

# International Studies

## Director, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs

- Helena R. Dettmer

## Director, International Studies

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**Undergraduate major:** international studies (B.A.)

**Undergraduate minor:** international studies

**Faculty:** <https://clas.uiowa.edu/international-studies/tracksfaculty>

**Website:** <https://clas.uiowa.edu/international-studies/>

The International Studies major encourages students to integrate theoretical knowledge about broad global processes, and the methods used to study them, with in-depth examination of a particular geographical region or a major theme in international studies. The major affords students the opportunity to integrate the study of history, politics, economics, expressive arts, culture, beliefs, and social systems.

International Studies is one of the academic units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs.

## Programs

### Undergraduate Programs of Study

#### Major

- Major in International Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

#### Minor

- Minor in International Studies

## Courses

### International Studies Courses

#### IS:1000 Designing Your International Studies Major 1 s.h.

Importance of interdisciplinarity, global perspectives, and world language study for 21st-century liberal education; intentional planning of courses and other out-of-class experiences to prepare students for life and career after college.

#### IS:1030 International Events Attendance 1 s.h.

Attendance at internationally oriented academic, artistic, or cultural events taking place in Iowa City.

#### IS:1101 Cultural Anthropology 3 s.h.

Comparative study of culture, social organization. GE: Social Sciences; Values and Culture. Same as ANTH:1101.

#### IS:2000 Introduction to International Studies 3 s.h.

Introduction to the interdisciplinary field of international studies; globalization, migration, and inequality. GE: International and Global Issues.

**IS:2009 World Travel: Cross-Cultural Skills for International Business, Education, and Service 1-3 s.h.**  
Cross-cultural skills and ethics for international business, education, and service.

**IS:2012 Issues in International Studies 1 s.h.**  
Modules focusing on varied topics, taught by international studies faculty members.

**IS:2013 Issues in International Studies 1-3 s.h.**  
Modules focusing on varied topics, taught by international studies faculty members.

**IS:2014 Germany and the Amanas 1 s.h.**  
Contemporary issues of Germany, patterns of immigration to Amana, Iowa.

**IS:2020 World Events Today! 3 s.h.**  
Current events that introduce students to political and cultural developments throughout the world.

**IS:2042 Intercultural Communication 3 s.h.**  
Culture defined as a system of taken-for-granted assumptions about the world that influence how people think and act; cultural differences that produce challenges and opportunities for understanding and communication; those differences from several theoretical perspectives; opportunities to examine culture and cultural differences in practical, experience-driven ways. Same as COMM:2042, SSW:2042.

**IS:2111 Developed and Developing Places 3 s.h.**  
Geography and the world distribution of key cultural factors—population, religion, and per capita income; economic and demographic differences between developed and developing countries.

**IS:2112 The European Union 3 s.h.**  
Brief history and rationale for the European Union; environmental, economic, social, and political aspects of this potential superpower.

**IS:2115 Introduction to Human Rights 3 s.h.**  
Analysis and evaluation of the international human rights program; relationship between human rights and international law. Same as HRTS:2115.

**IS:2120 World History: Stone Age to Feudal Age 3 s.h.**  
World history from human origins, through classical antiquity, to the 16th century; political, economic, and environmental forces contributing to social transformations. Same as HIST:2120.

**IS:2122 World History: Feudal Age to Nuclear Age 3 s.h.**  
World history from the late 1400s to 1945; colonialism, imperialism, capitalism, and industrialization as forces of global social and cultural transformation. Same as HIST:2122.

#### IS:2151 Global Migration in the Contemporary World 3 s.h.

Examination of social, economic, and cultural dimensions of global migration in the contemporary world from a transnational and anthropological perspective; primary focus is on Asian migration to the United States, but in comparison to other migration trajectories. Recommendations: an introductory course in cultural anthropology is useful, but not required. Same as ANTH:2151, GWSS:2151.

