International Studies

Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures
• Jill N. Beckman (Linguistics)

Director, International Studies
• Ari Ariel

Undergraduate major: international studies (B.A.)
Undergraduate minor: international studies
Faculty: https://internationalstudies.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://internationalstudies.uiowa.edu/

The International Studies Program offers a multidisciplinary approach to international issues and global connections. International Studies is one of the academic units in the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Major
• Major in International Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Minor
• Minor in International Studies

Facilities

The Center for Language and Culture Learning provides a wide variety of facilities and services to the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (DWLLC), including a 24-computer Instructional Technology Center (ITC) and five All-In-One Studios/small group study rooms equipped with video production and editing software, a Computer Assisted Language Learning Lab with 25 computers integrated with Sanako software for language practice, a SignALL lab for American Sign Language learning and practice, and virtual reality hardware and development space.

The center provides spaces for quiet study as well as for group meetings. Departments, programs, and student organizations are welcome to host conversation hours, film nights, study groups, workshops, and more. The center supports a robust peer tutoring program in many of the languages taught in DWLLC, with both in-person and online availability, as well as Directed Independent Language Study, through which faculty, staff, or students can be paired with a tutor to learn a language not taught in the DWLLC.

Courses

International Studies Courses

IS:1000 Designing Your International Studies

Major
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.

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

IS:2041 Understanding "The Muslim World"
3 s.h.
Exploration of expressions and experiences of Muslims in increasingly diverse societies around the world. Same as ASIA:2041, RELS:2041.

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: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. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as ANTH:2151, GWSS:2151.
IS:2190 Love Rules: Law and the Family Across Cultures 3 s.h.
Recent debates over legalizing gay marriage remind us that
the law is not an abstract concept; it is a social creation that
emphasizes certain cultural norms over others, both powerful
and changeable; family law outlines what one cultural vision
of relationships—those between lovers, parent and child,
and between kin—supposedly should look like in a given
society, a vision always marked by gendered, racial, and
sexual divisions of power; students consider what happens
when legal norms intersect with diverse ways that people
make families through topics including marriage, divorce,
custody, and surrogacy across the world. Same as ANTH:2190,
GWS:2190.

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. Taught in
English. Same as ANTH:2248, ASIA:2248, CL:2248, CLSA:2048,
COMM:2248, GRMN:2248, HIST:2148, LING:2248, TRNS: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:2560 Global Food Migrations 3 s.h.
Understanding how food influences and is influenced by
social, political, and cultural factors.

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. Taught in English. 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 teamwork in an international
environment; service-learning course requiring travel to
Xicotepec, Mexico during spring break.

IS:3010 Writing and Research for the World 3 s.h.
How to research and write on international and global topics
in various genres; preparation for a local or international
project which addresses international issues in a systematic
way. Requirements: junior or higher standing.

IS:3011 Global Research: Strategies and Skills 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 GHS:3011, ULIB:3011.

IS:3012 Service Learning in International Studies 3 s.h.
Internationally focused service learning in local communities.

IS:3020 Writing Projects in International Studies 0-3 s.h.
Writing project completed with the supervision of an approved
faculty mentor.

IS:3116 Media and Global Cultures 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:3142 Social Media for Social Change 3 s.h.
Individuals and groups use social media to organize,
collaborate, and spread their messages to local and global
audiences; students explore the myriad ways that people and
organizations use social media as tools for civic engagement,
activism, and political participation; drawing on a broad
range of international and national cases, students examine
unfolding social movements from early internet activism to
the present. Same as JMC:3142.

IS:3190 Global Debt 3 s.h.
Economies as cultural systems that emphasize the role of
worldviews and “meaning-making” in organizing economies;
debt as a key mechanism in creation and maintenance of
relationships; focus on how exchange, distribution, and
obligation serve to shore up or sever various social institutions
and links between debt, inequality, and power; debt in various
forms, from a round of drinks to student loans, and from the
U.S. mortgage crisis to development aid; diverse array of
economies—from gift exchange to ceremonial destruction
of wealth, and from Melanesia to Wall Street—to evaluate
assumptions that undergird different systems of debt and
credit. Requirements: introductory course in anthropology
or international studies or gender, women’s, and sexuality
studies. Same as ANTH:3190, SJUS:3190.

IS:3198 Anthropology and Global Health Policy 3 s.h.
Global health has grown as an area of practice and study, with
well-being and livelihoods of increasing numbers of people
now deeply influenced by these ideas, practices, and policies;
students engage with ways that global health programs
have influenced experiences of health and illness by those
who participate in these programs, critically analyzing how
global health interacts with local dynamics of inequality, race,
gender, and power. Same as ANTH:3198, GHS:3198.

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: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:3565 Global Perspectives on Negotiation, Persuasion, and Communication 3 s.h. Cross-cultural approach to preparation for negotiation; exploration of how culture simultaneously enhances and complicates persuasive interactions at the individual, organizational, and global levels; evaluation and improvement of negotiation and cross-cultural communication skills through experiential in-class exercises.

IS:3600 Development in a Global Context I: Preparing for an Internship in Health, Gender, and Environment 2 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 1 s.h. Students produce a research paper analyzing their personal internship in an international development program.

IS:3855 Human Rights and Islam 3 s.h. Exploration of social forces, legal regimes, and cultural norms that have shaped discourse on human rights in a global context with reliance on a systems thinking framework; examination of intersections of rights, culture, society, and law in the last 2,000 years; consideration of interplay between institutional (formal) and societal (informal) powers that shape human rights norms; origins and evolution of discourse on rights across cultures and throughout history. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as RELS:3855.

IS:3903 Technology and Human Rights 1-3 s.h. Examination of emerging human rights issues in technology from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Same as HRTS:3903.

IS:3904 Business, Labor, and Human Rights 1-3 s.h. Examination of emerging human rights issues in labor and business from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Same as HRTS:3904.

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:3907 Literature and Human Rights 1-3 s.h. Examination in human rights in literature from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Same as HRTS:3907.

IS:3908 Governance and Human Rights 1-3 s.h. Examination of emerging human rights related to governance issues from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Same as HRTS:3908.

IS:3909 Human Rights Lab 1-3 s.h. Discussion-based examination of emerging human rights issues from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Same as HRTS:3909.

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: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.

IS:4999 International Experience 0 s.h. Engagement in international experiences. Same as GHS:4999.