

# 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) available at <https://sta.uwi.edu/fss/faculty-booklets/> and other documents sent by the Department of Political Science.

Please note that this document concerns only academic aspects.

For administrative issues you can email the Department of Political Science: [deptpolsci@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:deptpolsci@sta.uwi.edu)

For guidance on how to register: <https://sta.uwi.edu/registration/procedure.asp#STEP1>

For all financial matters: <https://sta.uwi.edu/bursary/service-desk>  
<https://sta.uwi.edu/resources/documents/UndergraduateFeeBklt.pdf>

## Recommended Courses

### LEVEL I (Year I)

Semester 1		Semester 2	
COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE
GOVT 1000	Introduction to Politics I	GOVT 1001	Introduction to Political Philosophy
ECON 1001	Introduction to Microeconomics	ECON 1002	Introduction to Macroeconomics
SOCI 1005	Introductory Statistics for the Behavioural Sciences (also offered in Semester II)	FOUN 1101 <b>OR</b> FOUN1210	Caribbean Civilization <b>OR</b> Science, Medicine & Technology in Society **
FOUN 1001 <b>OR</b> FOUN 1106	English for Academic Purposes <b>OR</b> Academic English for Research Purposes *	CHIN 1007 <b>OR</b> FREN 1009 <b>OR</b> JAPA 1007 <b>OR</b> SPAN 1007	Chinese (Mandarin) Beginners I French for Beginners I Japanese for Beginners I Spanish for Beginners I ***
	<b>Plus</b> one (1) level I elective within the Faculty of Social Sciences <i>This should be a prerequisite for your Minor</i>		<b>Plus</b> one (1) level I elective within the Faculty of Social Sciences <i>This should be a prerequisite for your Minor</i>

\* See the section **FOUN 1001 or FOUN 1106** below.

\*\* See the section **FOUN 1101 or FOUN 1210** below.

\*\*\* See the section **Foreign Language Course** below.

### LEVEL II (Year II)

Semester 1		Semester 2	
COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE
GOVT 2063	Cyber Politics	GOVT 2047	Principles of Public International Law
GOVT 2060	International Relations Theories & Approaches	GOVT 2049	International Political Economy
GOVT 3046	International Organizations	GOVT 2062	International Security
GOVT 3052	Contemporary Issues in International Relations	GOVT 3003	Foreign Policy in the Global South
	<b>Plus</b> one (1) level II/III elective <i>This course should be part of your Minor</i>		<b>Plus</b> one (1) level II/III elective <i>This course should be part of your Minor</i>

### LEVEL III (Year III)

Semester 1		Semester 2	
COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE
GOVT 3053	Introduction to International Politics	GOVT 3047	International Financial Organization
GOVT 3055	Theories & Practices of International Negotiations	GOVT 3054	Introduction to International Relations in the Caribbean
GOVT 3066	International Law & Development	GOVT 3065	Religion and World Politics
	<b>Plus one (1) level II/III elective</b> <b>This course should be part of your Minor</b>	GOVT 3067	CARICOM Single Market, Economy (CSME): Internal & External Relations
	<b>Plus one (1) level II/III elective</b> <b>This course should be part of your Minor</b>		<b>Plus one (1) level II/III elective</b> <b>This course should be part of your Minor</b>

### 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.

Students can apply for the permission to take a sixth course only if this course is needed to graduate in their last 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 above) 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)**

Information about the ELPT can be found:

- at page 18 of the Faculty of Social Sciences Booklet (Undergraduate), Section 1.2(b)

- by contacting Ms. Nicholin Brathwaite-Copeland, Academic Literacies Programme ([nicholin.brathwaite-copeland@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:nicholin.brathwaite-copeland@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**

Year I students have to choose one of the following one-semester foreign language courses:

- CHIN 1007 Chinese (Mandarin) Beginners I
- FREN 1009 French for Beginners I
- JAPA 1007 Japanese for Beginners I
- SPAN 1007 Spanish for Beginners I

These courses are offered by the Centre for Language Learning (<https://sta.uwi.edu/fhe/cll/>), but otherwise they are similar to regular courses of the International Relations programme.

Students entering the International Relations programme with one or more foreign languages obtained at

- CSEC General Grade II before 1998, or
- CSEC General Grade III after 1998 or
- CAPE Unit I or II (Grades 1 to 5) or
- the equivalent

shall be exempted from the foreign language requirement but shall receive no credit. These students will be required to complete *both* FOUN 1101 and FOUN 1210 (see the next section).

Similarly, students doing a language Minor shall be exempted from the foreign language requirement but shall receive no credit. These students will be required to complete *both* FOUN 1101 and FOUN 1210 (see the next section).

### **FOUN 1101 or FOUN 1210**

Unless they are exempted from the foreign language requirement (see the previous section), students should select *either* FOUN 1101 Caribbean Civilization or FOUN 1210 Science, Medicine and Technology in Society based on their interest. Students with a CSEC or CAPE Science background, but without a CSEC or CAPE Caribbean History background, would benefit from pursuing FOUN 1101. Students with a CSEC or CAPE Caribbean History background, but without a CSEC or CAPE Science background, would benefit from pursuing FOUN 1210.

### **Exemptions with Credit**

For the “Exemptions with Credit” listed in the FSS booklet at pp. 18-19 (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>. However, it is better to declare it only when you are close to its completion.)

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

### **Year II and III Courses that IR Special students need to take for the Minor in Political Science (Government)**

IR Special students with a Minor in Political Science have to choose five level II and III courses *in addition to those of the IR Special* as follows:

1.	GOVT 3037 Public Administration
2.	GOVT 3021 Public Policy Analysis
3.	GOVT 2023 Issues in Government and Politics of the West Indies <b>OR</b> GOVT 3019 Latin American Government, Politics and Development
4.	GOVT 2019 Comparative Politics <b>OR</b> GOVT 3023 Administrative Law I (instead of GOVT 3053 or GOVT 3054, both of which are already taken because they are part of the IR Special)
5.	One of the following courses <i>that was not already chosen at point 4</i> : GOVT 2015 Modern Political Thought GOVT 2019 Comparative Politics GOVT 3023 Administrative Law I