

International Studies

Interdisciplinary Major and Minor

Director: Dr. Krista Chambless

Faculty: Sharlach (Political Science and Public Administration); Kiper, Kyle (Anthropology); Van Sant, Ward, Wiesen (History); Biga (Sociology); Cummings (Art and Art History); Chambless, Danielou, Hara (World Languages and Literatures)

The International Studies Program promotes a holistic appreciation of the different values and structures that characterize the world's diverse societies, as well as an understanding of the institutions that produce economic, social, cultural, and political interdependence among nations.

A major or minor in international studies provides students with the background necessary to pursue a variety of public and private-sector careers. Employment opportunities are as numerous and varied as the interests and abilities of individual students. Majors may find employment in diplomatic or foreign service; international business, law, or labor relations; international development, social service, the travel industry, or health agencies and cultural organizations. Many of our students pursue graduate work in the fields of international relations, international development, peace studies, conflict resolution studies, public health, or law. We encourage all International Studies majors to study abroad, minor in a foreign language, and hope that they will pursue internship opportunities as well. The minor complements any major area by providing students with an international focus in their field.

The program is administered by the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, courses taught in other schools and professional programs at UAB may be relevant to the curriculum developed by a student in pursuit of his or her specific career goals.

Global Seal of Biliteracy

A student majoring in International Studies should strongly consider obtaining the [Global Seal of Biliteracy](#). It is a tangible, universally recognized credential that validates proficiency in two or more languages. This certification directly enhances a major's core competencies, demonstrating a high level of linguistic and cultural fluency—skills that are essential in diplomacy, global business, non-governmental organizations, and advanced academic research. Earning the Seal signals to prospective employers and graduate programs that the individual is not just academically familiar with global issues but is also equipped to effectively communicate and operate within the multinational environments central to an International Studies career.

International Studies is an interdisciplinary major. Courses eligible to apply to this major may vary with the emphasis that a student chooses. See your advisor for identifying an appropriate curriculum in your area of interest.

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in International Studies

Requirements	Hours
Blazer Core Curriculum	41
General Electives	40
Required International Studies	
PSC 103 Foundations of International Relations	3

ITS 470/PSC 402 or ITS 471/ PSC 403	Seminar in International Studies Seminar in International Studies	3
WLL 120	World Cultures	3
ITS Internship		
ITS 482	Internship in International Affairs	3
Economic Awareness		
Select one of the following:		3
ANTH 318	Economic Development and Indigenous Societies	
EC 110	Economics and Society	
EC 210	Principles of Microeconomics	
EC 211	Principles of Macroeconomics	
EC 304	Intermediate Microeconomics	
EC 305	Intermediate Macroeconomics	
EC 405	Economic Development and Growth	
EC 407	International Economics	
MG 305	Nonprofit Organization Mgmt/SL	
PSC 355	Politics of Development	
PSC 461	International Political Economy	
Socio-Political Concentration		
Select three of the following courses, from at least two different departments:		9
AAS 420	Public Health and Medical Issues in African Communities	
ANTH 245	Peoples of the World: Mediterranean	
ANTH 248	Peoples of the World: Latin America	
ANTH 330	Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Religious Violence	
ANTH 424	Anthropology of Transitional Justice	
ANTH 428	Drugs and Culture	
ANTH 438	The Conquest of Mexico	
ANTH 443	Propaganda, Misinformation, and Hate Speech	
ANTH 447	Advanced Peace Studies	
ANTH 459	Peace in Latin American Drug Wars	
CJ 115	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	
HY 234	The World Since 1945	
HY 251	Nineteenth-Century Europe	
HY 258	Britain and the Third World	
HY 262	Introduction to Early Modern Spanish History	
HY 263	History of the Russian Empire	
HY 265	History of the Soviet Union 1917-1991	
HY 272	Modern East Asia	
HY 317	History of Ancient Greece	
HY 318	History of the Roman Empire	
HY 319	Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages	
HY 358	British Origins of American Democracy	
HY 360	Scottish and Irish History, 1600-present	
HY 372	Modern East Asia	
HY 375	The Pacific War, 1931-1945	
HY 379	Women Rogues, Radicals and Reformers	
HY 419	The Second World War	
HY 421	The Vietnam Wars, 1945-1975	
HY 453	Clash of Civilizations	
HY 456	Seventeenth-Century Europe: Absolutism, Revolution and Science	
HY 457	Nineteenth-Century Europe	
HY 458	Modern Europe	
HY 460	Ancient and Medieval Britain	

