

EP.09.33  
(Rev. 2/10/09)

## PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

### TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL

Proposal to revise the BALAS: International Studies to the BALAS: Global Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**COLLEGE SPONSOR:** Ann M. Mester, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 294 Lincoln Hall, MC-448; 333-1350; mester@uiuc.edu

**SPONSOR:** Barbara Hancin-Bhatt, Asst. Dean and Director, LAS International Programs, 294 Lincoln Hall, MC-448; 333-0178; hancinbh@uiuc.edu

In consultation with the International Studies Faculty Advisory Committees of AY 05-06, 06-07, and 07-08.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This proposal recommends revisions to the Multidisciplinary Major in International Studies to enhance its purpose, coherence, and multidisciplinary. The proposed revisions make this program of study more competitive with other International/Global Studies programs around the nation and allow us to: 1) pursue specific learning goals and assess the outcomes [Appendix A], 2) clearly distinguish the major from other programs of study available on this campus, and 3) delimit course options for the major to more efficiently target instructional resources.

The specific revisions proposed here are as follows.

**Change Name from International Studies to Global Studies.** The name 'Global Studies' reflects more accurately the scope and purpose of the proposed revised program of study and distinguishes this program from, as well as complements, those that have an area or regional focus. Furthermore, the name change to Global Studies allows this program of study to enhance LAS' emphasis on 'global learning,' as promoted in the Global Studies Initiative.

**Add Required Foundation Course GLBL 100: Introduction to Global Studies** [3 hrs]. In this survey of the field of international/global studies, students learn of the processes and impacts of globalization as they are manifest in various world regions today. The specific goals of the course are to 1) establish a basic understanding of the contemporary international system and how it is analyzed, 2) provide an introduction to the major world regions and their current environmental, political, economic and social conditions, and 3) initiate development of foundational knowledge sets and skills expected of Global Studies graduates, including critical analyses of world events and global processes, group research, and cross-cultural understanding. [Note: The course proposal for GLBL 100 has been submitted with the program of study revisions.]

**Add Required Seminar Course] Global Studies Foundations Seminar or Global Studies Seminar Abroad [3 hours].** The purpose of this requirement is to promote students' knowledge and discussion of the larger ethical issues and current controversies in today's global society. Topics within the Global Studies Foundation Seminar (GLBL 296) course will generally reflect the proposed thematic Area options and can be seen as a way of exploring current issues within one of these global themes. Topics within the Global Studies Seminar Abroad (GLBL 298) focus on understanding the phenomena associated with globalization through a case study of a particular location from within a faculty director's expertise, and will include a site visit to the location abroad. [Course proposals for Global Studies Seminars and Seminars Abroad submitted with this proposal.] For both seminar series, students are required to discuss current events, issues and controversies to develop their knowledge of global topics, deliberative dialogue skills, information technology skills and other Global Studies learning goals. Students will be required to fulfill three-four hours of the Global Studies Seminar requirements either through 3 GLBL 296 courses or 1 GLBL 298 and 1 GLBL 296 course.

**Restrict Global Studies Course Options.** The **Global Studies Requirement [12 hours]** gives students a broad, discipline-based understanding of basic international issues from four social science perspectives. The proposed revision identifies specific courses that students take to ensure their exposure to topics that are foundational in the field of international/global studies, such as international economics, international relations, impacts of globalization, world ethnography, etc. [See Appendix B for complete list of options.]

**Replace *Professional, Technical, Scientific Core* requirement with defined *Thematic Areas* tracks.** The term 'Thematic Area' is to replace the current Professional, Technical and Scientific Core term, and the required hours would go from 16-21 hours (PTS Core) to 18-22 hours (Thematic Area). The current PTS Core options are essentially unrestricted. The proposed Thematic Area requirement defines specific global themes to focus the major [Appendix C]. So doing allows the following: 1) better achieve relevant educational goals of the program of study, 2) align the Area options with other respected peer programs in the nation, 2) ensure the multidisciplinary nature of the program of study is maintained. Students may petition to pursue a thematic Area outside of this list, and petitions will be reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Committee. To complete the 18 hours, students may take no more than 1 100-level course and must take 3 advanced hours (300- or 400-level) courses. Courses must be taken from more than one department. Students may also pursue an approved minor to fulfill this requirement.

