International Studies, B.A.

International studies students learn that the complexity of current world conditions requires a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving. They take core international studies courses to learn key concepts and practical skills, and extend their education by choosing from an array of internationally focused courses from the social sciences, humanities, and the arts.

Students also are encouraged to develop real-world intercultural skills by studying abroad, engaging locally with international communities, service learning, internships, and conducting research. Through academic and cocurricular experiences, students become prepared to positively contribute to the world.

As a second major, international studies can add cross-cultural skills and perspectives to degrees in business, health sciences, journalism, and the arts.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

• recognize that the complexity of current world conditions requires a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving,
• analyze and synthesize information about key topics in international studies,
• demonstrate intellectual open-mindedness when addressing global issues, and
• apply cross-cultural skills when engaging respectfully with people from other countries and diverse communities in the United States.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in international studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 43 s.h. of work for the major. Students must complete at least 15 s.h. of work for the major at the University of Iowa. They must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. Students also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

The international studies major is flexible, combining core international studies coursework with those drawn from across the humanities, social sciences, and the arts. Students work closely with an academic advisor to plan their program of study.

Students are encouraged to study or intern abroad and should work with their academic advisor to determine how credits earned from approved study abroad or international internships can fulfill the global perspectives, world cultures and societies, and/or language requirements for the major.

To benefit from the interdisciplinary nature of international studies, students choose from a wide range of courses. To ensure that students take courses from varied disciplines, they may count a maximum of 12 s.h. from any department or program toward the global perspectives [p. 2] and the world cultures and societies [p. 5] requirements as well as the language [p. 1] requirement.

Students may apply up to 12 s.h. of coursework from each additional major, minor, or certificate they earn toward the international studies major. Transfer credit approved by the International Studies Program may be applied to the major.

Students have the option to complete a 15 s.h. concentration. They choose global perspectives courses and world cultures and societies courses approved in one of the three concentrations: global business and communication [p. 10], international human rights and public service [p. 10], or international sustainable development [p. 11].

The B.A. with a major in international studies requires the following coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>Capstone Course</td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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Foundation Courses

Students learn the core, multidisciplinary intellectual and interpersonal international studies skill set, and its applications for travel, employment, and understanding global issues.

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<td>IS:2500 Working Internationally</td>
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Language Requirement

By fulfilling the language requirement, students gain language competence needed for work and life in the increasingly globalized world.

Students must complete a minimum of two world language courses beyond that required by the GE CLAS Core program. This additional language requirement may be met either by completing two fifth-semester-level courses in the same language used to fulfill the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement or by completing two courses (or the equivalent) of a second world language at any level.

In satisfying this requirement, most students are eligible to receive an additional 4 s.h. of ungraded credit under the Furthering Language Incentive Program (FLIP). This credit may be applied to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, but it does not count toward requirements for the international studies major.
## Capstone Course
Students apply their knowledge in internationally focused experiences. They typically complete the capstone course in their third or fourth year.

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<td>IS:3012</td>
<td>Service Learning in International Studies</td>
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## Global Perspectives Courses
Students learn about global trends, comparisons, and interactions.

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<td>Global Perspectives on Negotiation, Persuasion, and Communication</td>
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<td>Language, Culture, and Communication</td>
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<td>Anthropology and Contemporary World Problems</td>
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<td>Race, Place, and Power: Urban Anthropology</td>
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<td>Food, Drink, and Culture</td>
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### World Cultures and Societies Courses

Students gain place-based knowledge.
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<td>Music of the Hispanic World</td>
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<td>Introduction to Bilingualism</td>
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<td>Latin American Cultural Studies</td>
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<td>Cultural Storytelling</td>
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</table>
worldwide. Skills needed for engaging in ethical and effective intercultural communication and action in the global business world, which are valued by multinational corporations and businesses. This concentration enables students to understand the economic and cultural impacts of globalization at both the micro and macro levels. Students use multidisciplinary perspectives to understand the complex forces that shape global commerce on the macro and micro levels. Students who earn the concentration to stand out among entry-level applicants; students develop the knowledge and thinking skills to complex problems. Students also develop an

### Optional Concentrations

Students have the option to complete a 15 s.h. concentration. This may be done by choosing global perspectives courses and world cultures and societies courses that are approved in one of the three concentrations—global business and communication [p. 10], international human rights and public service [p. 10], and international sustainable development [p. 11].

### Global Business and Communication

This concentration enables students to understand the complex forces that shape global commerce on the macro and micro levels. Students use multidisciplinary perspectives to understand the economic and cultural impacts of globalization processes, including on globalized systems and cultures of business, communication, and media. It offers social scientific and humanistic approaches to global business and communication. This background enables students who earn the concentration to stand out among entry-level business applicants; students develop the knowledge and skills needed for engaging in ethical and effective intercultural communication and action in the global business world, which are valued by multinational corporations and businesses worldwide.

