

EP.09.34

**PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO  
ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR**

RECEIVED  
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OFFICE OF THE SENATE

**TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:** Proposal to revise the International Studies Minor

**COLLEGE SPONSOR:** Ann M. Mester, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; 333-1350; [mester@illinois.edu](mailto:mester@illinois.edu)

**SPONSOR:** Barbara Hancin-Bhatt, Asst. Dean and Director, LAS International Programs; 333-0178; [hancinbh@illinois.edu](mailto:hancinbh@illinois.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 Minor in International Studies to reflect the proposed revisions to the International Studies program of study, submitted with this proposal. The proposed revisions for the minor incorporate a 'Thematic Area' characteristic of International/Global Studies programs of studies offered by our peers, thereby changing the focus of the minor from language and culture to a global theme. So doing will make this minor unique on this campus.

The revised minor program will have the following requirements, and the specific revisions proposed here are noted in **[bold]**.

**[Change Name from International Studies to Global Studies]** The name 'Global Studies' reflects more accurately the scope and purpose of the proposed revisions to the 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.

**[Restrict Course Options]** **Global Studies** [9 hours, 3 courses] are course options in which students gain a broad, discipline-based understanding of basic international issues from three social science perspectives. Courses include: International Relations, International Economics, World History, Population Issues, Cities of the World, and World Ethnography. Complete list is given in Appendix A.

**[Change name of requirement and define options]** **Thematic Area** [9 hrs] The proposed options for the minor focus reflect the major thematic areas. A description of each area is given in Appendix B with potential courses.

- A. Wealth and Poverty in a Globalized World
- B. Human Rights
- C. Global Health
- D. Governance, Conflict and Resolution

- E. Environment, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility
- F. Communication and Information Systems
- G. Cultures in Contact

**[Change hours required] Language and Culture Requirement [3]**

Students must take 1 foreign language at the 5<sup>th</sup> semester level or higher from the list of approved courses. List will include content courses as long as the course is given in the foreign language.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Peer Review and Alignment The UIUC Multidisciplinary Minor in International Studies was among the first of its kind in the country when it was proposed eight years ago. However, the field of international 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 minor better align our program of study to peer International/Global Studies programs by adding Thematic Areas, while maintaining our areas of strength (advanced level of foreign language, global studies courses).

Greater Coherence and Complementarity. In addition to better aligning the UIUC International Studies minor with recognized peer programs, the proposed revisions address concerns about the current minor's similarity to area studies minors. The IS minor currently requires 11 out of 21 credits to be language and culture, similar to the area studies minors. The proposed revisions establish the minor's unique position to educate students on global issues and systems and engage them on possible solutions from multiple disciplinary perspectives. The name change reflects the global scope, ensuring complementarity with established area studies programs of study.

Student Interest in Global Engagement. Another justification for the proposed revisions is that students often comment that they want to gain knowledge of global contexts, challenges and issues to better prepare for careers in which they will interact with people around the world. Others comment on their desire to be 'part of positive change in the world' and knowing more about international systems and challenges better prepares them to have an impact. The proposed thematic areas guide students' study of these issues.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS**

**A. Additional staff and dollars needed**

No additional staff or dollars will be needed to support the revised minor. None of the proposed changes require additional staffing or instruction.

**B. Internal reallocations (e.g. change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)**

No substantial internal reallocations are anticipated, given the low number of I.S. minors awarded. There were 13 I.S. minors given in the May 2007 graduation class.

**C. Effect of course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments**

Because the university doesn't recognize minors for enrollment purposes, students will not be given priority in any of the courses. Therefore, there should not be an issue of enrollment for other departments.

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

The proposed curricular revisions should not impact use of the University resources like those above.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Global Studies [9 hours, 3 courses] are course options in which students gain a broad, discipline-based understanding of basic international issues from three social science perspectives. Courses must be chosen from three different disciplinary programs. Complete list is given in Appendix A.

Thematic Area [9 hrs] The proposed thematic areas for the minor reflect those for the major. A description of each thematic area is given in Appendix B with potential courses.

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

**Language and Culture Requirement [3]**

Students must take 1 foreign language at the 5<sup>th</sup> semester level/advanced level or higher from the list of approved courses. List will include content courses as long as the course is given only in the foreign language.

**Prerequisites for the minor:** There are no prerequisites for the minor, but there are course pre-requisites for some of the requirements (e.g., basic language study).

**Expected enrollment in the minor:** Currently, there are about 45 minors in International Studies. We do not anticipate a change in the enrollment number.

**Admission to the minor:** Students will be required to meet with an academic advisor before enrolling in the minor to ensure they understand minor requirements.

**Minor advisor:** Advising for the minor will be done by academic advisors in the LAS International Programs office. In consultation with the advisor, students will design a plan of study consistent with the approved course lists, and will revise as necessary.

**Certification of Successful Completion:** Students will be required to complete a final Minor Plan of Study form to submit to their college, which will certify successful completion of the minor.

**Proposed Effective Date:** SPRING 2009

CLEARANCES:

Barbara He-Bhatt  
Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit:

Quinn M. Meeks 10/23/08  
Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit:

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Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee:

**Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog:**

**Global Studies Minor**

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

The Global Studies Minor provides a multidisciplinary study of a global theme with the requirement of advanced language training to promote the development of intercultural skills. In consultation with an advisor, students select 21 hours of thematically-related courses from a variety of departments to form a program of study suited to individual interests, educational, and/or career aspirations. The Global Studies Minor can complement any major.

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

| Hours | Requirements   |
|-------|--|
| 9     | Global Studies. Three courses must be selected from the approved course list; they must include no more than one course each from three of the following departments: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology.             |
| 9     | Thematic Area. Students choose an approved thematic area and, in consultation with an IS advisor, construct a customized curriculum that informs the area. Students must choose 200- to 400-level courses and at least 6 hours must be at the 300- or 400-level. |
| 3     | Language and Culture. Select courses from the approved course list in a language other than your primary language. These various courses represent the 5th level of study or above.  |
| 21    | TOTAL Hours  |

A minimum of 6 hours of 300- and 400-level course work must be completed.