

# Requirements: International Studies

## Interdisciplinary

The international studies curriculum enables students to analyze an increasingly global society using the foundations of the liberal arts. International studies majors concentrate in one of three thematic tracks — development, environment or politics and society — taking a focused set of courses from several disciplines to develop their understanding of that topic. Majors apply that knowledge to the sustained study of a particular region of the world, where they spend at least a semester abroad studying, living in and experiencing a foreign culture.

International studies majors must have an adventurous spirit and a high level of personal motivation. They must learn foreign languages, study in distant countries and think rigorously across disciplinary boundaries. The program especially encourages students to study the problems and challenges of areas other than Western Europe and North America.

*The Kenyon College faculty voted to change from Kenyon units to semester hours. This change will go into effect for all students who start at the College in the fall of 2024. Both systems will be used throughout the course catalog with the Kenyon units being listed first.*

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## Beginning Studies

International studies majors select an area of geographic concentration and follow a series of courses in one of the three thematic tracks. We strongly recommend that first-year students take courses in a language appropriate for the geographic area in which they plan to concentrate (Spanish for Latin America, Chinese for East Asia and so forth). This suggestion is by far the most important one we can make, for success in off-campus study in the area concentration depends heavily on language skills. Second, prospective majors should look carefully at the introductory courses listed for each of the three thematic tracks. Consider taking one or more of the courses that can serve in more than one thematic track — e.g., ANTH 113, ECON 101, PSCI 260, SOCY 105 or HIST 100. Students should consult the chair of the program for additional advice.

## The Curriculum

Regardless of which track a student follows, there are seven elements in the international studies curriculum:

### **1. Sophomore course**

INST 201 (The Expansion of International Society) explores the historical origins, causes and implications of today's globalized world.

**2. Core track courses**

Each of the three thematic tracks has its own assortment of introductory, upper-level and research methods courses, which are listed along with the description of each track below.

**3. Area concentration**

Students must take at least four courses on a geographic region outside the United States such as sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe or Western Europe, or a more culturally defined region such as the Islamic world, the Atlantic world or a diaspora community. At least two of the area courses must be historical in scope, including a course on the modern history of the region, and at least two of the area courses must be taken at Kenyon.

Although one region serves as the primary focus, students are encouraged to include at least one course that explores that region's historical and cultural connections with other regions. Some examples of trans-regional courses are AMES 201, FREN 340, HIST 166, HIST 242, HIST 258, HIST 261, HIST 345, HIST 373, HIST 454, RLST 135, RLST 140, SPAN 330 and SPAN 365.

A required major areas form(pdf) must be completed and submitted to the Registrar's Office, indicating the courses for your area concentration.

**4. Foreign language**

Majors must complete at least two years of college-level instruction in one foreign language or demonstrate such proficiency through a placement exam. If studying abroad in a place where the local language is not offered at Kenyon, the student is allowed to fulfill the second year of the requirement by studying that language while studying off campus. All students are required to study a local language during their off-campus study experience.

**5. Off-campus study**

All international studies majors must study abroad for at least a semester and are encouraged to do so for an entire year. Students are required to study abroad in their junior year in a program relevant to their thematic track, area concentration and foreign language training, and in an area where the majority of the people speak a language different from the student's own primary language. A maximum of two courses from each semester of off-campus study can be used to fulfill requirements in the international studies major. Students should keep in mind that off-campus study at Kenyon is competitive and writing a strong application is critical. In order to study off campus, a student must receive approval from the College and have achieved a GPA of at least 2.5.

**6. Senior Seminar**

INST 401 (Contemporary Global Issues) is a comparative course that brings all international studies majors together during the fall of their senior year to look at significant global problems from the various perspectives they bring based on their specializations.

## 7. Senior Capstone

The Senior Capstone provides an opportunity for majors to undertake a substantial, independent research project that combines and reflects their thematic training and regional knowledge. It usually builds on their experience and research abroad and then examines it from a broadly intellectual and comparative perspective. Seniors are encouraged to consult with any faculty whose expertise has bearing on their investigations. Projects take the form of a research paper of about 20 to 30 pages. They are due in mid-February. Additional information about the Senior Capstone is available through the department website.

Students can keep track of their progress with a checklist for majors.

## Honors

The International Studies Honors Program offers qualified students the opportunity to work intensively on a research project during their entire senior year under the close guidance of one or two faculty members. Students who think they might want to pursue this option should consult early with the chair of the department, preferably before going off campus in their junior year, as the study abroad experience will usually shape or inform the honors project. Honors students produce a written work of an appropriate length in their thematic track (minimum of 80 pages and often more), and an outside examiner reads and assesses each student's work at the end of the spring semester.

