International Studies

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Program of Study

The undergraduate concentration in International Studies (IS) draws on the strengths of the College faculty in a variety of disciplines and their innovative work in a number of areas of international relevance, such as human rights, international relations, globalization, transnationalism, and area studies. This concentration is designed to attract students who are preparing for academic, government, nonprofit, or business careers with an international focus, and who value the benefits of study abroad and of cross-cultural learning.

This concentration is organized around courses drawn from the following four subfields of study: (1) international relations; (2) international and comparative history; (3) international political economy, business, and economics; and (4) area and civilization studies.

Program Requirements

The requirements for the concentration follow:

**IS Core Sequence.** Students are required to take a two-quarter introductory core sequence, taught annually, in the field of International Studies. One quarter focuses on contemporary theories in International Relations, the other on theories of nationalism, post-colonialism, and human rights. These courses should be taken early in the student's program and need not be taken in any order.

**Course Distribution.** Students are required to complete ten substantive courses from at least two of the four subfields listed above. (Of those ten, a minimum of three courses must be taken in each of two selected subfields.) A further four elective courses may be taken from any of the subfields. Up to four language courses in the same language may be counted toward these elective requirements if taken at or above the 20000 level (placement credit, however, may not be counted toward concentration requirements). Students select their courses in consultation with IS program staff. A list of classes accepted toward the concentration is selected by the International Studies faculty each year, and is updated quarterly.

**Foreign Language.** Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language, which can be accomplished in one of two ways: (1)
Students may obtain an Advanced Language Proficiency Certificate, which is documentation of advanced functional ability in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. To qualify to sit for the three-hour proficiency examination, students are required to complete a minimum of intermediate and advanced language study at levels set by the departments and spend a quarter abroad in an College-approved intensive language program. For details, see dos-college.uchicago.edu/information/language-certificate.html.

(2) Students may complete the equivalent of seven quarters of language study. Students who elect this option may fulfill the first six quarters by University exam or course work. Students must register for course work to fulfill the seventh and final quarter.

Students who use language courses as concentration electives (up to four such courses are eligible, if taken in the same language) must register for language courses at or above the 20000 level; placement credit may not be counted toward concentration requirements.

**Study Abroad.** Students are required to study abroad for a minimum of ten weeks in an approved study abroad program. This requirement will be waived only by petition for those able to demonstrate a similar significant, structured international education experience. Participation in any University of Chicago approved study abroad program will fulfill this requirement. Students should consult with the study abroad advisers for more information. If students seek to undertake a program outside of the University's offerings, they must have approval of the concentration chair prior to departure on the program.

**B.A. Thesis.** All students are required to complete a B.A. thesis. In consultation with IS preceptors, students prepare a topic page that is due eighth week of Spring Quarter in their junior year. At this time students are also required to secure a faculty reader.

In Autumn Quarter of their senior year, students are required to take the B.A. Thesis Seminar (INST 29800), which is designed to teach research skills and more generally to aid the research and writing process. Concentrators are strongly encouraged to take B.A. Thesis (INST 29900) in Winter Quarter of senior year; this course may be counted as a concentration elective. While all IS concentrators may participate in the Winter Quarter seminar, dual concentrators may not take the Winter Quarter course for credit. The final version of the B.A. thesis is due by the second Monday of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate.

**Summary of Requirements**

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<th>Concentration</th>
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<th>core International Studies courses</th>
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<td>10</td>
<td>elective courses (four of which may be language courses at the 20000 level or above*)</td>
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<td>B.A. Thesis Seminar (INST 29800)</td>
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<td>B.A. Thesis (INST 29900)**</td>
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* Credit may not be granted by examination.

** Dual concentrators may not take this course for credit, but are encouraged to participate.
**Honors.** Students will be considered for honors on the basis of having earned an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and 3.5 or higher in the concentration, and on the basis of recommendations from the faculty and preceptor readers of the B.A. thesis.

**Grading.** Courses taken for P/N or P/F will not be accepted toward concentration requirements.

**Faculty**


**Courses**

**29400/37400. International Relations: Perspectives on Conflict and Cooperation.** *This is a required core course. It is recommended that concentrators enroll in their second year.* This course examines a number of competing approaches to the study of conflict and cooperation in the international system. Lectures by University faculty introduce key analytic concepts from several intellectual traditions (e.g., realism, liberalism, cultural theory, modernization theory, social constructivism) and discuss their ability to explain war, alliances, revolutions, nationalism, cooperation, ethnic conflict, and other important international phenomena. **Autumn.**

**29500/39700. International Relations: Transnationalism in a Post-Colonial World.** *This is a required core course. It is recommended that concentrators enroll in their second year.* Dominant conceptions in international relations privilege states by treating them as natural and exclusive actors in international relations; privilege the Western world by treating it as the center; and privilege the balance of power and deterrence by treating military force as the primary means of self-help in allegedly anarchical space beyond state frontiers. This course focuses on national and transnational civil society as the arena of action. Topics include nationalism, transnational identities generated by migration and refugee flows, environmentalism, human rights, cyber space, religions, and internal wars. **Winter.**

**29700. Reading and Research.** *PQ: Consent of instructor and concentration chair.* Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course form. This course may be counted as a concentration elective. This is a reading and research course for independent study not related to B.A. research or B.A. paper preparation. **Autumn, Winter, Spring.**

**29800. B.A. Thesis Seminar.** *Required of fourth-year concentrators.* This weekly seminar, taught by graduate student preceptors in consultation with faculty readers, is designed to aid students in their thesis research. Students are exposed to different conceptual frameworks and research strategies. Students must have approved topic proposals and faculty readers in order to participate in the seminar. **Autumn, Spring.**

**29900. B.A. Thesis.** *PQ: INST 29800. Consent of instructor and concentration chair.* Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course
This course may be counted as a concentration elective. This weekly seminar, taught by graduate student preceptors in consultation with faculty readers, offers students continued B.A. research and writing support. Students present drafts of their work and critique the work of their peers. This is an optional course for concentrators. All concentrators, however, are encouraged to participate in this seminar. NOTE: Dual concentrators may not take this course for credit. Winter.

International Studies Subfields

Most literature courses not in translation and most civilization courses taken beyond the general education requirement are accepted towards the International Studies concentration. For the complete list of approved courses, which is selected each year by the faculty, see the program assistants. The following courses are a sample of those that meet the concentration requirements. For descriptions of these courses, consult the relevant concentration sections of the catalog.

International Relations


PLSC 24800. Ethics in International Affairs and Development. I. Young. Autumn.

PLSC 27000. Theories of International Relations. A. Wendt. Spring. Offered 2003-04; not offered 2002-03.


International and Comparative History


HIST 26000. The United States and the Arab World. S. Yaqub. Autumn.

PLSC 24400. Authoritarianism and Change in the Middle East. L. Wedeen. Winter.


*International Political Economy, Business, and Economics*


ECON 27900. Economies in Transition: Russia, China, and Beyond. J. Leitzel. Winter.


*Area and Civilization Studies*

ANTH 212XX. Intensive Study of a Culture. *NOTE: For descriptions of these courses in cultural studies, see the Anthropology section of the catalog.* Autumn, Winter, Spring.

