



International
SPELMAN
COLLEGE
Studies

Handbook for Majors

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The major is housed in the International Affairs Center. The Center staff includes:

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Meadows at Teotihuacan, Mexico

The International Studies Major

International Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry that focuses on patterns of interaction in the global community relating to the human condition. The international studies major embarks on a journey that provides comprehensive understanding of the global system from its cultural context to the role of geo-political and geo-economic forces that determine its nature. The course of study is heavily concentrated in the areas of sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, geography, and history. The major is consistent with the mission of the college to promote academic excellence and enhance leadership as well as to help students “to appreciate the many cultures of the world and commit to positive social change.” This charge suggests that students must be encouraged to develop skills to function in a global environment.

The core beliefs of the major are:

1. The world is becoming more and more interconnected economically, politically, and socially
2. Fundamental trends in the international community can be understood and anticipated
3. Multiple cultural perspectives should be developed and applied in understanding the international community
4. Non-violent dispute resolution is preferable to the use of force

These beliefs presuppose:

1. An appreciation of the role of geography and history in the development of culture
2. A deep and abiding belief in the dignity and worth of every human being
3. Acceptance of the desirability of cultural pluralism in the formulation of political and economic institutions

International Studies in a Liberal Arts Context

The International Studies Major at Spelman is rigorous and focused. The structural integrity is maintained by an oversight committee composed of the major advisor, the Study Abroad Advisor, Chairs of the departments with core courses in the major, and the Chair of World Languages and Literature. The charge of the committee is to ensure that major courses meet stated goals and objectives.

Students are required to select courses in a specific issue area or country area, designated as a “track.” Track selection ensures that students acquire a specialized core of knowledge.

The first two courses in the major are interdisciplinary. The pedagogical value of these two courses is two pronged. They enable students to become acquainted with theoretical and conceptual frameworks. At the same time they develop a sense of mission for addressing global problems.

In many disciplines preparatory courses must be taken before the student becomes eligible to take courses that interest them. The International Studies major is structured so that students learn concepts and frameworks while taking courses that are germane to their interests. Introductory courses provide an overview of the disciplines included in the major. Students are then equipped to select elective courses to gain in-depth knowledge about a specific issue or geographic area.

Major Requirements

Students should begin the major in the sophomore year.

Courses

The major consists of 40 credit hours - 20 hours of core courses designed to introduce the concepts and organizing frameworks and 20 hours of elective courses designed to provide competence in a specific geographic or issue area. The elective courses must all be at the 300 level or above. Courses must be selected from two departments at minimum.

Core courses:

IS 211, Introduction to International Studies
IS 212, World Politics
History 303, Foundations of the Modern World
Economics 324, Economic Development of Emerging Nations or
Economics 424, Globalization and Development
IS 411, Senior Thesis.

Elective courses:

These courses must be chosen from the following issue or geographic area: International Development, Cultural Studies, Latin America, Africa, or Asia.

Additional Requirements:

Economics 241 and Economics 242, Principles of Macroeconomics and Principles of Microeconomics must be taken as a pre-requisite to Economics 324. Students who take Economics 241 only should take Economics 424. Economics 241 is therefore a cognate course for the major. The course may be used to satisfy the Social Science requirement for the College core.

Students interested in admission to upper tier graduate or professional schools in International Studies should take both Economics 241 and Economics 242.

The International Studies major should successfully complete at least two courses in a foreign language at or above the 300 level.

One semester of Study Abroad is required. It is suggested that International Studies majors go abroad during the first semester of the junior year. Students will receive major credit for two electives taken during Study Abroad. 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 the following core courses:

IS 211, Introduction to International Studies
IS 212, World Politics
History 303, Foundations of the Modern World
Economics 324, Economic Development of Emerging Nations or
Economics 424, Globalization and Development

Minors must also complete two major electives selected from one track. Electives should be taken from two disciplines. Minors must successfully complete two courses in a foreign language at or above the 300 level. Study Abroad is encouraged but not required for Minors.

Description of Core Courses

IS 211, Introduction to International Studies

This course provides background information on the disciplines included in international studies as well as an introduction to concepts and frameworks used in the analysis of international phenomena. The goal of the course is to increase the ability of students to integrate disciplinary subject matter. The emphasis is two-fold. The first emphasis is spatial geography. The purpose of this emphasis is to provide tools for addressing issues of power and location, economic development, population density and the biosphere. The second emphasis is cultural pluralism interpreted broadly to include social justice and human rights issues – especially the status of women - as well intercultural communication in the global community.