Kenyon requires a minimum GPA of 3.33 to be eligible for honors, and honors candidates enroll in INST 497Y and INST 498Y each semester.

For more detailed information about honors in international studies, see the INST Honors Guidelines.

## Development Track

This track appeals to those drawn to the study of Asia, Africa and Latin America because of an interest in the prospects for socioeconomic change in those regions. Development is studied as an inherently interdisciplinary and global issue, incorporating the perspectives of economics and other social sciences while exploring the roles of trade, aid, governments and international institutions in shaping relations between wealthier and poorer countries. Students also focus on a particular geographic region in the "developing world," studying the culture and society of the area in which they undertake off-campus study in order to better understand the development challenges faced by people in that area. Those regions include sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, South Asia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Islamic world.

### Development Track Core Courses

#### **Introductory (three courses)**

ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 102: Principles of Macroeconomics

Choose one course from:

- ANTH 113: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- SOCY 101: Powers, Energies and Peoples
- SOCY 103: Society and Culture
- SOCY 105: Society in Comparative Perspective
- SOCY 107: Institutions and Inequalities
- SOCY 108: Public Life

**Upper-level (four courses)**

One course on international economics:

- ECON 331: Economics of Development
- ECON 338: International Trade
- ECON 339: International Finance and Open-Economy Macroeconomics
- PSCI 342: Politics of Development

Challenges of development in a broader context (two courses from two different departments):

- ANTH 200: Commodities and Consumption: Anthropological Perspectives
- ANTH 320: Anthropology of Food
- ANTH 358: Medical Anthropology in Biocultural Perspective
- ECON 335: Economics of Immigration
- ECON 473: Economic Growth
- ECON 474: Economics of Oil and Gas
- HIST 226: The British Empire
- HIST 256: Global Crisis (And The History Of How We Have Addressed It)
- HIST 342: History of Public Health
- PSCI 361: Globalization
- PSCI 362: America and the World in the 21st Century
- PSCI 363: Global Environmental Politics
- PSCI 366: Global Poverty, Policy and Politics
- PSCI 470: Power, States and Markets: The Making of Modern Social Order
- PSCI 476: Rules for the World: International Organizations' Role in World Politics
- SOCY 222: Economic Sociology
- SOCY 223: Wealth and Power
- SOCY 233: Sociology of Food
- SOCY 237: Borders and Border Crossings
- SOCY 243: Social Justice: The Ancient and Modern Traditions
- SOCY 321: Social Change, Dictatorship and Democracy

Cultural dimension of recent global interactions and social changes (one course):

- AMST 331: Visions of "America" from Abroad
- ANTH 253: Anthropology of Mass Media
- ANTH 310D: Music, Human Rights and Cultural Rights
- ANTH 312D: Music, Film and Culture: Ethnographic Perspectives
- ENGL 266: Decolonization and Violence

- ENGL 363: Writing the Global City
- ENGL 367: The Global South Novel
- RLST 140: Islam's Diverse Paths
- RLST 217: Christianity in the Global South
- SOCY 322: Cultural Foundations of Politics
- SOCY 432: Global Cities
- SOCY 466: The Politics of Identity Formation in the Global South

Research methods (one social science methods course):

- ANTH 464: Methods in Cultural Anthropology
- ECON 205: Introduction to Econometrics
- HIST 387: Practice and Theory of History
- PSCI 280: Political Analysis
- SOCY 271: Methods of Social Research
- SOCY 373: Qualitative Research Methods
- SOCY 474: Comparative-Historical Analysis

Other courses, particularly special topic courses not offered regularly, may be acceptable substitutes for area concentration courses or, occasionally, introductory, upper-level or research methods courses. If you have questions about a particular course, contact the department chair.

## Environment Track

The study of issues related to the environment, ecosystems and natural resources requires an interdisciplinary and international approach. Many environmental issues are global in scope or are best studied comparatively between different regions. Other issues central to international studies have fundamental implications for the environment. Students in this track combine scientific training with international studies in order to examine complex environmental issues. They are expected to take advantage of a growing number of off-campus study programs that deal primarily with environmental questions.