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<td>Global Debt</td>
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<td>BUS:2350</td>
<td>Introduction to Global Business: Asia Pacific</td>
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<td>Introduction to Latina/o/x Communication and Culture</td>
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<td>COMM:4131/IS:4131</td>
<td>Globalization and Culture</td>
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<td>COMM:4171</td>
<td>Community Media</td>
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<td>ECON:3345</td>
<td>Global Economics and Business</td>
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<td>ECON:3620</td>
<td>Economic Growth and Development</td>
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<td>ENTR:4460</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship and Global Trade</td>
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<td>FREN:1006</td>
<td>Global Sports and National Cultures</td>
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<td>Cultural Misunderstandings: France and U.S.A.</td>
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<td>GRMN:3214</td>
<td>Business German</td>
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<td>The Office: Business Life in America</td>
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<td>Introduction to Social Media</td>
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<td>Media and Global Cultures</td>
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<td>Social Media for Social Change</td>
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<td>Japanese for Professional Purposes I</td>
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<td>MGMT:3450</td>
<td>International Business Environment</td>
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<td>MGMT:4500</td>
<td>Strategy, Innovation and Global Competition</td>
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<td>MKTG:4300</td>
<td>International Marketing</td>
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<td>POLI:3516</td>
<td>The Politics of International Economics</td>
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<td>POLI:3524</td>
<td>Politics and Multinational Enterprises</td>
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<td>Conversation Practicum</td>
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<td>RUSS:2100</td>
<td>Russian Mindset: Sex, Business, and Politics</td>
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<td>Introduction to Travel and Tourism</td>
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<td>TRNS:2000</td>
<td>Translation and Global Society</td>
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</table>

### International Human Rights and Public Service

This concentration is designed to provide a combination of philosophical and practical knowledge related to social justice and human rights. The study of human rights is inherently multidisciplinary, and students have the opportunity to become familiar with international human rights standards, their application, and implications through coursework in a variety of disciplines. Students are expected to understand how to discuss and address human rights concerns from a number of distinct perspectives and to apply critical thinking skills to complex problems. Students also develop an
understanding of the ways that cultural and political-economic systems reflect specific place-based contexts as well as complex world histories of colonization, resistance, migration and globalization. They gain knowledge and skills that are directly applicable to public service careers in government and nongovernmental organization, in the United States and abroad, as well as graduate programs of study such as law and public policy.

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>Introduction to Human Rights</td>
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<td>HRTS:3903/IS:3903</td>
<td>Technology and Human Rights</td>
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<td>HRTS:3904/IS:3904</td>
<td>Business, Labor, and Human Rights</td>
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<td>Topics in Human Rights</td>
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<td>HRTS:3906</td>
<td>Global Crises and Human Rights</td>
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<td>HRTS:3907/IS:3907</td>
<td>Literature and Human Rights</td>
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<td>HRTS:3908/IS:3908</td>
<td>Governance and Human Rights</td>
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<td>HRTS:3909/IS:3909</td>
<td>Human Rights Lab</td>
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<td>AFAM:3500/HIST:3160/RELS:3808</td>
<td>Malcolm X, King, and Human Rights</td>
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<td>Language Rights</td>
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<td>Global Migration in the Contemporary World</td>
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<td>Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity</td>
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<td>ENGL:2505</td>
<td>Introduction to Postcolonial Studies</td>
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<td>ENGL:2560</td>
<td>Topics in Culture and Identity</td>
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<td>ENGL:2571/GWSS:2571/SJUS:2571</td>
<td>Visualizing Human Rights</td>
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<td>FREN:4210/MUSM:4310/WLLC:4210</td>
<td>Slavery Museums, Memorials, and Statues in the United States, Europe, and the Global South</td>
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<td>Environmental Justice</td>
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<td>GRMN:2675</td>
<td>The Politics of Memory: Holocaust, Genocide, and 9/11</td>
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<td>GHS:3034</td>
<td>Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities</td>
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<td>GHS:4003</td>
<td>Case Studies in Global Health Inequities</td>
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<td>GWSS:3157/HIST:3157</td>
<td>Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights</td>
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<td>Holocaust in History and Memory</td>
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<td>Latinx Community Engagement</td>
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<td>International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics</td>
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<td>RELS:2855</td>
<td>Human Rights, Law, Religion, and Culture</td>
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<td>RELS:3855/GSIS:3855</td>
<td>Human Rights and Islam</td>
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<td>RHET:2135/SJUS:2135</td>
<td>Rhetorics of Diversity and Inclusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS:2050/WLLC:2050</td>
<td>Women from an Unknown Land: The Fight for Independence</td>
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</table>

**International Sustainable Development**

Students learn about the multiple dimensions to social change and human development in areas of the world categorized as developing societies, including poverty reduction; health; the environment and sustainability; climate change; food security; communication for development; cultures of developing societies; and historical, cultural, and critical perspectives on the idea of modern development. They gain an understanding of development as a cultural and political-economic process that directly influences the environment. Students also study the ways in which direct and indirect policy making by social, economic, and political institutions affect environmental issues. In this way, they develop an appreciation of the complexity of development and environmental problems in the globalized world. This concentration gives students the knowledge and skills needed for jobs or graduate education in international development and sustainability work after graduation.

