Global Studies

Program of Study

Global Studies at the University of Chicago is concerned with the interconnected and interdependent composition of the contemporary world and especially with the task of understanding how some sites, agents, objects, and concepts contribute to worldwide connections. The program encourages students to make a commitment to some specific grounds from which to engage—methodologically, critically, conceptually, and practically—commonalities, frictions, longer trends, and broader predicaments of the shared present.

Global Studies emphasizes the tangled dynamics of lived and material realities. Instead of beginning with a “global” and “local” opposition, the typical categories of globalization studies, we contend that the distinctions between particular sites and world-historical trends, between research objects at hand and those at a distance, and between cosmopolitan theories and vernacular traditions emerge from empirical studies rather than from a stock of prior definitions and categories. Accordingly, Global Studies is oriented to multiple scales of inquiry, and our students are encouraged to exercise close attention to mundane practices, everyday materialities, and lived experiences. They are also encouraged to critically interrogate institutional, professional, and archival discourses and forms of practice. With a good grounding in case studies, students in the program are expected to be able to reflect upon ecological, political-economic, and activist implications of their research interests.

Relationship to International Studies

The new Global Studies program is replacing International Studies. The requirements below apply to students in the Class of 2018 and beyond.

Current International Studies majors in their fourth year (Class of 2016) will graduate from the International Studies program, while third-years (Class of 2017) will have the choice to remain in the International Studies program or move into Global Studies. Interested third-years should speak with the program administrator to discuss this option.

Program Requirements

Students must complete a total of 13 courses (including one junior-level independent research credit and two BA seminars) and a language requirement, broken down in the following way:

Introductory Courses (2 courses)
All students are required to take the two-quarter introductory sequence to the major, GLST 23101-23102 Global Studies I-II. These courses are offered annually and in sequence in the Autumn and Winter Quarters. Students are advised to complete the sequence in their second year.

Thematic Tracks (9 courses)
The body of the major (nine courses in all) is comprised of courses selected from four overlapping thematic tracks of study. Students will select two tracks, a major and a minor one, and complete six courses in the former and three in the latter. One of the six major track courses will be an independent research project, which is outlined in the next section. The selection of the major and minor track should be linked to the student’s BA research interests. The tracks are outlined below with sample classes that might fall within each category, but more detailed information about these tracks may be found on the Global Studies website.

**Bodies and Nature**
This track focuses on bodily nature (broadly construed) and ecological relationships. Particular attention is paid to environmental and health-related topics, and not always with a focus on human beings. Themes could range from sustainability, ecotourism, and pandemics to modern beauty practices, health movements, and animal studies.

- GNSE 20309 Sex, Gender, and the Medical Technologies of the Body
- ANTH 23805 Nature/Culture
- ANTH 28210 Colonial Ecologies

**Knowledge and Practice**
This track focuses on the production and circulation of knowledge, with an eye towards how that process is situated. Often there will be a science and technology component, but other times habitual/instinctual know-how will be highlighted. Themes could range from regulatory standards, countercultural movements, and cultural artifacts to consumer politics and media studies.

- HIST 24206 Medicine and Culture in Modern East Asia
- ENGL 29202 Objects, Things, and Other Things
- SOCI 20208 Internet and Society

**Cultures at Work**
This track focuses on the entanglements of culture, economics, and politics. It focuses on cultural production, often physical, and cultural modes of reception. Themes could range from global brands, sweatshops, and rituals of food production/consumption to gaming and consumer politics. Much of “everyday life” would also apply.

- ANTH 21725 Mass Mediated Society and Japan
- ANTH 22530 Ethnographic Film
- EALC 16600 Intro to South Korean Cinema: Gender, Politics, and History

**Governance and Affiliations**
This track focuses on politics and claims to authority within power relations. It tries to stand a middle ground between extremes of privileging nation-states and solely valuing micro-sites of governance. Themes could range from UN agencies to online protests, humanitarian intervention to surveillance and corporate governance.