- A. Cultures in Contact
- B. Wealth and Poverty in a Globalized World
- C. Law and Human Rights
- D. Governance, Conflict and Resolution
- E. Knowledge, Communication and Information Systems
- F. Environment, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility
- G. Global Health
- H. Special Topic

**Broaden study abroad requirement options; change hours required.**

**Study Abroad.** [1 semester] Currently the study abroad requirement is delimited by the language and culture requirement. The proposed revision will allow students choose a study abroad program that develops either their major's target language and cultural area or their cultural area and thematic area. In addition, the study abroad requirement will be represented as 1 semester, not 12 hours to better reflect the requirement duration. Since there will be no hour requirement for study abroad, all courses taken during the required semester abroad can count toward other requirements in the major, allowing students to take courses that they do not have access to on this campus due to major preferences in enrollment or other enrollment difficulties associated with this program of study's dependence on other units' course offerings.

**Bring 3 current requirements under 1 heading.**

**Language and Culture Requirement** [15 hours]

Currently the Language requirement [6 hours], Area Studies requirement [9 hours] and Study Abroad requirement [12 hours] are presented as three distinct requirements, and the proposed revision is to present them as three sub-requirements within the Language and Culture Requirement to better reflect their interdependence. The proposed change, then, is merely in the way the requirement is presented/publicized to enhance clarity.

**Add Capstone Experience.**

**Senior Capstone Course - GLBL 494 and 495]** The Global Studies Capstone experience allows students to extend their thematic Area studies to a research project or a guided individual study as part of an internship or volunteer experience. Their work is guided through a Research Methods course sequence GLBL 494 and 495. [Proposal for senior capstone courses submitted with this proposal.]

**Add GPA requirement.** Minimum grade point average of 2.5 for UIUC students transferring into the major; minimum GPA of 2.75 for students transferring from other institutions. A minimum transfer GPA requirement is necessary to ensure that students will have access to study abroad programs. It is rare to find semester-long study abroad programs that accept students with a GPA of less than 2.5, and, in fact, many require a GPA of 3.0.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

Peer Review and Competitiveness The UIUC Multidisciplinary Major in International Studies was among the first of its kind in the country when it was proposed nine years ago. However, the field of international/global studies has developed rapidly and standard categorizations of requirements and programmatic structures have emerged among the currently most recognized programs. A review of 16 peer programs in the United States indicated where our UIUC program is strong and where it is weak. The proposed revisions to the major address the areas where our current program is weak (i.e., no foundation or capstone experiences, too broad a range of Global Studies course requirements, no Thematic Areas) and maintains our areas of strength (foreign language and culture, including a required semester-long study abroad).

The proposed revisions also not only reflect the standard requirements and programmatic structures that have emerged within the field, but go beyond the best programs by defining specific Global Learning Goals that are targeted and integrated throughout the set of major requirements. By defining target knowledge, skill sets and values, we are in a better position to assess the effectiveness of this program of study. The proposed revisions also exceed requirements of most peer programs by offering a research-based capstone experience in which students pursue an independent research project based on their thematic Area.

Greater Coherence. In addition to better aligning this program of study with recognized peer programs, the proposed revisions address concerns about the current program's lack of definition and coherence. The Global Learning Goals for the major give a clear purpose to each curricular requirement and will guide future developments. [See Appendix D for a mapping of curricular requirements onto Global Studies Learning Goals.] The proposed revisions establish the major's unique position to educate students on global issues and systems and engage them over a sustained period in the research of and dialogue on possible solutions from multiple disciplinary perspectives. The proposed revisions prepare students more effectively than the current program of study for participation in global systems and culture.

More Efficient Use of Resources. The proposed revisions also address administrative challenges associated with course access. As a multidisciplinary major based at the college-level, International Studies does not have its own faculty or courses (excepting the newly proposed foundation, seminars and capstone courses). International Studies majors take courses in various departments, some of which are oversubscribed on this campus and thus restrict course access to accommodate only their majors. In the 2007 Senior Survey, I.S. graduates indicated a 2.2/5.0 level of satisfaction with regard to course access, the lowest of all 57 departments reported, while the College average was a 3.8. With nearly 400 IS majors and several key departments for this major (e.g., Political Science, Sociology, History, Economics, and Spanish) restricting their courses to their own majors, funding must be carefully targeted. By restricting the course options that fulfill International Studies major requirements, we can more efficiently channel financial resources to a smaller range of courses that fulfill major requirements, better ensuring that I.S./G.S. students are served by our funding.

Student Interest in Global Engagement. Another justification for the proposed revisions is that I.S. majors often comment on their desire to be 'part of positive change in the world.' The proposed revisions more clearly define and present global issues and systems; and promote students' critical analyses of events, as well as engagement in seeking solutions. Through the development of relevant skills, particularly in the Global Studies Seminars and the Capstone courses, students will gain direct experience in discussing, planning and implementing activities that work towards the positive impact they hope to have. This will prepare them more effectively for post-graduate activities that can lead them to greater levels of engagement.