- IS:2248 The Invention of Writing: From Cuneiform to Computers** 3 s.h.  
Invention of writing as one of the most momentous events in the history of human civilizations; how the use of written sign systems, notations, maps, graphs, encryptions, and most recently, computer programs have consequences that reach deeply into all aspects of people's lives; how writing fascinates and delights, fosters reflexive thinking and facilitates development of complex societies, and gives rise to institutions of social power and control; students explore the invention of writing and its consequences in broad international and interdisciplinary context. Same as ANTH:2248, ASIA:2248, CL:2248, CLSA:2048, COMM:2248, HIST:2148, LING:2248, WLLC:2248.
- IS:2500 Working Internationally** 1 s.h.  
Information on international job sectors; presentations by experts in the field; advice on what is required to work internationally.
- IS:2570 Introduction to Islamic Psychology** 3 s.h.  
Psychology in Islamic civilization; the nature of the human being; pathology, illness, healing, and therapies in the Islamic tradition; Islamic models compared with Euro-American frameworks. Recommendations: basic knowledge of psychology and Islam. Same as GHS:2570, RELS:2570.
- IS:2600 Muslim Minorities in the West** 3-4 s.h.  
Introduction to lives of Muslim immigrants in the USA, France, Germany, and England; examination of various theories on multiculturalism. Taught in English. GE: Values and Culture. Same as GRMN:2655.
- IS:2700 Introduction to Latin American Studies** 3 s.h.  
Cultures of Latin American countries with emphasis on cultural history and cultural production; interdisciplinary survey. Same as COMM:2800, LAS:2700, PORT:2700, SPAN:2700.
- IS:3009 International Perspectives: Xicotepec** 2-3 s.h.  
Introduction to provision of service to a community in a less-developed country; development of discipline-specific projects aimed at improving community life in Xicotepec, Mexico in collaboration with Rotary International; cultural and professional preparation for team work in an international environment; service-learning course requiring travel to Xicotepec, Mexico during spring break.
- IS:3010 Creating a Proposal for International Research** 2 s.h.  
Major components of research process; development of intellectually challenging and personally engaging topics of international research. Requirements: junior or higher standing.
- IS:3011 Library Strategies for International Research** 1 s.h.  
Skill development in international research; academic projects; work with research librarian; activity-based introduction to article, statistical, and governmental databases; research and popular materials; information discovery process (tools and search strategies); enhancement of critical thinking skills. Same as ULIB:3011.
- IS:3020 Writing Projects in International Studies** 1-3 s.h.  
Writing project on a subject specified by supervising faculty member; available only in conjunction with a regularly offered course.
- IS:3116 Communication-Based Approaches to International Development** 3 s.h.  
Communication as a vital component for any effort to create social change; necessary communication to reach out to target audiences—people and communities in need—from campaigns persuading communities to change knowledge, attitudes, and practices to aiding other development efforts in areas of health, education, rural development, or sustainable agricultural practices; importance of communication as an integral part to any effort aimed at creating large-scale social change. Same as JMC:3116.
- IS:3199 Global Environmental Politics** 3 s.h.  
Survey of major environmental crises and conflict between environmental groups and their detractors; climate change, global warming, loss of biodiversity, pollution, toxins, nuclear power, deforestation.
- IS:3200 Sustainable Development** 3 s.h.  
Overview of development theory and debate; increasing role of China and other new players in development funding and projects; development-oriented projects, career paths.
- IS:3333 Economics and Islam** 3 s.h.  
Origins, functions, and impact of Islamic and related religions' ideas and practices in the realms of economic development, financial services and products, business models, and matters of social justice. Same as RELS:3333.
- IS:3350 Transnational Feminism** 3 s.h.  
Exploration of feminist perspectives from the United States and outside of the United States; how geopolitics shapes understanding of familiar feminist issues (e.g., reproduction, cultural practices, sexualities, poverty); emphasis on global south regions and populations. Same as ANTH:3125, GWSS:3350.
- IS:3550 Special Topics in International Studies** 1-3 s.h.  
Special topics related to international studies.
- IS:3555 Understanding Health and Disease in Africa** 3 s.h.  
Cultural, historical, and political framework for the delivery of health care services in African nations. Recommendations: junior or higher standing. Same as GHS:3555, HIST:3755.
- IS:3560 Global Food Migrations** 3 s.h.  
Understanding how food influences, and is influenced by, social, political, and cultural factors.
- IS:3600 Development in a Global Context I: Preparing for an Internship in Health, Gender, and Environment** 1 s.h.  
Students work with a UI faculty mentor to articulate an international development project and apply to an international development organization for an internship; students are matched to an organization/project and begin preparation for their internship by communicating with onsite mentor/supervisor.
- IS:3700 Development in a Global Context II: Reflections on Real World Interventions** 2 s.h.  
Students produce a research paper analyzing their personal internship in an international development program.
- IS:3745 Islam in Africa** 4 s.h.  
African Islamic history beginning with earliest Muslim migrants from Arabia to Ethiopia in early 7th century C.E. to dawn of 21st century; focus on historical development of Islam on African continent, specific regions, and particular themes; part of Islamic Studies Virtual Curriculum and Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) CourseShare Program. Same as HIST:3745, RELS:3845.