IS 212, World Politics: Pre-requisite IS 211

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.

History 303, Foundations of the Modern World

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.

Economics 324, Economic Development of Emerging Nations: Pre-requisite- Economics 241 and 242.

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.

Economics 424, Globalization and Development: Pre-requisite – Economics 241.

This course is an in-depth investigation of globalization and development from an interdisciplinary perspective of politics, economics, history, sociology, and philosophy with concern for cross-national, cross-community and cross-gender relations and interactions.

IS 411. Senior Thesis

This course allows the student an opportunity to use primary research to write a research paper. The emphasis is on the incorporation of different frameworks and perspectives in researching the paper topic. Salient international issues are discussed in the course to further emphasize the significance of theoretical frameworks and concepts. The student is encouraged to conduct primary research during the Study Abroad experience. The research paper is submitted to the instructor followed by an in-class oral presentation.

STUDY ABROAD

It is suggested that majors study abroad during the first semester of the junior year. Students should have a 3.0 cumulative average or better to study abroad. The primary purposes of the experience are to achieve cultural competency and language fluency. Students should therefore study in a country where the target language is spoken. The duration of the experience should be sufficient to gain an understanding of cultural practices and values. **Majors are required to participate in a practical, hands-on experience (internship) during Study Abroad.** Such experiences typically enhance cultural understanding by providing insight into the experiences of people outside the academic context. The practical experience may also allow for student research on a salient issue within the culture. The research can be used as a foundation for a research paper to be completed during the senior year. Students may receive major elective credit for up to two courses taken during Study Abroad.

International Studies majors should consult with the Study Abroad advisor during the first semester of the sophomore year to begin plans for the Study Abroad experience. The major advisor will work along with the student and the Study Abroad advisor to maximize the effectiveness of the program of study.

MAJOR ELECTIVES

Students may choose electives from the following tracks. It is required that all students have an area of concentration. However, students interested in diplomacy may be best served by selecting courses from all four tracks. In all cases students should select courses in consultation with the major advisor.

Please see course descriptions in the Spelman College catalog under the respective department listings

International Development

Political Science 350 – International Political Economy
Political Science 346 – African Politics
Political Science 402- International Organizations
History 362 – Caribbean Economic History
History 373 – Africans in Latin America
Management and Organization 390 – Firms in the International Market
Economics 321 – International Economics
Economics 325 – Comparative Economic Systems
Economics 350 – Japanese Economic Development
Economics 424 – Globalization and Development
Anthropology 404 – Anthropology of Globalization

Cultural Studies

Anthropology 305 – Cross Cultural Perspectives on Gender
Anthropology 404 – Anthropology of Globalization
Sociology 360 – Women in Japanese Society
Sociology 407 – Race Relations
Prerequisites: any 200 level Sociology or Anthropology course

History 333 – Islam in Africa
History 373 – Africans in Latin America
History 462 – Women and Gender in English Speaking Caribbean
History 471 – Race, Class, and Gender in Brazil
Religion 361 – Introduction to Eastern Religious Traditions
Political 363 – American Foreign Policy
French 321 – Civilization of France
French 302 – Francophone Cinema
Spanish 321 – Spanish Civilization (Taught in Spanish)
Spanish 331- Latin American Civilization (Taught in Spanish)
Spanish 360 – Universe of Woman of Color in Afro-Hispanic Literature Honors
English 363 – African Cinema
English 434 – Special Topics in Geographic Areas

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 471 – Seminar: Race, Class, and Gender in Brazil

History 373 – Africans in Latin America

See applicable courses under cultural studies

Asia

Political Science - 342 Japan in Asia

Economics 350 - Japanese Economics

Sociology 360 – Women in Japanese Society

History 343 – Modern Chinese History

History 344 – Women in Modern China

History 441- Seminar: History of Vietnam

Chinese 302 – Understanding Modern China

See applicable courses under cultural studies

Africa

Religion 315 – Judaeo Christian Beginnings in Africa

Political Science 346 – African Politics

History 333 – Africa and Islam

History 335 – South Africa in Transition

History 337 – Africa in Antiquity

History 441 – Seminar: West Africa

Anthropology 311 – Contemporary African Issues

See applicable courses under cultural studies

This list is not exhaustive. Students should seek advice about new course offerings.