GPA and Study Abroad. A semester-long study abroad is a requirement for this major and most study abroad programs require a minimum GPA of 2.5. Programs in Asia, generally require a minimum 3.0 GPA. By adding a minimum transfer GPA requirement to this major, we minimize the number of students who pursue the major until late in their allowable academic schedule only to be told that they cannot complete the study abroad requirement. I.S. academic advisors already monitor current majors and transfer students for low GPAs, but a formal transfer requirement will clarify the need to keep the GPA high enough to study abroad. Transfer students from other institutions generally have lower GPAs in their first terms than when they enter UIUC, thus the need to have a minimum GPA of slightly more, i.e., 2.75.

Proposal Support. The proposal to revise the International Studies major has been developed, reviewed and approved by three Faculty Advisory Committees (2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08). The Committee Members for the ISFAC for those years are given below. In addition, the proposal has the support of Dr. William Brustein, Professor of Sociology, Political Science, and History and Alumni Professor of International Studies, who is also Associate Provost for International Affairs, and Dr. Edward Kolodziej, Director of the Center for Global Studies and Prof. Emeritus of Political Science. [See Appendix E for letters.]

IS FAC 2005-06:

Andrew Orta, Anthropology  
 Ken Cuno, History  
 Colin Flint, Geography  
 Hadi Esfahani, Economics  
 Michele Koven, Speech Comm.  
 Jerry Packard, EALC  
 Nils Jacobsen, History  
 Merle Bowen, Political Science  
 Robert Pahre, Political Science

IS FAC 2006-07:

Werner Baer, Economics  
 Merle Bowen, Political Science  
 Zsuzsa Gille, Sociology  
 John Vasquez, Political Science  
 Colin Flint, Geography  
 Marilyn Booth, CWL  
 Michele Koven, Speech Comm  
 Ericka Beckman, SIP  
 Andrew Orta, Anthropology

IS FAC 2007-08:

Werner Baer, Economics  
 Zsuzsa Gille, Sociology  
 John Vasquez, Political Science  
 Andrew Orta, Anthropology  
 Marilyn Booth, CWL  
 Maimouna Barro, African Studies  
 Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, History  
 Ericka Beckman, SIP  
 Robert Tierney, EALC, CWL

## **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS**

### **a. Additional staff and dollars needed.**

Most of the proposed revisions do not require additional staff and dollars. The proposal revision does require funding for the new I.S.-specific courses being proposed. As proposed, the new foundation and research methods courses would be offered by I.S. academic advisors/lecturers. Rationale is that the advisors/lecturers can ensure that global learning goals for the major are built into required coursework and can also work towards connecting students with a range of relevant faculty experts in the process of their research. An additional benefit to having the advisor/lecturer is that advisors would have better contact with the students which will enhance the advisor-advisee relationship and advising opportunities. Thus 1 new lecturer/academic advisor staff line needs to be added to accommodate these revisions. The new Global Studies Seminars would be offered by recruited faculty who will receive a \$3000 stipend for each course. Stipends

totaling \$9,000 per semester would need to be offered. We have already secured funding for these seminars for Fall 08. Additional funding may come from reallocations.

**b. Internal reallocations.**

I.S. currently has 400 majors, and an annual instructional budget of less than \$112,000. The College is considering its options for ensuring the major is adequately resourced. Internal reallocations include diverting funds from the LAS International Programs courses abroad budget to pay for this program of study's instructional costs. It is also possible that the greater definition and enhanced requirements may curtail the recent rapid growth of declared majors because of the more limited options, and this will keep funding requirements from growing.

**c. Effect of course enrollment in other departments**

The proposed revisions may redistribute I.S. majors across course options, potentially adding numbers to a smaller set of courses and taking away from others - within departments. Because redistribution is primarily not across departments, no departmental enrollments should be affected by the proposed revisions, other than through redistribution in its own courses. However, by redistributing enrollments within departments from a wider set of courses to fewer, the range of options students can choose from is reduced, allowing the College to better target funding for seats within the limited courses our majors take. This also helps departments better anticipate I.S. needs/interests. The College has already been working with the oversubscribed departments to solve this problem.

**d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.**

The proposed curricular revisions should minimally impact use of the University resources like those above. With the revisions, there is increased emphasis on technology-enhanced instruction/learning to achieve the major's learning goals, so there will be increased need for technical support of on-line courses.

**GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION**

The proposed curriculum for the Multidisciplinary Major in International Studies continues to meet the guidelines for undergraduate education because the revisions refine, but do not reduce the current curriculum. In fact, because the proposed revisions include specifying learning goals that include many of the desired skills and educational priorities stated in the 1972 Academic Plan, as well as current versions of the College and University strategic plans, we are in a better position to assess whether or not we are achieving the educational goals and to make informed recommendations on modifications to ensure that we do achieve the stated goals.