- ANTH 22300 Big Science and the Birth of the National Security State
- PLSC 27016 Popular Culture, Art, and Autocracy
- PLSC 29500 Drugs, Guns, and Money: The Politics of Criminal Conflict
**Research Practices Requirement**

Students are to complete a research practices course (GLST 29700 Reading/Research: Global Studies or equivalent Reading and Research course in another department) that will be included as one of the courses in the major thematic track and should be completed in the third year. Students will be expected to complete a major activity or project exploring global issues as related to their intended BA project and produce a research report based on that experience. This major activity might be an internship, a study abroad program, or a well-defined field research project. Students should work with the program administrator to identify appropriate opportunities.

Once they have found an approved opportunity, students will identify a faculty advisor and work with that advisor to prepare a plan for a research project that will build off of that experience. Ideally, the faculty advisor for the course will become the BA thesis advisor. Once the student has completed the approved experience, the student will write up a research report for the faculty advisor. Ordinarily, students will register for GLST 29900 (or equivalent) in Spring Quarter of their third year, during which time they will be designing their research project with the faculty advisor, and then they will complete the experience and submit the research report by the beginning of the Autumn Quarter. The grade for GLST 29700 Reading/Research: Global Studies will be the grade the student earns on the research report. Students completing appropriate experiences earlier in the third year will be able to register for the credit in an earlier term. All students should be working closely with the program administrator on their plans.

The research practices project should be linked to the student’s BA thesis and serve as an introduction to that topic. International experiences are encouraged for the completion of this requirement, but the requirement may be met with domestic projects dealing with global issues (ex., an internship with a domestic NGO).

**BA Seminars and Thesis (2 courses)**

Students are required to take the two-quarter BA seminar (GLST 29800 BA Thesis Seminar I and GLST 29801 BA Thesis Seminar II) in Autumn and Winter Quarters of their fourth year. The first BA deadline is the end of fifth week in the spring of a student’s third year. By that time, students must have submitted a topic proposal, secured a faculty reader, and completed a faculty reader form. The final version of the BA thesis is due by the second Friday of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate. Successful completion of the thesis requires a passing grade from the faculty reader.

The Global Studies major thesis must be clearly organized around a contemporary global issue. Students may double-major, but double-majoring with another program that requires a BA thesis would entail (a) the second major’s program accepting the Global Studies thesis as fulfilling that program’s BA requirements or (b) the student completing an additional BA thesis for the second major.

Regardless of the requirements of the second major, Global Studies majors are required to complete both quarters of the fourth-year BA seminar.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

The Global Studies language requirement can be completed in two ways:
1. Students may complete the equivalent of seven quarters of language study in a single language. Credit for the seventh and final quarter must be earned by University of Chicago course registration. If the final term of study in a foreign language focuses on cultural studies, it may be used in an appropriate major or minor thematic track, as outlined above.

2. Students may obtain an Advanced Language Proficiency Certificate, which is documentation of advanced functional ability in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. For details, visit the College’s Advanced Language Proficiency (http://college.uchicago.edu/academics-advising/academic-opportunities/advanced-language-proficiency) page.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GLST 23101-23102</td>
<td>Global Studies I-II</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Six courses in a major thematic field</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three courses in a minor thematic field</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLST 29800</td>
<td>BA Thesis Seminar I</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLST 29801</td>
<td>BA Thesis Seminar II</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign language requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>1300</td>
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† One course must be an independent research course, either GLST 29700 Reading/Research: Global Studies or an equivalent Reading and Research course in another department.

**HONORS**

On the basis of a recommendation from the faculty reader, students with an overall GPA of 3.2 or higher and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the major will be considered for honors. For award of honors, the BA thesis must be judged "high pass" by the faculty reader.

**ADVISING**

Students should select their courses for the Global Studies major in close consultation with the program administrator. The Global Studies program publishes a list of courses approved for the major each quarter, both online and outside the Global Studies program office, Gates-Blake 119.

