

International Studies Program

Department Location

Camille O. Hanks Cosby Academic Center – Fourth Floor

Special Entry Requirements

None

Placement Examinations

None

Goals

The International Studies major is a combination of interdisciplinary and disciplinary courses to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the interrelationships among people as they function in different cultural, economic, and political settings. The primary goal of the major is to train students as leaders who will be cognizant of and sensitive to the requirements of changing realities in the international community in the belief that such knowledge will enable them to value diplomacy over other methods of dispute resolution. It focuses on cultural predispositions, historical underpinnings, systems of governance, and diversity of interests in the global arena. The courses span a number of disciplinary boundaries including political science, economics, history, and geography.

The major is designed to offer students an opportunity to understand the diverse cultures of the world as well as to prepare them for an international career. It includes a Study Abroad experience that will increase language competency as well as improve cultural understanding by exposing students to a different geographic setting. Students will be offered an opportunity for an in-depth examination of the issues and problems associated with increasing world interdependence through coursework, as well as through interaction with international scholars and practitioners. The major is designed to be both intense and rigorous. It will provide a core of knowledge to prepare students for graduate and professional schools or the job market. In addition, it will increase opportunities for student research on international topics that will enable them to achieve a better understanding of themselves and their roles within their own culture.

Objectives

Upon completion of the International Studies major, a student will be able to

1. demonstrate an understanding of a set of cultural values and beliefs other than her own
2. discuss the impact of modernity and technology on tradition and demographic change in lesser developed countries
3. apply the knowledge base from many disciplines to the study of the international community
4. demonstrate exemplary writing skills as well as skill sets necessary for intercultural communication
5. integrate the study of foreign language with discipline-based content

6. demonstrate an awareness of international career and study opportunities in government, business, education, and in organizations servicing international concerns

General Core Requirements

None

International/Women's Studies Requirement

Courses that satisfy the International/Women's Studies requirement are listed in the Course Sequence Booklet or on the Spelman Web page. Introduction to International Studies (IS211) does not fulfill the international studies core curriculum (general education) requirement.

Major Cognate Course

Economics 241, Principles of Macroeconomics. This course may also be used to satisfy the Social Science requirement.

Major Requirements

Students should begin the major in the sophomore year.

In addition to the completion of major core courses and electives, the International Studies major should successfully complete at least two courses in a foreign language beyond the 200 level.

One semester of Study Abroad is also required. It is suggested that International Studies majors go abroad during the first semester of the junior year. The major advisor will work with the Study Abroad Advisor to maximize the effectiveness of the Study Abroad experience. International students may be exempt from the Study Abroad requirement.

A grade of "C" or better is required for the successful completion of major courses.

Minor in International Studies

Students who wish to minor in International Studies will complete all major requirements with the exception of the major electives.

Major Courses

The major will consist of 40 credit hours: 20 hours of core courses designed to represent the concepts and organizing frameworks, and 20 hours of elective courses. The elective courses must all be at the 300 level or above and in at least two departments.

Five core courses are required: IS 211 Introduction to International Studies, IS 212 World Politics, HIS 303 Foundations of the Modern World, ECON 324 Economic Development of Emerging Nations, IS 411 Senior Internship and Thesis. The remaining courses must be chosen from the following issue areas or area concentrations. International Development, Cultural Studies, Latin America, Africa, or Asia.

Course Descriptions

Core Courses

IS 211 – INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (4)

This course provides background information and an introduction to concepts and frameworks used in the analysis of international phenomena. The goal of this course is to increase the ability of students to integrate disciplinary subject matter. The emphasis is two-fold. Cultural and spatial geography provides tools for addressing issues of power and location, economic development, population density and the biosphere. The second emphasis is on the economic and political forces shaping the global political economy. These forces include, but are not limited to, human rights abuses, poverty reduction, terrorism, and just and unjust wars. Offered first semester. Does not fulfill the core curriculum requirement.

IS 212 – WORLD POLITICS (4)

This course builds on the foundation of “Introduction to International Studies.” It focuses on the institutions for international interaction as well as international events that have shaped the international system. It considers the role and impact of actors in the international arena, including national political leaders, international organizations, terrorist groups, ethnic groups, and sub-national actors. The course emphasizes international law, conflict resolution, diplomacy, and intercultural communication. Offered second semester.