HY 461	English History: 1307-1660	ARH 465	Aspects of Contemporary Art
HY 462	Early Modern Britain	ARH 471	Post-Partition Identity in South Asian Cinema
HY 463	Victorian Britain	ARH 478	Seminar: Buddhist Arts of East Asia
HY 464	Modern Great Britain	ARH 479	Study Abroad: Art & Culture of South Asia
HY 466	The French Revolution	EH 217	World Literature I: Before 1660
HY 467	Modern France 1815 - Present	EH 218	World Literature II: 1660-Present
HY 468	Modern German History	EH 423	African Women's Literature
HY 472	Terror and Terrorism from French Revolution to Present	EH 424	African-American Special Topics
HY 475	Modern China	HY 218	History of the Roman Empire
HY 476	Japan to the 19th Century	HY 230	Middle East 550 BCE to 1453 CE
HY 477	Modern Japan	HY 235	War in the Modern World
PSC 102	Introduction to Comparative Politics	HY 285	Mapping Our World
PSC 350	African Politics	HY 314	Roman Republic
PSC 351	European Political Systems	HY 330	Middle East 550 BCE to 1453 CE
PSC 352	Latin/South American Political Systems	HY 271/371	Traditional East Asian History and Culture
PSC 353	Asian Political Systems	HY 357	Religion in Early Modern European History
PSC 360	International Security	HY 371	Traditional East Asian History and Culture
PSC 361	North/South International Relations	HY 440	The Holocaust on Film
PSC 362	Diplomacy	HY 444	Nazi Germany
PSC 363	Nationalism in World Politics	HY 454	Topics in Middle Eastern History
PSC 367	Politics of the Middle East and Northern Africa	HY 459	Spain and the Spanish Inquisition
PSC 383	International Conflict & Conflict Management	HY 465	French Enlightenment
PSC 395	Special Topics in Political Science	HY 478	Topics in European History
PSC 456	Revolution and Political Violence	MU 366	Music in World Cultures
PSC 458	Human Trafficking	MU 367	Introduction to Ethnomusicology
PSC 465	International Law	PHL 232	Classical Political Thought
SOC 200	The Tipping Point: How Societies Change	PHL 233	Modern Political Theory
SOC 278	Global Lives: Sociology of Our Interconnected World	PHL 239	Eastern Philosophy
Cultural Literacy		PHL 442	History of Philosophy: From Kant to Nietzsche
Select three of the following courses, from at least two different departments:	9	PSC 104	Political Theory and Citizenship in Modern Civilizations
AAS 235	Introduction to African History and Culture	PSC 341	Classical Political Thought
AAS 320	African Identity/Personality	PSC 342	Modern Political Theory
AAS 331	African Diasporic Traditions	WLL 115	Experiencing Japanese Culture in Birmingham
AAS 330	African Aesthetics and Traditional Religion	WLL 118	City as Main Character
AAS 385	The History of Haiti	WLL 121	Songs of Social Change through World Cultures
ANTH 101	Introducing Cultural Anthropology	WLL 132	Multicultural City: Heritage through Festivals
ANTH 104	Introduction to Peace Studies	WLL 140	Worlds of Anime and Manga
ANTH 309	Egypt in the Age of the Pyramids	WLL 220	World Literatures in English Translation
ANTH 409	Peace through Global Governance	WLL 230	The International Bio-Pic
ANTH 412	Peaceful Societies and Peace Systems	WLL 303	History of International Film
ANTH 419	Religion, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness	WLL 304	Topics in International Cinema
ANTH 421	Technological Monitoring of Cultural Resources, Human Rights and Conflict	Electives	
ANTH 445	Medical Anthropology & Health Disparities	Students must take six semester hours from any of the above approved list of courses AND/OR from the list below:	6
ANTH 450	Advanced Cultural Anthropology	ANTH 120	Language and Culture
ANTH 483	Intern in Peace, Justice and Environmental Study	ANTH 200	Applied Anthropology
ARH 101	The Art Experience	ANTH 231	Archaeology of the Origins of Civilization in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Mediterranean
ARH 203	Ancient and Medieval Art	ANTH 340	Archaeology and History Bible Lands
ARH 204	Early Modern-Contemporary Art	ANTH 360	Ecological Anthropology
ARH 206	Survey of Asian Art	ANTH 404	Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights
ARH 321	Italian Renaissance Art	ANTH 407	Peace Ethology
ARH 370	Tomb Art in East Asia	ANTH 408	Conflict Resolution in Cross-Cultural Perspective
ARH 372	Buddhist & Hindu Art in India to 1200	ANTH 413	Peace & Environmental Sustainability
ARH 374	Landscape and Image in East Asia	CMST 415	Intercultural & International Communication
ARH 377	Piety and Power: Art in India after 1200	HY 339	The Holocaust in History and Literature

