.

The faculty and staff who make up the advising board for the IRLC are individuals devoted to your success here at SU. Within the hall, the Resident Director is Brad Stalter, the Resident Advisors (RA) are Arielle Alvarez and Ashley Haskins, and the peer mentor is Valerie Crowder. Professor Francine D’Amico, Director of Undergraduate Studies for the International Relations Program, will be teaching your introductory course and advising students, with help from Professor Terrel Northrup and Nell Bartkowiak, the Associate Director of Graduate Studies for the International Relations Program.

The international system has grown in complexity since the end of the Cold War and international issues and events impinge increasingly on our daily lives. Modern communications bring contemporary problems to our attention instantly. No state, and no people, particularly Americans, can be isolated from world events or unaffected by issues involving foreign policy and war, international trade or developments in countries far from our borders. While gaining an understanding of these issues is rewarding in itself, and necessary for the informed citizen. It also opens the way to a variety of careers, in government, international organizations, law, business, non-profit institutions and academia.

The International Relations Undergraduate Program, which is housed in the Maxwell School in the College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University, is multi-disciplinary and includes courses in Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science and Sociology. In addition, cultural studies such as language and literature can be as important in the understanding of other societies as social sciences.

This broad approach enables you to design your own program, responsive to your individual interests, as well as academic and career aspirations. Working with Professor Francine D’Amico, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the IR Staff, you can choose from a variety of topics including: International Law & Organization, International Political Economy, Intercultural Communication, and International Security & Diplomacy. Geographic concentrations include: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

You are urged to take advantage of the off-campus study opportunities offered by SU Abroad and the Maxwell-Washington International Relations Semester, as well as to participate in the frequent lectures and other events which take place on campus. The Chair of the Program, Ambassador Don Planty, and the Global Programs Coordinator, Samantha Clemence, will be happy to help you learn more about these opportunities.
Shared Experiences

Syracuse University’s “Shared First-Year Experience” introduces students to the University’s vibrant cultural life, while giving first-year students a common, memorable experience. For 2009, the world-renowned Shen Wei Dance Arts company performs a new work especially for SU’s first-year students. Principal choreographer Shen Wei’s media-crossing and technologically savvy artistry weaves together ancient and modern themes that speak to contemporary life. Can dance be a form of communication in International Relations? A form of diplomacy? You will attend the performance, write a response and discuss in Dr. Francine D’Amico’s PSC 124 course “Introduction to International Relations.

United Nations Headquarters in New York City!

On Friday, September 18th the IRLC will travel to NYC to visit United Nations Headquarters.

The tour of UN Headquarters includes a look at the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, donated works of art, a visit to the General Assembly Hall where all 192 member countries convene to discuss global issues, and the Security Council. Students will also have some free time to sightsee or just hang out.

O Canada!!!

Think the fall retreat sounds great? Wait until we visit Canada in the spring.

This spring we will take a retreat to Ottawa, the federal capital of Canada in the province of Ontario, to tour the Canadian Parliament and receive a briefing from US Embassy officers on US-Canadian relations and careers in the foreign service.

Please note that all US citizens will be required to provide a passport or proof of US citizenship (birth certificate and driver’s license) in order to enter Canada and return to the United States. If you are not a US citizen, you will be required to bring your passport and visa or your green card. Students from some countries will be required to attain a visa to enter Canada. For a list of these countries visit: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visa.asp It takes up to 8 weeks to process a visa, so please plan ahead. Students from countries that do not require a visa will still need a valid travel signature on page 3 of their I-20s. If you don’t have one, please contact the Slutzker Center to get one: http://international.syr.edu/