

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.

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 2.75.

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 College requires all candidates for departmental Honors to have an overall GPA of at least 3.33, up to and including the second semester of junior year. In addition, majors must have at least a 3.5 GPA in courses counting towards the major in order to be considered. 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 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 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
INST 272: Methods for Interdisciplinary Research
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

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 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 342: Politics of Development

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
PSCI 477: Politics of International Criminal Law
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
INST 272: Methods for Interdisciplinary Research
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.

The Senior Capstone

The [Senior Capstone \(PDF\)](#) in international studies is the culmination of your major. It should demonstrate your ability to research and analyze an important issue in ways that:

Reflect your training in one of the thematic tracks

Utilize insights from more than one discipline

Employ relevant evidence and examples from the primary geographic focus of your studies

Use comparison — across time, across regions, across countries, across cultures — to situate that issue and your primary geographic area within a broader context

Details About the Senior Capstone

A successful senior capstone is an independent research paper of 20 to 30 pages in length written in consultation with one or more faculty members. Quantity does not equal quality. You are especially encouraged to use sources in the language(s) that you have studied.

The senior capstone research proposal and bibliography is produced as an assignment within the Senior Seminar (INST 401) during the fall semester. That assignment serves as a description of the topic, and any substantial changes to your proposed topic must be approved by the department chair.

The Senior Capstone will be due mid-February. You must submit digital copies of the following two items:

A copy of your project, including a preface of 2-3 pages that explains how comps draw on ideas and coursework from your thematic track, off-campus study and knowledge of a foreign language. The preface should also mention any faculty with whom you consulted for the project. The preface does **not** count as part of your capstone exercise.

A completed checklist of your track within international studies, clearly documenting that you have completed all of the required coursework for the major.

Recent Examples:

"Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Fighting Hunger and Environmental Degradation"

"Environmental Non-Governmental Organization: Preservation of Local Communities"

"Urban Renovation, Shrinking of Public Space and Street Protests in Amman"

"Gender Roles of Women in Fascist Spain and the Lasting Impact of Franco"

"A Comparison of Refugee Legislation and Treatment in Botswana and Canada"

"Citizenship and Nationhood: A Case Study of Immigrants in France and Germany"

"Visibilizing Blackness: Unearthing Afro-Chilean Identity and Reframing Discussions on Chilean Immigration Policy"

"Effects of Threat of Removal and Increased ICE enforcement on Mexican and Central American Undocumented Immigrants"

Courses in International Studies

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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.

Methods for Interdisciplinary Research

INST 272 CREDITS: 0.5/4

International studies draws on numerous disciplines including anthropology, economics, environmental studies, history, political science, and sociology. International studies scholars use both qualitative and quantitative methods from these disciplines to gather data for analysis. In this course, we take an introductory overview of methods including oral history, interviews, textual analysis, participant observation, survey design, archival research, regression, data sampling and descriptive statistics. We draw from empirical research articles by scholars conducting research relevant to international studies, paying close attention to how researchers use methods to know what they know. We also draw from methodological literature that describes both how to conduct research, and what ethical problems might arise from using particular methods. Students practice research methods and skills in class before designing a research proposal that uses a method to answer an interdisciplinary problem. At its core, this course helps students begin to develop a rigorous and realistic interdisciplinary research plan they will carry out as they write their senior capstone projects. Prerequisite: INST 201.

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.

Senior Honors

INST 498Y 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. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. No prerequisite. Permission of instructor and program director required.