



## **Minor in International and Comparative Politics**

### ***I. Why Minor in International and Comparative Politics?***

The Department of International and Comparative Politics (ICP) offers a minor for AUCA students from other departments interested in acquiring background knowledge on political science and international relations. The minor program is designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of international and comparative politics dynamics. This program emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, integrating insights from various political science subfields, including comparative politics and international relations.

One of the foundational aspects of the minor in the ICP program is the exploration of how different political systems operate and interact on the global stage. This comparative and analytical approach is essential for students aiming to analyze the political structures of the country they come from and other regional and global players in world politics.

Moreover, the minor in the ICP program encourages students to engage with contemporary issues such as democratization, development, human rights, and the role of international organizations. This is particularly relevant for students interested in the political and economic transitions occurring in post-Soviet states, such as Kyrgyzstan, where similar dynamics may be at play.

Additionally, the ICP minor highlights the significance of globalization and regionalism and its impact on international relations. This perspective is vital for understanding the geopolitical strategies employed by Central Asian countries in their interactions with regional and global powers.

Furthermore, the minor program emphasizes the importance of empirical research and methodological rigor in political science and international relations. This focus on empirical analysis prepares students to evaluate political phenomena and contribute to scholarly debates critically.

In sum, the International and Comparative Politics minor offers a multifaceted approach to understanding local, regional, national, and global political dynamics. By integrating theoretical frameworks with empirical research, students are equipped to analyze complex political systems and contribute to discussions on political developments, governance, democracy, and international relations. The minor program develops critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deeper understanding of political dynamics worldwide, which could be invaluable for diplomacy, international organizations, non-profits, or academia careers.

## II. Application Process

To declare a minor in ICP, AUCA students must get prior approval from the Chair of their major Department and the Chair of the ICP Department. To be eligible for a minor in ICP, AUCA students must have a GPA score of 2.7 or higher and earn a minimum of 60 credits. The minor form can be found: <https://auca.kg/uploads/stock%20Aibike/Minor-Declaration-Form.pdf>

Students should complete the Declaration of a Minor form, obtain the appropriate signatures, and submit it to the Registrar's Office.

## III. Minor Requirements

To earn a minor in ICP, AUCA students must complete at least 42 credits from the ICP courses. Students need to take both core and elective courses.

The list of courses required for the ICP minor (**42 credits**):

### Core Courses: (24 credits)

This covers introductory topics in political science, international relations, and Central Asian politics.

- ICP - 101.1 (ID: 5667) *Intro to Political Science*, six credits (Fall) (Recommended to Sophomores in Fall semester)
- ICP – 130 (ID: 3003): *Intro to Comparative Politics*, six credits (Spring) (Recommended to Sophomores in Spring semester)
- ICP - 110.1 (ID: 3118): *Intro to International Relations*, six credits (Fall) (Recommended to Juniors in Fall semester)
- ICP - 240.2 (ID: 3269): *Central Asian Politics*, six credits (Spring) (Recommended to Juniors in Spring semester)

### One of the following: (6 credits) (Recommended to Seniors)

- ICP 280.1 (ID: 3115): *Intro to Political Theory*, six credits (Fall)
- ICP 270.2 (ID: 3219): *Intro to Political Economy*, six credits (Spring)
- ICP 318.2 (ID: 3320): *Foreign Policy Analysis*, six credits (Fall)

### Two ICP Elective Courses (300 and 400 levels) (12 credits) (Recommended to Seniors)

Only courses with a “C+” or higher grade will be counted towards fulfilling minor requirements.

**State Exam.** As a part of the ICP minor program, students must pass a state exam at the end of their senior year. The state exam consists of two essay questions on topics in two sections: Political Science and International Relations and Central Asian Politics. For more information, please see the ICP Department State Exam Policy.

**Suggested Study Plan:**

<b>Sophomores</b>	ICP 101.1: Intro to Political Science	ICP 130: Intro to Comparative Politics
<b>Juniors</b>	ICP 110.1: Intro to International Relations	ICP 240: Central Asian Politics
<b>Seniors</b>	One Optional Course	ICP Elective-1 ICP Elective-2