- IS:3834 Arab Spring in Context: Media, Religion, and Geopolitics** 3 s.h.  
 Protest movements that started in Tunisia in 2011 and swept across North Africa and the Middle East transforming Arab and Islamic societies in radically different ways; function of social media, satellite television, communication technology; influence of religious leaders and groups on some protest outcomes; impact of wealth and geopolitics on social fabric of Islamic societies within and outside Arab countries. Same as JMC:3146, RELS:3834, WLLC:3834.
- IS:3855 Human Rights and Islam** 3 s.h.  
 Human rights in religious and secular discourse, seventh century to present; Islamic law, human rights law, religion, politics. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as RELS:3855.
- IS:3905 Topics in Human Rights** 1-3 s.h.  
 Examination of emerging human rights issues from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Same as HRTS:3905.
- IS:3910 Human Rights Advocacy** 3 s.h.  
 Theoretical foundations and critical issues for international human rights advocacy and international humanitarian movements. Same as HRTS:3910.
- IS:3990 Independent Study in International Studies** arr.  
 Research on a topic of international significance. Requirements: international studies major.
- IS:4131 Globalization and Culture** 3 s.h.  
 How context for everyday experience has increasingly become globally determined (e.g., ever-increasing transnational migration of people, spread of American culture, growth of international corporations and trade, rise of international conflict and transnational activism); range of theoretical and critical readings on globalization; various phenomena and perspectives regarding topic; themes directly relevant to lives of modern youth; how globalization affects opportunities and risks, identities and relationships. Prerequisites: (4 of the following are required: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170), (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174), COMM:1301, COMM:1305) and (2 of the following are required: COMM:2010, COMM:2011, COMM:2040, COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044, COMM:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091). Same as COMM:4131.
- IS:4142 Advanced Intercultural Communication** 3 s.h.  
 Defining culture as a historically-transmitted, socially-constructed system of meaning enacted in face-to-face interaction and mass media; focus on a specific topic within intercultural communication research and theory (i.e., cultural nature of personal relationships, built environment as culture, intersection of private with public cultural meaning); in-depth follow-up of general approach to intercultural communication covered in lower-level courses. Prerequisites: (4 of the following are required: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170), (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174), COMM:1301, COMM:1305) and (2 of the following are required: COMM:2010, COMM:2011, COMM:2040, COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044, COMM:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091). Same as COMM:4142.
- IS:4653 Law and Society in Late Imperial and Modern China** 3 s.h.  
 Survey of legal system of China and Chinese society from 1400 to 1980s. Same as HIST:4653.
- IS:4990 International Studies Senior Project** 3 s.h.  
 Prerequisites: IS:3010. Requirements: international studies major.
- IS:4991 Honors Thesis in International Studies** 3 s.h.  
 Prerequisites: IS:3010. Requirements: international studies major.