**CLEARANCES:**

**CLEARANCES:**

Barbara H. Blatt 10-21-08  
LAS International Studies Date

Ann M. Meitz 10/23/08  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Date

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Provost Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Educational Policy Committee Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

## **STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:**

### **Liberal Arts and Sciences International Programs**

LAS Program Advisor: Barbara Hancin-Bhatt  
Program Office: 106 English Bldg., 608 South Wright, Urbana

### **Global Studies**

[www.intstudies.uiuc.edu](http://www.intstudies.uiuc.edu)

The Global Studies major develops knowledge sets, skills and values necessary for the analysis and solution of contemporary world problems. The requirements of the major enrich, complement, and coordinate departmental offerings with the goals of:

- providing knowledge of diverse cultures: their social, economic and political interactions and impacts on the world;
- developing skills for successfully negotiating realities of contemporary societies;
- supporting values that respect diverse ways of living and deepen commitment to sustainability.

The Global Studies major is multidisciplinary, drawing upon the resources of faculty and departments across the university. The major has three elements. The Foundations requirement provides a basic understanding of international issues in political science, economics, sociology, anthropology and geography. The Language and Culture requirements allow students to develop area expertise in one world region, and includes a semester-long study abroad. The Thematic Area focuses students' program on a topic of global import, considering it from multiple disciplinary perspectives and preparing students to participate in analyses and solutions that can have an impact. Students work with an advisor to customize the major curriculum most appropriate to their individual interests and career plans.

This program of study was developed in response to the growing demand for knowledge and skills to successfully navigate concerns at international and global levels. This background is critical for students preparing for careers or further study in a variety of fields including international affairs, public policy, business, law, finance, education, and communications.

### **Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum**

E-mail: [intstudies@uiuc.edu](mailto:intstudies@uiuc.edu)

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences



Minimum required major and supporting course work equates to 51-55 hours including a semester-long full time study abroad program and a minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses.

General education: The LAS General Education requirements are set up so students automatically complete the Campus General Education requirements.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction: The department may award distinction, high distinction, or highest distinction to any Global Studies major whose grade point average in the major and overall is 3.25 or higher, who successfully completes 4 hours of GLBL 494/495 (Senior Capstone) and the Global Studies Honors Requirements. See the departmental academic advisor for details.

Hours	Requirements
<b>18-19</b>	<b>Foundations Requirements</b>
3	GLBL 100. Intro to Global Studies
12	Global Studies. Four courses must be selected from the approved course list; they must include no more than one course from four of the following six departments: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology.
3-4	Global Studies Seminars. Students study current events and contemporary global issues. Select three courses from GLBL 296 or one GLBL 298 course and one GLBL 296 course.
<b>15</b>	<b>Language and Culture Requirements</b>
6	Language. Select courses from the approved course list in a language other than your primary language. These various courses represent the 5th and 6th level of study, and will satisfy the language requirement for the major.
9	Cultural Area Studies. 200 to 400-level courses which complement the language requirement must be selected from the approved course list and include work in at least two disciplinary departments. Choose a geopolitical area in consultation with the curriculum advisor, such as Africa, Latin America, or the Middle East.
	One Semester (Fall or Spring) Study Abroad. Students study a variety of subjects in an approved study abroad program that furthers their language and cultural knowledge or their cultural knowledge and thematic area knowledge.
<b>18-22</b>	<b>Thematic Area.</b> A minimum of 18 hours must be completed from one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Cultures in Contact</li> <li>B. Wealth and Poverty in a Globalized World</li> <li>C. Law and Human Rights</li> <li>D. Governance, Conflict and Resolution</li> <li>E. Knowledge, Communication and Information Systems</li> <li>F. Environment, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility</li> <li>G. Global Health</li> </ul>

	H. Special Topic: Must be approved by the Faculty Advisory Board
15-18	Students choose an approved thematic area and, in consultation with the International Studies advisor, construct a customized curriculum that develops knowledge in the area. Students cannot include more than 3 hours of 100-level work and must complete 9 hours of 300- and 400-level coursework. Courses must be taken from more than one department.
0-4	GLBL 494 and 495. Senior Capstone. Students do an individual research project based on their thematic Area.
<b>51-56</b>	<b>TOTAL Hours</b>

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the Global Studies academic advisor before the end of the fourth semester (60 hours) and prior to the required study abroad. Please see your advisor.

Appendices available for review in the Senate Office.