### Environment Track Core Courses

#### **Introductory (five courses, one from each group)**

ENVS 112: Introduction to Environmental Studies

ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics

BIOL 115: Energy in Living Systems

Choose one introductory chemistry course:

- CHEM 110: Environmental Chemistry
- ENVS 104: Solar Power Systems: Science, Policy and Practicum

Choose one introductory course on the global social context:

- ANTH 113: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- PSCI 260: International Relations

- SOCY 101: Powers, Energies and Peoples
- SOCY 103: Society and Culture
- SOCY 105: Society in Comparative Perspective
- SOCY 107: Institutions and Inequalities
- SOCY 108: Public Life

### Upper-level

Three courses on the challenge of human interaction with the environment

One, preferably both, of the following foundational courses:

- ECON 336: Environmental Economics
- PSCI 363: Global Environmental Politics

One of the following courses:

- ANTH 200: Commodities and Consumption: Anthropological Perspectives
- ANTH 320: Anthropology of Food
- BIOL 328: Global Ecology and Biogeography
- ECON 336: Environmental Economics
- ECON 342: Economics of Regulation
- ECON 347: Economics of the Public Sector
- ENVS 231: Earth Systems Science
- ENVS 240: Permaculture and Homestead Winter Farming
- ENVS 253: Sustainable Agriculture
- ENVS 341: The Science of Climate Change
- PSCI 361: Globalization
- PSCI 363: Global Environmental Politics
- PSCI 463: American Environmental Politics and Policy
- PSCI 480: Science and Politics
- RLST 350: Religion and Nature
- SOCY 233: Sociology of Food
- SOCY 238: Environmental Sociology
- SOCY 242: Science, Society and the Environment
- SOCY 432: Global Cities
- Research methods (one course, plus lab for science courses)
- ANTH 464: Methods in Cultural Anthropology
- BIOL 228: Ecology and BIOL 229: Ecology Laboratory
- BIOL 352: Aquatic Systems Biology and BIOL 353: Aquatic Systems Lab
- CHEM 231: Organic Chemistry I and CHEM 233: Organic Chemistry Lab I
- ECON 205: Introduction to Econometrics
- ENVS 220: Applied Environmental Analysis
- ENVS 261: Geographic Information Science
- PSCI 280: Political Analysis

Senior Seminar (one course)

- ENVS 461: Seminar in Environmental Studies

Other courses, particularly special topic courses not offered regularly, may be acceptable substitutes for area concentration courses or, occasionally, introductory, upper-level or research methods courses. If you have questions about a particular course, contact the department chair.

## Politics and Society Track

This track appeals to students who are interested in the impact of recent globalization on how societies are governed in different areas of the world and how international institutions have been engaged in world affairs. Students explore ways that political science, sociology and other social sciences have described global phenomena such as human rights, migration, democracy, and terrorism, studying the efforts of states and non-state actors to manage people, forces and ideologies that transcend national borders. As with the other tracks, students focus on a particular geographic region, but their off-campus study program and area courses should include study of issues and interactions that extend beyond their primary regional focus.

### Politics and Society Track Core Courses

#### **Introductory (four courses, one each from four of the five following categories)**

ANTH 113: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics

One introductory course on international relations

- PSCI 240: Modern Democracies
- PSCI 260: International Relations

One introductory course on sociology

- SOCY 101: Powers, Energies and Peoples
- SOCY 103: Society and Culture
- SOCY 105: Society in Comparative Perspective
- SOCY 107: Institutions and Inequalities
- SOCY 108: Public Life

One course on global historical and cultural relations

- HIST 100: Making of the Contemporary World
- HIST 226: The British Empire
- HIST 256: Global Crisis (And The History of How We Have Addressed It)
- HIST 275: World War II
- MLL 251: World Cinema
- RLST 101: Encountering Religion in Its Global Context: An Introduction

#### **Upper-level (three courses on global sociopolitical issues from two departments)**

- ANTH 310D: Music, Human Rights and Cultural Rights
- ANTH 312D: Music, Film and Culture: Ethnographic Perspectives
- ANTH 460: Whiteness, Power and Race
- ECON 335: Economics of Immigration
- ECON 338: International Trade
- ECON 339: International Finance and Open-Economy Macroeconomics



- HIST 342: History of Public Health
- HIST 458: Gandhi and Civil Disobedience
- PSCI 351: States, Nations, Nationalism
- PSCI 355: Immigration, Citizenship and National Identity
- PSCI 361: Globalization
- PSCI 363: Global Environmental Politics
- PSCI 366: Global Poverty, Policy and Politics
- PSCI 374: Civil Wars and Failed States
- PSCI 444: Revolutions
- PSCI 446: The Politics of the Welfare State
- PSCI 447: Inequality and Democracy
- PSCI 449: Democracy in Crisis
- PSCI 450: Human Rights in World Politics
- PSCI 465: International Terrorism
- PSCI 470: Power, States and Markets: The Making of Modern Social Order
- PSCI 471: Politics of Transitional Justice
- PSCI 476: Rules for the World: International Organizations' Role in World Politics
- RLST 335: Religious Fundamentalism in the Contemporary World
- SOCY 235: Transnational Social Movements
- SOCY 237: Borders and Border Crossing
- SOCY 321: Social Change, Dictatorship and Democracy
- SOCY 432: Global Cities
- SOCY 466: The Politics of Identity Formation in the Global South
- WGS 242: Transnational Feminisms