Students should meet with the program administrator early in their final year to be sure they have fulfilled all requirements.

**GRADING**

Students who are majoring in Global Studies must receive quality grades in all courses meeting the requirements of the degree program.
GLOBAL STUDIES COURSES

GLST 23101-23102. Global Studies I-II.
This is the Global Studies program’s core sequence, typically taken during a student’s second year. Global Studies I is an orientation course for students interested in majoring in Global Studies, while Global Studies II seeks to impart important theories and research practices through intensive, critical readings.

GLST 23101. Global Studies I. 100 Units.
The first course in the two-quarter Global Studies core sequence.
Instructor(s): Jasarevic, Larisa Terms Offered: Autumn

GLST 23102. Global Studies II. 100 Units.
The second course in the two-quarter Global Studies core sequence.
Instructor(s): Jasarevic, Larisa Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): GLST 23101

GLST 23102. Global Studies II. 100 Units.
The second course in the two-quarter Global Studies core sequence.
Instructor(s): Jasarevic, Larisa Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): GLST 23101

GLST 24101. Paperwork. 100 Units.
How does paper work in contemporary life? Few terms are as evocative of the drudgery of modernity, yet are as unexamined as is paperwork. Tacking between ethnography and social theory, this course examines how paper artifacts—from forms, reports, and memoranda to identity papers, receipts, and business cards—mediate, materialize, constitute, and shape the collective projects that produce them. What does the paperwork’s perspective allow us to see about the institutions, collaborations, and polities in which we take part? Given its ubiquity, how does paperwork become understood as alienating? The course begins with a discussion of methods. With what conceptual and ethnographic tools have anthropologists made sense of paper forms? The course is then divided in thirds: the first examines the relationship of documents and bureaucracy; the second asks about the ways in which paperwork makes people and power; and the final section considers how paper artifacts construct pasts and (purportedly paperless) futures.
Instructor(s): M. Reddy Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): INST 24101, ANTH 22720
GLST 24102. Entertainment Industrial: Presents, Pasts, and Futures of Fun. 100 Units.
Spaces throughout our uncertain present have often been referred to as ‘post-industrial.’ However, many cities, regions, and laborers remain dedicated to bringing novel, entertaining product including films, music, and devices to diverse markets. Among skeptics, an old functionalist question has reemerged: Do seemingly lighthearted institutions, venues, and techno-gadgets enable capitalism’s continued transnational primacy through their capacity to distract? Are pressing social problems including gross wealth imbalance, state surveillance, and punitive policing ignored in favor of never-ending amusement? No doubt, theoreticians from various walks of life have long deemed entertainers, gizmos, and the audiovisuals that they conjure critical in winning hearts, minds, and conflicts — both foreign and domestic. By following ambivalent, aspirational genres through a range of distinct, yet kindred 21st century industries, we will critically consider entertainment’s capacity to reflect, challenge, and shape political economy. Our bi-weekly lectures, readings, and discussions will draw upon social practices and performances that have awkwardly aimed to do more than merely amuse by supposedly educating, enlightening, and benefitting consumers.
Instructor(s): Kohl, Owen Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 25915,INST 24102

