

The International Studies Major

The International Studies major focuses on the political, economic, social, and cultural forces that shape relations among states and peoples at the transnational level. The major is inherently interdisciplinary. Students majoring in International Studies should expect to complete coursework in some combination of Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology, as well as demonstrating competence in a foreign language.

Students pursuing an International Studies major are challenged to develop critical thinking and writing skills, to master an additional language, and to engage important questions of our day from the perspectives of multiple disciplines.

Major Requirements

The International Studies major is a 12 course major composed of 3 elements: a core set of 4 introductory courses, a thematic focus, and a regional focus including the study of a language related to the region.

The introductory courses provide the general foundation for the major. The thematic

How to apply

Students interested in the International Studies major should contact the program director to discuss their interests. After this meeting, students must apply for the major through the Student Program Application system: <https://apps.holycross.edu/stuProgApp>. There is no cap on the number of majors or minimum GPA requirement for this major. The application is intended to assist students in developing an appropriate major curriculum related to their regional focus and major theme. Fall 2022 applications are accepted August 30th through October 7th and Spring 2023 applications are accepted January 24th through February 10th.

For more information, contact:

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Sample Theme Courses

International Political Economy

ECON 210	Economics of the European Union
ECON 220	Economics of Inequality
HIST 212	History of Capitalism in US & World
POLS 275	International Political Economy
POLS 288	Politics of Globalization
SOCL 210	Corporate & Consumer Social Responsibility
SOCL 220	Drugs in the Americas
SOCL 280	Global Culture and Society
SOCL 281	Sociology of Travel & Tourism

Conflict & Conflict Resolution

ANTH 264	Race, Racism and Anthropology
ANTH 386	Global Queer Activism
CISS 392	The Holocaust
HIST 155	World War II in East Asia
HIST 255	Europe: Mass Politics & Total War 1890-1945
HIST 256	Europe and the Superpowers
HIST 327	Cultures of the Cold War
HIST 352	Rebels and Radical Thinkers
PHIL 278	Philosophers on War & Peace
POLS 217	The Constitution in Wartime
POLS 271	International Peace
POLS 278	International Politics of East Asia
POLS 281	Global Governance
POLS 282	American Foreign Policy
POLS 284	Human Rights
POLS 287	Humanitarianism
POLS 289	International Law
POLS 290	National Security Policy
POLS 333	Ethics & International Relations
POLS 399	Refugees
RELS 124	Theology of Protest
RELS 279	Religion and Violence
RELS 280	Liberation Theology
RELS 327	Holocaust: Confronting Evil
SOCL205	Social Class and Power
SOCL 260	Women, Poverty, and Religion
SOCL 376	Women and Non-Violence

Development Studies

ANTH 253	Gender & Development
ANTH 380	African Informal Economies
CISS 250	Introduction to Global Health
CISS 255	Critical Issues/Global Health
CISS 272	Health and Development
CISS 350	HIV/AIDS in Comparative Perspective
POLS 257	Politics of Development
POLS 275	International Political Economy
POLS 287	Humanitarianism
SOCL 260	Women, Poverty, and Religion
SOCL 280	Global Culture and Society
SOCL 281	Sociology of Travel & Tourism

Global Governance & International Law

CISS 209	Section One – Pandemic Policy (counts as POLS)
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