

Beginner's Guide: How to Choose Year I Courses for the B.Sc. in International Relations (Special) Programme

Welcome! This document was conceived to help you choose your courses for Semesters 1 and 2, Year I. You should also read relevant parts of the Faculty of Social Sciences Booklet (Undergraduate) and other documents sent by the Department of Political Science.

Please note that this document concerns only academic aspects. For administrative issues (such as how to register, tuition fees, etc.) you can use the following email addresses:

- Faculty of Social Sciences: fss-student.matters@sta.uwi.edu
- Department of Political Science: fss-deptpolsci@sta.uwi.edu

Number of Courses

Full-time students are expected to take five courses per semester. If you take less or fail some of them, you will be able to complete the programme in three years only if you take courses in the Summer Semester.

Part-time students can take between two and four courses per semester.

Core Courses

For each of Semesters 1 and 2, Year I, full-time students should choose four core courses (which are listed in the table you will receive from the Department of Political Science) and one elective (see the title “Elective Courses and the Choice of a Minor” below).

FOUN 1001 or FOUN 1106

In Semester 1, Year I, you have to take either FOUN 1001 or FOUN 1106. You should choose FOUN 1006 if you have the following prerequisite:

- CAPE Communication Studies – Grade I or II

You should choose FOUN 1001 if you have one of the following prerequisites:

- General Paper – Grade A or B
- CXC English Language (General Proficiency) – Grade 1
- GCE English Language – Distinction (Grade A or I or II)
- UWIDEC/Open Campus Language and Communication - Grade B or above
- TOEFL (minimum writing score of 22)
- A pass in FDMU 0005
- or
- **A pass in the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)**

The ELPT is scheduled for 16th August, 2021. Information can be found at <https://sta.uwi.edu/FHE/who-should-write-english-language-proficiency-test-elpt> or by email: ELPT.registration@sta.uwi.edu

If you do not have any of these prerequisites and you miss or fail the test, you will need to take it the next time it is offered. If this does not happen before the end of the registration period for Semester 1 courses, you will not be able to take FOUN 1001 in Semester 1, Year I. To replace it, choose another course as explained below (see title “If You Have Free Slots in Semester 1, Year I”). You will take FOUN 1001 the first time it is offered after you pass the test.

Foreign Language Course

In addition to core and elective courses, you will need to take a one semester foreign language course that is not credited (and is easier to complete). You can take it anytime during the programme, but it is better to take it earlier than later. These courses are offered by the Centre for Language Learning (<https://sta.uwi.edu/fhe/cll/>) that you should contact for more information.

You do not need to take this course if you pursue a Minor in a foreign language.

Exemptions with Credit

For the “Exemptions with Credit” listed in the FSS booklet (such as ECON 1002 if you have Grades 1 and 2 for CAPE Economics Unit 2), you do not need to take the concerned course, for which you receive 3 credits. You should use the resulting free slot to take another course as explained below (see titles “If You Have Free Slots in Semester 1, Year I” and “If You Have Free Slots in Semester 2, Year I”).

Elective Courses and the Choice of a Minor

You should choose a Minor. After graduation, you will compete for a job against your former colleagues, most of whom will have a Minor. They will seem more qualified and get the job.

It is important to choose your Minor right now because the two elective courses you need to take in Year I should be the prerequisites for the Minor (see below).

You can choose a Minor from the Faculty of Social Sciences or from another Faculty. In the latter case, download and use the booklet of that Faculty.

In the booklet, go to Contents and look for the Minors section. Select the minor of your choice.

(Note: do not forget that, before the end of your programme, you will need to declare the Minor: <https://sta.uwi.edu/fss/fss-online-forms>)

In the booklet, go to the page for that Minor. You will find five second- and third-year courses. Put their names down.

There are Minors that only mention three core courses and allow you to choose the remaining two. To find out what courses you can choose, go to the booklet’s section about the Major or Special that has the same name as the Minor. Select two courses out of the second- and third-year courses listed there. Put down the names of all five courses.

In the same booklet, the final section presents all the courses given in the Faculty. Look for the five courses for your Minor, one by one. For each of them, put down the courses identified as prerequisites. These are

first-year courses that you have to take before you can take the five courses of your Minor. Various Minors have from one to three such prerequisites. However, in most cases there are two of them.

Choose these prerequisites as your elective courses (one per semester). To find out in what semester they are given, look for each prerequisite in the part of the Faculty booklet that presents all courses.

In case there is only one prerequisite, choose it as one of your elective courses. For the second, choose any of the first-year courses listed for the Major or Special that has the same name as your Minor.

Please note that, during academic advising on International Relations, we are not able to provide information about Minors from other fields.

Accordingly, you should try to get academic advising for the Minor from the department that gives it. They can tell you what courses to take, when these courses are given etc.

If You Do Not Want to Choose a Minor

If you do not want to choose a Minor, you will nevertheless need to take two first-year courses and five second- and third-year courses. Pay attention to the fact that the latter also have prerequisites. Therefore, you should choose your two first-year courses among these prerequisites. Follow the procedure described in the previous section.

If You Have Free Slots in Semester 1, Year I

If, for whatever reason, you have available slots in Semester 1, Year I, you should take Semester 2, Year I courses. To check which of these courses are also offered in Semester 1, look for each of them in the latter part of the Faculty booklet. You will find detailed information about them, including the semester when they are given.

Choosing Courses for Semester 2 If You Cannot Take or You Fail Courses in Semester 1, Year I

If you cannot take or you fail courses in Semester 1, Year I, and they are offered in Semester 2, you should take them instead of the elective course and other Semester 2 courses. However, you should not replace GOVT 1001, which is an important course.

If you cannot take them in Semester 2, some of them may be offered in the Summer Semester (Note: you have to pay for summer courses). If this is not a choice, you will need to take them in Year II.

At the beginning of Semester 2, you can modify the list of courses to take during that semester without further academic advice.

Choosing Courses for Semester 2 If You Have Free Slots in Semester 2, Year I

If, for whatever reason, you have available slots in Semester 2, Year I, and there is no first-year core course or Minor prerequisite to take, you can choose the following courses: GOVT 2049 International Political Economy or GOVT 3065 Religion and World Politics.