HY 422	Ethnic Cleansing & Genocide 1912-2012
PUH 201	Introduction to Public Health
PUH 202	Introduction to Global Health
PUH 302	Epidemiology
PSC 316	Human Rights
SOC 370	Population Problems
WLL 485	World Language Capstone Seminar
Total Hours	120

Grade and Level Requirement

A grade of C or better is required in all International Studies courses. Students must demonstrate second-year proficiency in a foreign language. Students must ensure that at least 9 hours are (a) taken in an approved geographic concentration. or (b) follow an approved global theme. Geographic areas currently include Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. At least 15 credits must be taken at the 300 level or above, including 9 hours at 400 level. Students must fulfill an international experience. This requirement may be satisfied by one of the following: participation in a study abroad program; participation in a course with a substantial international, applied component to it; or participation in an internship with an international organization or company or an entity offering an international component.

Additional Requirements

General Electives

Students must take general electives to reach the 120 semester hour requirement.

Proposed Program of Study for a Major in International Studies

Freshman

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
PSC 103		3 Blazer Core Curriculum (Thinking Broadly: Humans and Their Societies)	3
EH 101		3 EH 102	3
MA 110		3 WLL 120	3
Blazer Core Curriculum (Local Beginnings)		3 Blazer Core Curriculum (Academic Foundations: Communicating in Modern World)	3
PSC 102 or 104		3 Blazer Core Curriculum (Thinking Broadly: Scientific Inquiry)	4
		15	16

Sophomore

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
International Studies Major Course (Economic Awareness)		3 International Studies Major Courses (Socio-Political Concentration)	6

Blazer Core Curriculum (Thinking Broadly: Scientific Inquiry)	4 Blazer Core Curriculum (City as Classroom)	3
Blazer Core Curriculum (Thinking Broadly: History and Meaning)	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	4 World Language (200-level)	3
		14
		15

Junior

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
ITS 470		3 International Studies Major Course (300-level or above; Cultural literacy)	3
International Studies Major Course (Socio-Political Concentration)		3 International Studies Major Course (400 level; Cultural Literacy)	3
World Language (200-level)		3 Minor	3
Minor		3 General Electives	6
General Elective		3	
		15	15

Senior

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
International Studies Major Course (300 level or above; Cultural Literacy)		3 ITS 482	1-3
International Studies Major Course (400-level)		3 International Studies Major Courses	6
General Electives		9 General Electives	6
		15	13-15

Total credit hours: 118-120

A minor is required for the International Studies major. All core courses must be from the approved list for the **Blazer Core Curriculum**. The number of minor courses and general electives may vary.

