

Globalization Studies

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Program Description

Globalization is a multifaceted phenomenon that is making the world more complex and more interconnected culturally, politically, linguistically, and economically. The multidisciplinary major in globalization studies **integrates perspectives from the humanities, social sciences, arts, and natural sciences.**

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The major consists of required courses and two tracks that students design themselves. One is a regional track and the other a thematic track that examines a topic with global implications such as justice, conflict, the environment, or human rights. Students must complete both tracks. All majors study abroad, and each collaborates closely with faculty on a capstone research project that addresses a global-scale challenge.

Because the two tracks are self-designed, students must complete an [application](#) for the major that specifies their course selections. Applications for the Globalization Studies major must be completed no later than fall of the junior year.

Program Requirements

The globalization studies major is both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary. Students **must apply** to the major and design their own course of study following the guidelines outlined below. Course requirements for the twelve-course major consist of five core courses, three courses in each of two tracks, and a senior capstone project. Globalization Studies majors must also **study abroad** or complete some other off-campus program. The requirements are outlined below.

Core Requirements (five courses)

Core requirements for the major include four foundation courses and one methods course. Students are encouraged to complete the core requirements by the end of the sophomore year. The purpose of these core courses is to provide a common base of knowledge for all students as well as a basic set of skills and tools with which they can analyze global issues from the perspective of cultures, states, non-state actors, and systems. All five core courses must be taken on campus. Foundation courses, for which majors must earn a grade of C- or better, include the following:

- Anth 103 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

- Econ 101 Introductory Economics or Econ 104 Principles of Macroeconomics
- Hist 110 The Twentieth-Century World
- Pol 103 Introduction to International Relations *or* Pol 104 Introduction to Comparative Politics

No AP credits will be accepted for foundation courses.

Students take one course from among the discipline-based methods courses currently offered on campus. Students should take the methods course that best fits with the thematic track they choose for the globalization studies major. This course must be taken before the capstone, and majors must earn a minimum grade of C-. The methods courses students may choose from include, but are not limited to:

- ANTH 323 Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology
- ECON 241 Introductory Economics and Business Statistics
- ES 230 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems *or*
- ES 196 Environmental Science and Society
- GER 240 Intro to German Studies: Methods and Theories
- HIST 300 Historical Method
- HS-232 Statistics for the Health Sciences
- HS-326 Epidemiology
- Pol 215 Political Science Research Methods
- SOC 302 Research Methods
- SPAN 331 Hispanic Linguistics Today: an Introduction
- SPAN 345 The Pleasure of the Text: Intro to Literary/Cultural Studies

Tracks (six courses)

Students take courses in each of two self-designed tracks. Up to three courses may be taken off campus, and students who study abroad two semesters may apply four off-campus courses to the major, though no single track may contain more than two off-campus courses.

Regional track

The major requires three courses that focus on a single region of the student's choosing. The purpose of these courses is to ground students in the realities of a particular geographic region's experiences with the processes of globalization. Students can choose to take courses that examine independently and comparatively the history, politics, economics, cultures, literatures, and fine arts of sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Western Europe, Latin America, or the Middle East and North Africa. Students may also define other regions for study, provided that the proposed curriculum and rationale are approved.

One of the three courses should focus on some historical aspect of the region in question and one course on some aspect of society and culture in the region. The courses that make up the regional track must draw from at least two disciplines. As part of the process of declaring the globalization studies major, students are asked to provide a rationale for their choice of regional track. The courses for the regional track must be taken at the 200 level and above, with at least one course at the 300 level or higher. Finally,

students should complete the College's foreign language requirement in a language appropriate to the region on which they have chosen to focus. Beginning with the class of 2014, globalization studies majors will be required to complete two years of foreign language study (i.e., the College's foreign language requirement plus an additional year of foreign language study).

Thematic track

The major requires three courses with a thematic focus. The purpose of these courses is for students to gain in-depth knowledge of some substantive area of globalization studies that combines different disciplines. The courses that make up the thematic track must draw from at least two disciplines. As part of the process of declaring the globalization studies major, students are asked to provide a rationale for their choice of thematic track and must demonstrate a link between their thematic track and methods course. The courses for the thematic track must be taken at the 200 level and above, with at least one course at the 300 level or higher.

Capstone/Senior Seminar

Students take an interdisciplinary capstone seminar, GS 440, during the spring of their senior year. The seminar, offered by faculty teaching in the globalization studies program, requires students to conduct research on some challenge currently facing the global system. Majors must earn a minimum grade of C-. Students must complete the methods course and off-campus study before enrolling in the capstone.

GS 440: An intensive seminar experience in which students in the final semester of their GS major will have an opportunity to interact, learn, and bond as a cohort. The capstone will meet once a week for 2.5 hours, during which time students will undertake a common core of coursework related to Globalization as an interdisciplinary field of study. A major objective of the capstone is the completion of an individual capstone project or thesis which reflects a synthesis of the student's regional studies, thematic tracks, study abroad experience, and capstone-related independent research. Students are expected to present their work in a public forum.

Study Abroad or other off-campus study

Globalization Studies majors are required to spend at least one semester **studying abroad** or participating in some other off-campus program, such as the Washington, D.C., semester programs offered through American University and Lutheran College. Students should select a program that complements the Regional Track of their major.

Language Requirements for GS Majors

GS majors graduating in 2013 or earlier must complete the college's language requirement in a foreign language appropriate to the regional track. GS majors graduating in 2014 or later must also take four foreign language courses. The first two courses are required to meet the college's language requirement. The next two courses can be in the same language or in one or two additional language(s). These can be taken on campus or off campus. Half-credit language courses, such as those offered by SIT in less-commonly taught languages, will count. Languages should be appropriate to the regional track.

For Those Planning to Double Major

Students who declare a major in addition to the globalization studies major may count up to three courses from their other major toward the requirements for the globalization studies major.

Course Listing

Course level:

| [200](#) | [300](#) | [400](#)

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GS-225 Conceptualizing Globalization: Theories, Debates, and Methods

Examines the phenomenon of globalization and the interdisciplinary field of globalization studies. Gives students a conceptual and historical understanding of globalization, a review of key debates about globalization, and an overview of specific globalization processes and problems. Helps students to recognize and understand the agents of globalization, focusing on key institutions, while providing a lens through which to view the local experiences of people enmeshed in globalization. Reviews discipline-specific methodologies for conducting research on globalization, and explores global citizenship and applies approaches.

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GS-310 Special Topics in Globalization Studies

Study of a topic not normally covered in depth in the regular curriculum of the Globalization Studies program. Offered irregularly.

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GS-440 Globalization Studies Capstone

An intensive seminar experience in which students in the final semester of their GS major will have an opportunity to interact, learn, and bond as a cohort. The capstone will meet once a week for 2.5 hours, during which time students will undertake a common core of coursework related to Globalization as an interdisciplinary field of study. A major objective of the capstone is the completion of an individual capstone project or thesis which reflects a synthesis of the student's regional studies, thematic tracks, study abroad experience, and capstone-related independent research. Students will be expected to present oral and written presentations of their work in a public forum.

GS-450 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GS-451 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

GS-452 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GS-453 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U.

GS-460 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GS-461 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

GS-462 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GS-463 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor graded S/U

GS-470 Individualized Study-Intern

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F.

GS-473 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U.

GS-475 Summer Internship

Summer Internship graded S/U, counting in the minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office.

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