Academic Advising

Students are required to meet with the academic advisor, Dr. Jeanne T. Meadows, at least once each semester to plan a program of study. The advisor will keep records indicating the program of study. Study Abroad designations are planned by the student in consultation with the advisor. The advisor will also help the student to pursue extra-curricular activities including internships and fellowships.

Departmental Honors

To qualify for departmental honors a student must have:

1. A 3.5 cumulative grade point overall average or better
2. No grade in a major course lower than “B”

Para Curricular Credit

A student may receive from 1 to 4 hours of credit in the major for work done outside of the classroom setting, such as an internship. The credit will not count toward the 20 hours of core course credit or the 20 hours of elective credit. Work done must clearly be in an international area. The specific work done by the student must be international in nature.

Procedure: Para curricular credit must be approved in advance. A letter from the supervisor for the experience must be submitted. The letter must include detailed descriptions of the work to be performed. After completion, the supervisor must provide an evaluation of the student’s work. The student is required to write a research paper related to any topics dealt with during the experience. The amount of credit for the experience will be determined by the supervisor evaluation as well as the quality of the paper.

Cross Registration Credit

Elective credit may be given for no more than two courses taken at a college or university campus other than Spelman. These courses may be taken on a domestic campus or on an international campus during Study Abroad.

International Studies Course Schedule

First Year

Semester I

English Composition
Foreign Language
African Diaspora
Humanities
Physical Education
First Year Orientation

Semester II

Mathematics 107 or above
Foreign Language
African Diaspora
Computer Literacy
Physical Education
First Year Orientation

Second Year

Semester I

*Intro. to International Studies IS 211
**Economics 241
Fine Arts
Foreign Language
Sophomore Assembly

Semester II

*World Politics IS 212
Women's Studies
Natural Science
Foreign Language
Sophomore Assembly

Third Year

Semester I

Study Abroad

Semester II

*History 303
*Economics 324 or 424
Major Elective
Major Elective

Fourth Year

Semester I

*Senior Thesis and Internship
Major Elective
Major or Non Major Elective

Semester II

Major or Non Major Elective
Non Major Elective
Non Major Elective
Non Major Elective

Notes:

IS 211 may be used to satisfy the International Studies requirement; the course is a pre-requisite for IS 212

The schedules of students with advanced placement may not conform to the one listed above.

Students who receive only 3 credit hours for electives taken during Study Abroad will be required to take an additional elective course to fulfill the 20 hour requirement.

*Major core course

**Major cognate course, may be used for the Social Science requirement of the College core.

Graduate School in International Studies

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
(APSIA): www.apsia.org

APSIA comprises 29 member schools in the United States, Asia and Europe dedicated to the improvement of professional education in international affairs and the advancement thereby of international understanding, prosperity, peace, and security. APSIA members work to promote excellence in professional, international affairs education worldwide by sharing information and ideas among member schools and with other higher education institutions, the international affairs community, and the general public.

Education at an APSIA school opens the door to careers in public service, private enterprise and nonprofit organizations worldwide. Graduates of APSIA schools hold executive and managerial positions throughout:

- federal, state and local governments
- international organizations
- multinational corporations
- international banking and financial institutions
- media organizations
- consulting firms
- professional associations
- colleges and universities
- policy research centers
- cultural and educational exchange
- organizations
- development assistance programs foundations

DOMESTIC APSIA MEMBERS

School of International Service
American University

The Fletcher School of Law and
Diplomacy
Tufts University

Norman Paterson School of International
Affairs
Carleton University

Graduate School of International
Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS)
University of California, San Diego

School of International and Public
Affairs
Columbia University

Graduate School of International Studies
University of Denver

Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy

Maryland School of Public Policy

DOMESTIC APSIA MEMBERS

Duke University

Elliott School of International Affairs
George Washington University

Edmund A. Walsh School of
Foreign Service
Georgetown University

John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University

Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced
International Studies
Johns Hopkins University

Woodrow Wilson School of
and International Affairs
Princeton University

Maxwell School
Syracuse University

University of Maryland

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
University of Michigan

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of
Public Affairs
University of Minnesota

Graduate School of Public and
International Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Henry M. Jackson School of
International Studies
University of Michigan

Yale Center for International and Area
Studies
Yale University

School of International Relations
University of Southern California

International Careers

There are a variety of career choices for International Studies Majors. Opportunities are available in the United States as well as in Foreign Countries.