GLST 24103. Paradise and Parks: Art, Science, Politics. 100 Units.
This course will address representations of the blissful life on Earth. How did the concept of paradise—etymologically, an enclosed royal hunting park—rapidly transform from a hyperlocal place into a practical aspiration that could be transported, translated, and, by dint of art and science, or perceptual and experimental insights, actually forged? Our readings will be anchored in Europe and the Atlantic world, 1500-1800, at a time when paradise was widely reconceived as re-creatable. We’ll sample works of early modern political philosophy, theology, and colportage, though our emphasis will be on what we’ve since come to separate as the imaginings of art and the accounts of science: poems, prose fictions, fables, plays, essays, and scientific treatises. Along the way, we’ll weigh the notion of paradise against its close relations (the Golden Age, Arcadia, pastoral, Utopia), in order to test the thesis that paradise is uniquely earthbound—from the first, an envisioning of earthly bodies that are intimately implicated. And we’ll see if we can build a kind of alphabet for our theme, discovering across our readings its core formal elements, such as beauty, pleasure, health, and peaceable activity.
Instructor(s): O’Connell, Caryn Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 24203,ENGL 24110,INST 24103
GLST 27702. About Nature: From Science to Sense. 100 Units.
“Consider mushrooms,” Anna Tsing (2012) suggests to those who are curious about human nature as she points to the relational and biological diversity found at the unruly edges of the global empire—the governmentalized, politicized, commoditized culture nature of capitalism. This course follows the suit, tracking the scent of what evidently remains, thrives, withdraws, overwhelms, and inspires wonder in the guises of the natural, wild, organic, or awesome. About Nature starts with critiques of the essentialized Nature in the modernist, theological, and scientific discourses, but it directs attention elsewhere: to the zones of writing and practice, academic and activist, professional and popular, where the natural figures through theoretical insights, empirical observations, or in practical problems; where it materializes in sensuous encounters, knowledgeable collecting, or ecstatic experiences; and where it rallies communities of inquiry and interest.
The reading list mixes ethnographies with literary, philosophical, and “mystical” texts and pairs anthropological discussions with practical manuals and popular science books. Moreover, the course will look obliquely to the natural sciences—botany, environmental sciences, and entomology—presuming neither their thorough disenchantment nor a merely performative and populist value of scientific “wonder” and curiosity.
Instructor(s): L. Jasarevic Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 25117, INST 27702

GLST 27703. Earthbound Metaphysics: Speculations on Earths and Heavens. 100 Units.
Social thought has recently reopened the subject matter of the “world”: what is it made of, how does it hold together, who and what inhabits it? Proposals and inquiries generated in response are as imaginative as they are self-consciously urgent: written on the crest of the global ecological disaster, from within the zones of disturbance or the sites of extreme intervention into the living matter and forms of life, contemplating the end of the world and possibilities of extinction, redemption, cohabitation, or “collateral survival” (Tsing 2015). All are variously political. Foregrounding the plurality of the material worlds and lived worldviews on the one hand, and of the shared historical predicament on the other, social thinkers question universal values and conceivable relations, and search for alternate forms of grasping, engaging, and representing the pluriverse. This course goes along with such interests in the “worlds” and collects a number of compelling, contemporary texts that are variously oriented towards cosmopolitics, “minimalist metaphysics,” “new materialisms,” speculative realisms, eco-theology, and multispecies coexistence. Readings will stretch out to examine some classic ethnographic texts and past theoretical excursions into the perennial problem of how to know and tell the unfamiliar, native, worlds, which are swept by, mingling with, or standing out in the more globalizing trends of capitalist, scientific, and secular materialism.
Instructor(s): L. Jasarevic Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): INST 27703, ANTH 25118
GLST 29700. Reading/Research: Global Studies. 100 Units.
Students will be expected to complete a major activity or project exploring global issues as related to their intended BA project and produce a research report based on that experience. This will be done under the supervision of a faculty advisor, whom the student chooses in conjunction with the program administrator.
Terms Offered: TBD
Prerequisite(s): GLST 23101, GLST 23102

GLST 29800. BA Thesis Seminar I. 100 Units.
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 to participate in the seminar.
Terms Offered: Autumn. Will not be offered 2015-16 academic year
Prerequisite(s): GLST 23102
Note(s): Required of students with fourth-year standing who are majoring in Global Studies, but enrollment not permitted in quarter of graduation.

GLST 29801. BA Thesis Seminar II. 100 Units.
This weekly seminar, taught by graduate student preceptors in consultation with faculty readers, offers students continued BA research and writing support. Students present drafts of their work and critique the work of their peers.
Terms Offered: Winter. Will not be offered 2015-16 academic year
Prerequisite(s): GLST 29800
Note(s): Required of students with fourth-year standing who are majoring in Global Studies, but enrollment not permitted in quarter of graduation.