<table>
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<td>Race, Place, and Power: Urban Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH:2160/GHS:2160</td>
<td>Culture, Health, and Wellness: Southeast Asia in Focus</td>
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<td>ANTH:2261</td>
<td>Human Impacts on the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPH:4200</td>
<td>Agriculture, Food Systems, and Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG:1070</td>
<td>Contemporary Environmental Issues</td>
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</table>
complement to a variety of academic degree programs and many students combine the international studies major with another major such as in world languages, business, journalism, health sciences, or the arts.

International studies alumni find employment in a range of career sectors such as education, nonprofit/nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), business, government, and translation/interpreting.

Specific examples of organizations where recent graduates have found post-graduation opportunities include Doctors without Borders (New York City, New York), the International Visitor Leadership Program/U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.), Coyote Logistics (Chicago, Illinois), Peace Corps (Cambodia and Uganda), American Councils for International Education (Washington, D.C.), CET Study Abroad Programs (Greece), RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps (Des Moines and Iowa City, Iowa), Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (Japan), The Bold Italic (San Francisco, California), and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (Austin, Texas).

International studies graduates also have used their cross-cultural, interdisciplinary education to win prestigious awards such as the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (Czech Republic, Taiwan, Brazil, Russia), the Gilman Scholarship, the Stanley Undergraduate Award for International Research, the Princeton in Latin America Fellowship, and the Critical Language Scholarship.

Additionally, the international studies major is excellent preparation for graduate and professional programs in law, international development, medicine, nonprofit management, higher education, public health, and urban and regional planning.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

### Academic Plans

#### Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Students who intend to study abroad during their junior year should schedule an appointment during their fourth semester to meet with an advisor from International Programs Study Abroad; those who intend to study abroad during their senior year should schedule an appointment during their sixth semester.

**Before the fifth semester begins:** at least two 3 s.h. foundation courses, and one global perspectives course or world cultures and societies course.

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least nine courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

**Before the eighth semester begins:** at least 12 courses in the major.

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major (including capstone course if not already taken), all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

---

**Honors in the Major**

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. International studies honors students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all coursework for the major and in all coursework that may be applied to the major.

To graduate with honors in the major, students must complete a minimum of 46 s.h. for the major (an additional 3 s.h.), including at least 6 s.h. in courses designated as honors courses.

Honors students must choose IS:3010 Writing and Research for the World for their capstone option, and complete IS:4991 Honors Thesis in International Studies. Students also are encouraged to present their research in a public venue, such as the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival (SURF).

### University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the international studies major.

### Career Advancement

The flexible structure of the international studies major allows students to tailor the degree to fit a wide range of academic interests and career goals. International studies is an ideal
Iowa Degree in Three
University of Iowa majors who are strongly motivated can graduate with a degree in three years under the Iowa Degree in Three. The program is available to students who can complete more semester hours each term than they would on the Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Students sign an agreement during their first semester of enrollment; meet with an advisor at least once a semester to review their plans and progress; take courses during summer sessions, if necessary; meet specific course checkpoints; and maintain the grade-point average required for the major.

Students are allowed to bring Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or transfer credit upon admission to reduce the number of semester hours required for their degree. They should consult their advisor about the program.

Sample Plan of Study
Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

International Studies, B.A.

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<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IS:2000 or IS:2500</td>
<td>Designing Your International Studies Major or Working Internationally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: World Cultures and Societies course (may select Optional Concentration course)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: Language Requirement course</td>
<td>3 - 5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>15-17</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: Global Perspectives course (may select Optional Concentration course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: World Cultures and Societies course (may select Optional Concentration course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: Language Requirement course</td>
<td>3 - 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fourth Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IS:3010</td>
<td>Writing and Research for the World</td>
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<td>Major: World Cultures and Societies course (may select Optional Concentration course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IS:3012</td>
<td>Service Learning in International Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: Global Perspectives course (may select Optional Concentration course)</td>
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<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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</table>

Notes:
- a Honors students must choose IS:3010 Designing International Studies Project for their capstone option and complete IS:4991 Honors Thesis in International Studies.
- b GE CLAS Core: Sustainability
- c Working Internationally or Designing Your International Studies Major
- d Elective course
- e GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency
- f GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course
- g, h May select Optional Concentration course
- i GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course
 Elective course $^f$ 3
 Elective course $^f$ 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>120-130</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

a. Students meet regularly with the International Studies academic advisor for help in identifying experiential learning activities and integrating them into their academic plans.

b. Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

c. Students earn a minimum of 10 s.h. in International Studies Foundation courses.

d. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

e. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

f. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

g. Students have the option to complete a 15 s.h. concentration. They choose Global Perspectives courses and World Cultures and Societies courses approved in one of the three concentrations: Global Business and Communication, International Human Rights and Public Service, or International Sustainable Development.

h. Students earn a minimum of 12 s.h. in International Studies World Cultures and Societies courses; see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

i. Students earn a minimum of 12 s.h. in International Studies Global Perspectives courses including at least 6 s.h. numbered 2000 or above; see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

j. Students must complete a minimum of two courses of language study beyond that required by the GE CLAS Core. This additional language requirement may be met either by completing two courses of upper-level study in the same language used to fulfill the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement or by completing two courses, or the equivalent, of a second world language at any level.

k. Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.