

# Global Studies

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Department Website: <http://globalstudies.uchicago.edu>  
 Program of Study

The Global Studies major is an interdisciplinary major concerned with the interconnected and interdependent nature of the contemporary world. Its main task is to understand how sites, objects, and concepts contribute to worldwide connections, from ecological concerns to human rights campaigns. Students majoring in Global Studies will take courses throughout the College, often with particular interests in Anthropology, Environmental Studies, History, or a specific regional study.

Instead of beginning with “global” and “local,” the typical categories of globalization studies, the Global Studies program contends that the distinctions between sites and trends, between objects far and near, and between the cosmopolitan and the vernacular emerge from empirical studies. Students are encouraged to exercise close attention to mundane practices, everyday materialities, and lived experiences. With a good grounding in case studies, students in the program are expected to be able to reflect upon the implications of their research interests, both inside and outside the classroom. Students carry these interests on to a variety of careers and professional opportunities following graduation.

## Relationship to International Studies

The Global Studies major replaced the International Studies major following the 2016–17 academic year.

## Program Requirements

Students must complete a total of 13 courses (including one approved elective and two BA seminars), a research activity, and a language requirement, broken down in the following manner:

### 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 expected to complete the sequence in their second year, if possible, especially if they plan to study abroad during their third year.

### Thematic Tracks (8 courses)

The body of the major (eight 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 five courses in the former and three in the latter. 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 (<http://globalstudies.uchicago.edu>).

#### 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.

BIOS 13140 The Public and Private Lives of Insects  
 GRMN 24416 Biocentrism: The Concept of Life in German Literature and Art around 1900  
 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 of a physical nature, as well as 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  
 GLST 24101 Paperwork  
 ECON 22650 Creativity

#### 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.

CRES 22150 Contemporary African American Politics  
 PLSC 27016 Popular Culture, Art, and Autocracy

## PLSC 29500 Drugs, Guns, and Money: The Politics of Criminal Conflict

**Elective (1 course)**

Students will select one elective course to further their BA research, often late in their third or early in their fourth year. This course should be chosen after discussion with the program administrator, and can include:

- A regional studies course that furthers the student's cultural and historical knowledge in their BA research topic
- A research methodology course (e.g., ANTH 21420 Ethnographic Methods) that will equip the student for better collection of primary source materials
- An introductory course in another major that has a direct connection to the BA research topic
- A language course that will help the student read texts or interact with persons pertaining to their BA research topic

These options are not exhaustive and should only be used as guiding ideas for the elective requirement. Students should seek program approval for their choice of elective course before registering, and the elective should be completed before the Winter Quarter of the student's fourth year.

**Research Activity Requirement**

Students will be expected to complete a major activity or program exploring global issues as related to their intended BA project, often in an international setting.

This major activity might be:

- An internship (academic year or summer)
- A study abroad program, often through the Study Abroad office
- A volunteer opportunity
- A well-defined field research project

Students should work with the program administrator to identify appropriate opportunities and should have their activity approved ahead of the experience itself. Most activities should last no less than six weeks, though intensive programs with shorter durations may be considered.

The research activity 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 (for example, 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 occurs during the Spring Quarter of a student's third year. At 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 also 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. Thesis seminars from other major programs will *not* count toward the Global Studies BA Thesis Seminar requirement.

**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**

GLST 23101-23102	Global Studies I-II	200
Five courses in a major thematic field		500
Three courses in a minor thematic field		300
GLST 29800	BA Thesis Seminar I	100

GLST 29801	BA Thesis Seminar II	100
One program elective		100
Total Units		1300

### Honors

Students with an overall GPA of 3.2 or higher and an in-major GPA of 3.5 or higher will be eligible for honors. For the awarding of honors, the BA thesis must also 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 (i.e., they cannot use Pass/Fail or audited courses for major requirements).





### Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.