Minor in International Studies

Requirements	Hours
Required Courses	
PSC 103 Foundations of International Relations	3
WLL 120 World Cultures	3
International Studies Electives	12

Select twelve hours from the following courses, at least six hours must be taken at the 300 level or above:

AAS 385	The History of Haiti	
ANTH 101	Introducing Cultural Anthropology	
ANTH 104	Introduction to Peace Studies	
ANTH 231	Archaeology of the Origins of Civilization in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Mediterranean	

ANTH 245	Peoples of the World:Mediterranean	HY 456	Seventeenth-Century Europe: Absolutism, Revolution and Science
ANTH 248	Peoples of the World: Latin America	HY 457	Nineteenth-Century Europe
ANTH 318	Economic Development and Indigenous Societies	HY 458	Modern Europe
ANTH 360	Ecological Anthropology	HY 459	Spain and the Spanish Inquisition
ANTH 407	Peace Ethology	HY 461	English History: 1307-1660
ANTH 408	Conflict Resolution in Cross-Cultural Perspective	HY 463	Victorian Britain
ANTH 413	Peace & Environmental Sustainability	HY 464	Modern Great Britain
ANTH 418	The Power of Nonviolence	HY 465	French Enlightenment
ANTH 419	Religion, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness	HY 466	The French Revolution
ANTH 432	Villains, Victims, & Vigilantes	HY 467	Modern France 1815 - Present
ANTH 447	Advanced Peace Studies	HY 468	Modern German History
ANTH 450	Advanced Cultural Anthropology	HY 472	Terror and Terrorism from French Revolution to Present
ARA 201	Intermediate Arabic I	HY 475	Modern China
ARH 101	The Art Experience	HY 476	Japan to the 19th Century
ARH 203	Ancient and Medieval Art	HY 477	Modern Japan
ARH 204	Early Modern-Contemporary Art	ITL 201	Intermediate Italian I
ARH 206	Survey of Asian Art	ITS 482	Internship in International Affairs
ARH 471	Post-Partition Identity in South Asian Cinema	JPA 201	Intermediate Japanese I
ARH 478	Seminar: Buddhist Arts of East Asia	MU 366	Music in World Cultures
CHI 201	Intermediate Chinese I	MU 367	Introduction to Ethnomusicology
CJ 115	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	PHL 239	Eastern Philosophy
EC 405	Economic Development and Growth	PSC 102	Introduction to Comparative Politics
EC 407	International Economics	PSC 104	Political Theory and Citizenship in Modern Civilizations
EH 217	World Literature I: Before 1660	PSC 266/466	The United Nations
EH 218	World Literature II: 1660-Present	PSC 341	Classical Political Thought
EH 422/522	African Literature	PSC 342	Modern Political Theory
EH 423/523	African Women's Literature	PSC 350	African Politics
FR 201	Intermediate French I	PSC 355	Politics of Development
GN 201	Intermediate German I	PSC 360	International Security
HRT 100	Introduction to Human Rights	PSC 362	Diplomacy
HRT 400	Skills and Methods in Human Rights	PSC 363	Nationalism in World Politics
HRT 485	Human Rights Professional Internship	PSC 461	International Political Economy
HY 234	The World Since 1945	PSC 465	International Law
HY 239	The Holocaust in History and Literature	PUH 201	Introduction to Public Health
HY 251	Nineteenth-Century Europe	PUH 202	Introduction to Global Health
HY 252	Twentieth Century Europe	PUH 302	Epidemiology
HY 262	Introduction to Early Modern Spanish History	PY 319	Psychopathology and Culture
HY 263	History of the Russian Empire	SOC 200	The Tipping Point: How Societies Change
HY 264	Russian Revolution: 1917-1921	SOC 278	Global Lives: Sociology of Our Interconnected World
HY 265	History of the Soviet Union 1917-1991	SOC 335	Sexuality in Social Context: Culture, Norms, and Identity
HY 271	Traditional East Asian History and Culture	SOC 370	Population Problems
HY 272	Modern East Asia	SOC 480	Sociology of Health and Illness
HY 285	Mapping Our World	SPA 201	Intermediate Spanish I
HY 317	History of Ancient Greece	WLL 115	Experiencing Japanese Culture in Birmingham
HY 318	History of the Roman Empire	WLL 121	Songs of Social Change through World Cultures
HY 319	Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages	WLL 130	My Global Birmingham
HY 353	The Christians in History	WLL 132	Multicultural City: Heritage through Festivals
HY 355	The Reformation	WLL 135	The Sports Culture of the Hispanic World
HY 357	Religion in Early Modern European History	WLL 140	Worlds of Anime and Manga
HY 371	Traditional East Asian History and Culture	WLL 220	World Literatures in English Translation
HY 375	The Pacific War, 1931-1945	WLL 485	World Language Capstone Seminar
HY 419	The Second World War		
HY 421	The Vietnam Wars, 1945-1975		
HY 422	Ethnic Cleansing & Genocide 1912-2012		
HY 453	Clash of Civilizations		
HY 454	Topics in Middle Eastern History		
HY 455	Renaissance and Reformation		
		Total Hours	18

Grade & Residency Requirement

A C or better is required in all International Studies courses applied to the minor. At least half of the minor must be completed at UAB or through BACHE.

