

The International Studies Major

The International Studies major focuses on the political, economic, social, and cultural forces that shape relations among states and peoples at the transnational level. The major is inherently interdisciplinary. Students majoring in International Studies should expect to complete coursework in some combination of Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology, as well as demonstrating competence in a foreign language.

Students pursuing an International Studies major are challenged to develop critical thinking and writing skills, to master an additional language, and to engage important questions of our day from the perspectives of multiple disciplines.

Major Requirements

The International Studies major is a 12 course major composed of 3 elements: a core set of 4 introductory courses, a thematic focus, and a regional focus including the study of a language related to the region.

The introductory courses provide the general foundation for the major. The thematic focus relates to the social scientific study of some aspect of relations among states and peoples. Potential thematic focus areas include International Political Economy, Development Studies, Conflict and Conflict Resolution, and Global Governance and International Law. The thematic focus should provide the student with a significant degree of breadth and depth in the theoretical study of their theme.

Potential regions of study include Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe, and South Asia. Students should have sufficient knowledge of the countries in a particular region of the world to enable them to effectively apply their thematic coursework to that region. Students must complete a minimum of foreign language study at the 301 level and are normally expected to continue their language beyond this level. Students are also strongly advised to study abroad in their language. Experiencing the part of the world that is the focus of the major and moving toward fluency in the language is very important.

Outline of International Studies Major Requirements

Core Requirements (4 courses):

- Language at the 301 level
- ECON 110 Principles of Economics
- 2 of the following 3 courses:
 - POLS-102:
Introduction to Comparative Politics
 - POLS-103:
Introduction to International Relations
 - ANTH-101:
The Anthropological Perspective

***ECON 110 and ANTH 101 must be taken no later than the sophomore year.**

Geographic Region (4 courses):

- One History Course from the region
- Three electives related to the region
(Your geographic region should correspond to the language you are studying)

Major Theme (4 courses):

- 4 courses related to the theme

How to apply

Students interested in the International Studies major should contact the program director to discuss their interests. After this meeting, students must apply for the major through the Student Program Application system: <https://apps.holycross.edu/stuProgApp>. There is no cap on the number of majors or minimum GPA requirement for this major. The application is intended to assist students in developing an appropriate major curriculum related to their regional focus and major theme. Fall 2022 applications are accepted August 30th through October 7th and Spring 2023 applications are accepted January 24th through February 10th.



For more information, contact:

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International Studies

2022-2023



An Interdisciplinary Major at

 COLLEGE OF THE
Holy Cross

Sample Geographic Region Courses

Latin America

ANTH 266 Culture and Politics of Latin America
HIST 127 Modern Latin America
HIST 275 US-Mexican Border
HIST 277 Afro-Latin America
HIST 278 Raza e Identidad
HIST 279 America's Colony: Puerto Rico
HIST 299 Latin American-US Relations
HIST 352 Rebels and Radical Thinkers
POLS 251 Latin American Politics
POLS 326 Citizenship in Latin America
RELS 280 Liberation Theology
RELS 290 Teologia Andina
RELS 295 Un tal Jesus
SOCL 220 Drugs in the Americas

Europe

AFST 260 Black Europe
CISS 392 The Holocaust
ECON 210 Economics of the European Union
FREN 431 Contemporary France
HIST 114 Napoleon to European Union
HIST 241 French Rebels and Revolutionaries
HIST 242 Britain and Empire, 1783-1901
HIST 243 Britain and Empire Since 1901
HIST 255 Europe: Mass Politics & Total War 1890-1945
HIST 256 Europe and the Superpowers
HIST 261 Germany in the Age of Nationalism
HIST 262 Germany from Dictatorship to Democracy
ITAL 323 Introduction to Contemporary Italy
POLS 242 European Political Parties
POLS 265 European Politics
POLS 299 European Union Politics
PSYC 314 Science, Medicine and the Holocaust
RELS 327 Holocaust: Confronting Evil
SPAN 303 Aspects of Spanish Culture