Research methods (one methods course)

- ANTH 464: Methods in Cultural Anthropology
- ECON 205: Introduction to Econometrics
- HIST 387: Practice and Theory of History
- PSCI 280: Political Analysis
- RLST 390: Approaches to the Study of Religion
- SOCY 271: Methods of Social Research
- SOCY 373: Qualitative Research Methods
- SOCY 474: Comparative-Historical Analysis

Other courses, particularly special topic courses not offered regularly, may be acceptable substitutes for area concentration courses or, occasionally, introductory, upper-level or research methods courses. If you have questions about a particular course, contact the chair of the department.



## Courses in International Studies

### The Expansion of International Society

**INST 201 Credits: 0.5/4**

This course is designed for sophomores who plan to major in international studies. It explores the evolution of modern international society by examining the roles of industrialization, capitalism, nationalism, individualism and other elements of modernity in propelling and directing the flow of wealth, people and ideas between different regions of the world. In addition to studying general political and economic changes, the course considers various local and personal perspectives, giving life to otherwise abstract forces and complicating attempts to construct a single overarching narrative of "modernization," "Westernization" or "development." Among the issues to be examined are the causes and effects of international economic disparities, migration, cultural tensions and stresses on the environment. In surveying major viewpoints and illustrative cases within these themes, the course is meant to serve as an introduction to the international studies major, utilizing a variety of academic disciplines and providing a foundation for further study of relations between different nations and peoples of the world. As part of the course, students complete a research paper related to the geographic area where they plan to go for their off-campus experience. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. No prerequisite. Sophomore standing. Offered every year.

### Senior Seminar: Contemporary Global Issues

**INST 401 Credits: 0.5/4**

This seminar examines some of the problems inherent in cross-cultural comparison and explores the ways in which a variety of disciplines grapple with these difficulties by investigating contemporary themes in international affairs. These themes include some or all of the following: ethnic conflict; comparative perspectives on development; religion and socioeconomic development; contemporary environmental problems; the ethics of armed intervention; the emergence of a world popular culture and its consequences for national cultures; the challenges of democratization; and perceptions of the United States, Americans and U.S. foreign policy abroad. Open only to international studies majors with senior standing. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. No prerequisite. Offered every year.

### Individual Study

**INST 493 Credits: 0.25-0.5/2-4**

Individual study is available to highly qualified juniors and seniors who would like to pursue a course of reading or complete a focused research project on a topic not regularly offered in the international studies curriculum. This option is available only in exceptional circumstances and must focus on topics specific to international studies, rather than those more suited to another

department. All proposals must be approved by the International Studies Program director. To be considered for an individual study (IS) project, the candidate must prepare a proposal in consultation with a member of the international studies faculty who has suitable expertise and is willing to work with the student over the course of a semester. Because students must enroll for individual studies by the seventh day of classes in a semester, candidates should begin outlining their planned course of study with the supervising faculty member and the program director the semester before they hope to undertake the project. In all cases, proposals must be submitted by the fourth day of classes in the semester when the IS will take place. The two-to three page proposal should include a statement of the questions to be explored, a preliminary bibliography, schedules for meeting with the supervising faculty member and completion of work, and a description of grading criteria. Students also should briefly describe prior coursework that particularly qualifies them to pursue the project independently. The program director will, in conjunction with the supervising faculty member, review the proposal and decide whether to approve it.

For all international studies IS projects, certain conditions apply. The student is required to meet regularly with the instructor for an average of at least one hour per week. The work involved is substantial: For a 0.50 IS, the amount of graded work should approximate that required in a full credit 300- or 400-level course in the social sciences, humanities or sciences. For a 0.25 IS, reading and writing requirements will be approximately half of that amount. Individual projects vary, but students pursuing an IS in international studies should plan to read approximately 200 pages a week and to write at least 25 pages over the course of the semester. Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study by the semester before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement.

## Senior Honors

### **INST 497Y Credits: 0.5/4**

The Honors Program is designed to recognize and encourage exceptional scholarship and to allow able students to do more independent work than is otherwise feasible. The senior honors candidate works with members of the international studies faculty to prepare an extended essay on a topic of mutual interest, which is defended before an outside examiner in May. For more detailed information about honors in international studies, see the department chair. Students standing for honors must also take the senior seminar. Students enrolled in this course are automatically added to INST 498Y for the spring semester. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. No prerequisite. Permission of instructor and program director required.

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