Honors Program in International Studies

Purpose

The ITS Honors Program is designed for qualified, self-motivated international studies majors. Through special course distribution and credit hours requirements, as well as a directed honors thesis, students are prepared for in-depth ITS research and related graduate or professional opportunities.

Eligibility

Students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. 3.0 cumulative GPA at UAB, 3.3 GPA in ITS (and maintenance of these minima).
2. Junior standing.
3. Declaration of ITS as student's major.
4. Letter of Intent to the Director. The Director approves admission into the program in consultation with the ITS faculty.

Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Completion of ITS 470 or ITS 471 Seminar in International Studies (3 credits).
2. Enrollment in ITS 497 Honors Research in International Studies (3 credits) after completion of the Seminar.
3. Following completion of ITS 497, preparation of an advanced research project which will lead to the development of a substantial research paper and, in some cases, a senior thesis under faculty supervision (all faculty affiliated with ITS are eligible to supervise the paper).
4. Defense of paper/thesis in colloquium, composed of ITS faculty and other ITS 497 students
5. Participation in SIR, the international studies honor society.

Benefits

Honors students will benefit from one-on-one mentoring with faculty in the program, which will lead to a more thorough understanding of the field and practice of international studies. This is particularly useful as students choose career goals, such as graduate school, international public service, the U.S. Foreign Service, or other opportunities. Additionally, students who complete the program will receive a certificate at the annual UAB Honors Convocation and will graduate "With Honors in International Studies."

Contact

For more information and/or admission to the International Studies Honors Program, contact Dr. Krista Chambless, the ITS Director, 3123 University Hall, UAB, Birmingham, AL 35294; Telephone (205) 934-4652.

Courses

ITS 101. Introduction to International Studies. 3 Hours.

A survey of the problems and practice of global cooperation and conflict. Particular attention is paid to issues of global power, wealth and social justice. This course meets the Core Curriculum requirements for Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

ITS 110. Directed Readings in International Studies. 1-3 Hour.

Critique of current popular works in International Studies. Prerequisite: permission of ITS director.

ITS 223. International Study Abroad. 3 Hours.

Independent study done in International setting in conjunction with non-UAB academic program. Prerequisite: permission of ITS Director.

ITS 229. International Study Abroad. 3 Hours.

Current events in international setting. Part of program supported by UAB Education Abroad. Permission of ITS director and UAB Education Abroad director.

ITS 250. Special Topics. 3 Hours.

Topics in world geography and international issues. Prerequisite: permission of ITS director.

ITS 299. Problems in International Studies. 1-3 Hour.

Study of international relation and world culture subjects.

ITS 470. Seminar in International Studies. 3 Hours.

International Studies exit seminar that draws together program themes and summarizes main threads of current global issues. Prerequisite: permission of ITS director.

ITS 471. Seminar in International Studies. 3 Hours.

Analyzing and writing in depth about the ethics and rationale for using and abusing the film medium to relate to, undermine, or support political authority. Writing, Ethics and Civic Responsibility are significant components of this course.

ITS 480. Advanced Problems in International Studies. 1-3 Hour.

Independent study. Prerequisite: permission of ITS director.

ITS 482. Internship in International Affairs. 1-3 Hour.

Individually arranged assignments in international companies or organizations, monitored and evaluated by the director of international studies. Prerequisite: permission of ITS director.

ITS 497. Honors Research in International Studies. 3 Hours.

Directed research by international studies honors students under faculty supervision. Prerequisite: open only to International Studies Honors students by permission of ITS director.

ITS 499. Advanced Seminar in International Studies. 3 Hours.

Special-topic seminar treating major current event or international problem.