HISTORY 303 – FOUNDATIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD (4)

This course examines the interconnectedness of the world beginning in 1400. Beginning with the commercial revolution and the voyages of discovery, the course moves on to examine the scientific revolution, imperialism, the World Wars and post colonialism. Offered first semester.

ECONOMICS 324 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGING NATIONS (4)

This course is a comprehensive study of the characteristics and problems of less developed nations, the theory of economic development, the role of the public and private sectors, strategies of development, and the role of the developed nations.

IS 325 – DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

This course unpacks the contested concepts of development with the intent to explain inequalities in development. The gap between rich and poor countries is evolving, in some cases widening and in others shrinking. This course explores the trends in uneven development and strategies to overcome it. Offered second semester.

IS 411 – INTERNSHIP AND SENIOR THESIS (4)

This course offers a practical experience with an international organization or an institution or agency with a global focus such as CARE International, the Carter Center, the Congressional Research Service. A research paper related to or inspired by the internship experience is required. A student whose program does not lend itself to an internship experience may register for the course as Senior thesis and choose a topic related to her programmatic interests.

Electives

IS 300 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (4)

Topics vary and are announced in the semester offered. Specific courses are listed by number 300 and by letter A, B, etc.

IS 314 DIPLOMACY AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (4)

This course examines the role of the United Nations in providing the structure for order in an evolving international community. It emphasizes the shifting purposes that have challenged existing political, economic, and social structures during the post Cold War period. To bring clarity to this period an emerging globalization is functioning as a new paradigm. The United Nations may be viewed as a primary interpreter of the paradigm. Suggested for students interested in participating on the Spelman Model United Nations Team as well as students interested in the Foreign Service. Offered first semester.

IS/FLP/CWS 352 – LUSO-AFRO-BRAZILIAN CINEMA (4)

This course focuses on the cinema of the Portuguese-speaking world. It covers topics such as gender, race, the city, migration, violence, and history in the cultures of Brazil, Portugal, and Portuguese-speaking Africa as represented in film in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Students may choose electives from the following issue and regional areas. (Please see course descriptions under the respective department listings.)

International Development

- Political Science 350 International Political Economy
- Political Science 346 African Politics
- Political 363 American Foreign Policy
- Political Science 402 International Organizations
- History 362 Caribbean Economic History
- Management and Organization 390: Firms in the International Market
- Economics 321 International Economics
- Economics 325 Comparative Economic Systems

Cultural Studies

- Anthropology 305 Cross Cultural Perspectives on Gender
- Anthropology 404 The Anthropology of Globalization
- Sociology 407 Race Relations. Prerequisite: any 200 level Sociology or Anthropology course
- History 333 Islam in Africa
- History 462 Women and Gender in English Speaking Caribbean
- History 471 Race, Class, and Gender in Brazil
- IS/FLP/CWS 352 Luso-Afro-Brazilian Cinema
- Religion 361 World Religion (Comparative Religion)
- Political Science 422 Law Across Cultures

Area Studies

Latin America

- Spanish 331 Latin American Civilization
- Spanish 321 Spanish Civilization
- Art 214 Issues in Latin American Art
- History 371 Women in Latin American History
- History 373 Africans in Latin America
- History 471 Seminar Race, Class, and Gender in Brazil

Asia

- Political Science 342 Japan in Asia
- Economics 350 Japanese Economic Development
- Sociology 360 Women in Japanese Society
- History 343 Modern Chinese History
- History 344 Women in Modern China
- History 441 Seminar History of Vietnam

Africa

- Religion 315 Judeo Christian Beginnings in Africa
- Religion 321 Islamic Civilizations
- Religion 331 Introduction to African Religions and Philosophy
- Political Science 346 African Politics
- History 333 Africa and Islam
- History 335 South Africa in Transition
- History 337 Africa in Antiquity
- History 441 West Africa
- Art 312 African Art
- FL 302 / CWS 302 African/Francophone Cinema

Please note that this list is not exhaustive.