Africa

ANTH 273 Anthropology of Africa
ANTH 380 African Informal Economies
CISS 350 HIV/AIDS in Comparative Perspective
HIST 196 African Colonial Lives
HIST 198 Modern Africa since 1800
HIST 296 South Africa and Apartheid
HIST 365 Resistance and Revolution in Modern Africa
POLS 270 African Politics

Middle East

HIST 291 Making of the Modern Middle East 1
HIST 292 Making of the Modern Middle East 2
HIST 392 Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
POLS 235 Islamic Political Thought
POLS 272 Politics of the Middle East
RELS 147 Judaism
RELS 107 Islam
RELS 270 The Quran
RELS 315 Islamic Philosophy & Theology

Asia

HIST 155 World War II in East Asia
HIST 280 Modern India
HIST 282 Modern China
HIST 286 Modern Japan
PHIL 255 Asian Philosophy
PHIL 361 Confucian Values and Human Rights
POLS 276 South Asian Politics
POLS 278 International Politics of East Asia
RELS 106 Buddhism
RELS 107 Islam
RELS 108 Hinduism
RELS 161 Religions of China and Japan
RELS 216 Readings: Asian Sacred Texts
RELS 265 Modern & Contemp. Hinduism
RELS 311 Zen Buddhism
RELS 312 Theravada Buddhism

Russia and the former Soviet Union

HIST 253 The Soviet Experiment
HIST 254 The Soviet Union after Stalin
HIST 256 Europe and the Superpowers
HIST 327 Cultures of the Cold War
HIST 329 Collapse of Communism
RUSS 258 Russian Cinema

Sample Theme Courses

International Political Economy

ECON 210 Economics of the European Union
ECON 220 Economics of Inequality
HIST 212 History of Capitalism in US & World
POLS 275 International Political Economy
POLS 288 Politics of Globalization
SOCL 210 Corporate & Consumer Social Responsibility
SOCL 220 Drugs in the Americas
SOCL 280 Global Culture and Society
SOCL 281 Sociology of Travel & Tourism

Conflict & Conflict Resolution

ANTH 264 Race, Racism and Anthropology
ANTH 386 Global Queer Activism
CISS 392 The Holocaust
HIST 155 World War II in East Asia
HIST 255 Europe: Mass Politics & Total War 1890-1945
HIST 256 Europe and the Superpowers
HIST 327 Cultures of the Cold War
HIST 352 Rebels and Radical Thinkers
PHIL 278 Philosophers on War & Peace
POLS 217 The Constitution in Wartime
POLS 271 International Peace
POLS 278 International Politics of East Asia
POLS 281 Global Governance
POLS 282 American Foreign Policy
POLS 284 Human Rights
POLS 287 Humanitarianism
POLS 289 International Law
POLS 290 National Security Policy
POLS 333 Ethics & International Relations
POLS 399 Refugees
RELS 124 Theology of Protest
RELS 279 Religion and Violence
RELS 280 Liberation Theology
RELS 327 Holocaust: Confronting Evil
SOCL205 Social Class and Power
SOCL 260 Women, Poverty, and Religion
SOCL 376 Women and Non-Violence

Development Studies

ANTH 253 Gender & Development
ANTH 380 African Informal Economies
CISS 250 Introduction to Global Health
CISS 255 Critical Issues/Global Health
CISS 272 Health and Development
CISS 350 HIV/AIDS in Comparative Perspective
POLS 257 Politics of Development
POLS 275 International Political Economy
POLS 287 Humanitarianism
SOCL 260 Women, Poverty, and Religion
SOCL 280 Global Culture and Society
SOCL 281 Sociology of Travel & Tourism

Global Governance & International Law

CISS 209 Section One – Pandemic Policy
(counts as POLS)
ECON 210 Economics of the European Union
POLS 271 International Peace
POLS 275 International Political Economy
POLS 281 Global Governance
POLS 282 American Foreign Policy
POLS 284 Human Rights
POLS 287 Humanitarianism
POLS 289 International Law
POLS 299 European Union Politics
POLS 333 Ethics & International Relations
POLS 399 Refugees