In addition to the careers listed under the Apsia description, the following is a sample of career options:

International Program Coordinator for Educational Institutions and Research Institutions

International Health Care at Chemonics, Family Health International, Field Programs and Research Projects; Public Health Advisor – World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control, etc.

Foreign Language Support for Corporations or Travel Assistance at airports etc.

Work with international organizations such as the United Nations, CARE International, Save the Children, Human Rights Watch, and the International Rescue Committee as a consultant, lobbyist, or program manager.

Consultant or Liaison officer for major corporations and businesses

Please Remember

Students should schedule an appointment with the major advisor at least once each semester. Electives should be carefully chosen to match or augment career goals. All major and minor electives should be selected in consultation with the advisor.

Students who wish to attend graduate and professional schools should take both macroeconomics and microeconomics (Economics 241 and 242).

A Study Abroad experience that allows for a research or internship opportunity where primary data can be collected is required.

International Studies majors can participate in a variety of activities that will enhance classroom instruction and provide practical experience. These activities include, but are not limited to, securing internships with local international organizations as well as international agencies such as the United States Department of State or joining the Spelman Model United Nations team.

International Studies Major Checklist

Name _____

Track _____

Cognate Course

Date Taken

Economics 241, Principles of Macro Economics _____

Core Courses

IS 211, Introduction to International Studies _____

IS 212, World Politics _____

History 303, Foundations of the Modern World _____

Economics 324, Economic Development of Emerging Nations or Economics 424, Globalization and Development _____

IS 411, Senior Seminar _____

Major Electives

Foreign Language Course 300 and above

College Core Courses:

Math _____

English Composition _____

Health and PE _____

Humanities _____

Women's Studies _____

ADW _____

Computer Literacy _____

Foreign Language _____

Fine Arts _____

Natural Sciences _____

Social Sciences _____

The International Studies Major is housed in the International Affairs Center. The programs and activities of the Center are included for your information.

Scholarships:

Mickey Leland Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship is established by Mrs. Allison Walton Leland Brisco, Spelman alumna, in memory of her late husband, U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland of Texas. Congressman Leland was Chair of the House Select Committee on Hunger and a member of the Committee on Telecommunications. Two endowed scholarships are available each year. International Studies Majors and Minors are eligible.

Ruth Hodges Scholarship

This award is in the form of a \$500.00 gift to a student who is a member of the Trailblazers (see below). The award is presented annually by the Hodges family at a special dinner.

Programs and Activities:

Diplomat-in-Residence Program

This program is funded under an agreement with the U.S. Department of State. The Diplomat provides Spelman with a direct link to the State Department as well as other government agencies with an international focus. Through this link students can earn placement in internships in American embassies abroad. Moreover, the diplomat will serve as a mentor to students desiring a career in the Foreign Service.

Trailblazers

Trailblazers, a student organization comprised of students with an intense interest in international affairs, is designed to enhance course work in international studies; expand the international discussion arena, and provide opportunities for extra-curricular programs and activities in a global context.

Model United Nations

The Model United Nations is an educational and training activity that allows students to simulate the complex work carried out by international diplomats within the context of the various organs and deliberative bodies of the United Nations System. Students assume the role of “Ambassadors” from United Nations member states and seek, through debate and negotiation, common solutions to critical issues on the global agenda. Through this concrete experience, students gain a global perspective on difficult world problems as they conduct research and prepare speeches for presentation at Model UN conferences held in national and international sites.

External Programs and Fellowships (Selected)

Institute for International Public Policy

A competitive fellowship and enrichment program held during the summer, provides opportunities for taking courses in international studies, writing workshops, and quantitative analysis courses. Fellowship also provides funding for graduate school. Applicants must be at the sophomore level.

The Thomas Pickering Fellowship

Outstanding students interested in pursuing a career in the Foreign Service may apply for this fellowship that offers tuition, room, board and fees during the junior and senior years of college. The fellowship also funds a master's degree in international studies. Applicants must fulfill a service obligation.

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program

Howard University's Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State sponsors this fellowship program for students interested in the Foreign Service. Successful applicants to this program receive money for tuition, room, and board as well as funding for graduate school in international studies. This program also includes a service obligation.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, this scholarship awards funds to eligible students to study abroad.