

# International Studies

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## Program of Study

The undergraduate concentration in International Studies (IS) draws on the strengths of the College faculty in a variety of disciplines and their innovative work in a number of areas of international relevance, such as human rights, international relations, globalization, transnationalism, and area studies. This concentration is designed to attract students who are preparing for academic, government, nonprofit, or business careers with an international focus, and who value the benefits of study abroad and of cross-cultural learning.

This concentration is organized around courses drawn from the following four subfields of study: (1) international relations; (2) international comparative history; (3) international political economy and development; and (4) area and civilizational studies.

## Program Requirements

The International Studies concentration has five requirements:

**IS Introductory Sequence.** Students are required to take a two-quarter introductory sequence, taught annually, in the field of international studies. One quarter focuses on contemporary theories in international relations, the other on theories of nationalism, post-colonialism, and human rights. These courses should be taken early in the student's program and need not be taken in any order.

**Course Distribution.** Students are required to complete ten substantive courses from at least two of the four subfields listed above. Of those ten, a minimum of three courses must be taken in each of two selected subfields. The other four concentration electives may be taken in any subfield. Students may also use language courses or a combination of language and IS-approved courses as their four electives subject to the following:

Language courses must be taken at the level of the third year or above. (To be considered "third year or above," a course must be at least the seventh quarter of a language sequence.) This policy takes effect for students graduating 2005 and after. Language credit in the concentration is by course registration only. Credit by examination may not be used in the concentration.

Students select their courses in consultation with IS program advisors. A list of classes accepted toward the concentration is selected by the International Studies faculty each year, and is updated quarterly. This list is available on the Web site.

**Foreign Language.** Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language in one of two ways:

(1) Students may complete the equivalent of seven quarters of language study in a single language. Students who elect this option may fulfill the first six quarters by University exam or by course work. The seventh and final quarter, however, may be fulfilled only by course registration. For information about the use of language to meet concentration electives, see “Course Distribution” above.

(2) Students may obtain an Advanced Language Proficiency Certificate, which is documentation of advanced functional ability in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. To qualify to sit for the three-hour proficiency examination, students are required to complete a minimum of intermediate and advanced language study at levels set by the departments and spend a quarter abroad in a College-approved intensive language program. For details, see [dos-college.uchicago.edu/information/language-certificate.html](http://dos-college.uchicago.edu/information/language-certificate.html).

**Study Abroad.** Students are required to study abroad for a minimum of ten weeks in an approved study abroad program. This requirement will be waived only by petition for those able to demonstrate a similar significant, structured international education experience. Participation in any University of Chicago approved study abroad program will fulfill this requirement. Students should consult with the study abroad advisers for more information. If students seek to undertake a program outside of the University’s offerings, they must have approval of the concentration chair prior to departure on the program.

**B.A. Thesis.** All students are required to complete a B.A. thesis. In consultation with IS preceptors, students prepare a topic page that is due eighth week of Spring Quarter in their third year. At this time students are also required to secure a faculty reader.

In Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, students are required to take the B.A. Thesis Seminar (INST 29800), which is designed to teach research skills and more generally to aid the research and writing process. Upon successful completion of the work in Autumn Quarter, concentrators are strongly encouraged to take B.A. Thesis Seminar (INST 29800) in Winter Quarter of their fourth year; this course may not be counted as a concentration elective. While all IS concentrators may participate in the Winter Quarter seminar, dual concentrators may not take the Winter Quarter course for credit. The final version of the B.A. thesis is due by the second Monday of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate. Successful completion of the thesis requires a grade of *B-* or higher from faculty and preceptor readers.

## Summary of Requirements

<b>Concentration</b>	2	International Studies introductory courses
	10	elective courses
	1	B.A. Thesis Seminar Autumn (INST 29800)
	—	B.A. Thesis Seminar Winter (INST 29800)*
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\* *Dual concentrators may not take this course for credit, but are encouraged to participate.*

**Honors.** Students will be considered for honors on the basis of having earned an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and 3.5 or higher in the concentration, and on the basis of recommendations from the faculty and preceptor readers of the B.A. thesis.

**Grading.** Courses taken for *P/N* or *P/F* will not be accepted toward concentration requirements.

## Faculty

J. Boyer, B. Cumings, N. Di Vito, P. Duara, M. Geyer, S. Gzesh, A. Kolata, S. Latkovski, F. Meltzer, J. Mitzen, S. Stokes, M.-R. Trouillot, E. Weaver, L. Wedeen, A. Wendt, D. Yang, S. Yaqub

## Courses: International Studies (INST)

**29400. International Relations: Perspectives on Conflict and Cooperation.** (=PLSC 29400/39400, SOSC 20400) *It is recommended that concentrators enroll in this required introductory course in their second year.* This course examines a number of competing approaches to the study of conflict and cooperation in the international system. Lectures introduce the Westphalian states system; great power war and production of order in anarchic system; hierarchical power relations that underlie international independence; and ways in which the Westphalian system is challenged by non-state security threats, global civil society, and supranational governance. *J. Mitzen. Autumn.*

**29500. International Relations: Transnationalism in a Postcolonial World.** (=PLSC 29500/39500) *It is recommended that concentrators enroll in this required introductory course in their second year.* Dominant conceptions in international relations privilege states by treating them as natural and exclusive actors in international relations; privilege the Western world by treating it as the center; and privilege the balance of power and deterrence by treating military force as the primary means of self-help in allegedly anarchical space beyond state frontiers. This course focuses on national and transnational civil society as the arena of action. Topics include nationalism, transnational identities generated by migration and refugee flows, environmentalism, human rights, cyber space, religions, and internal wars. *L. Wedeen. Winter.*

**29700. Reading and Research.** *PQ: Consent of instructor and concentration chair. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course form. This course may be counted as a concentration elective. This is a reading and research course for independent study not related to B.A. research or B.A. paper preparation. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**29800. B.A. Thesis (Autumn Seminar).** *Required of fourth-year concentrators. 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. Autumn.*

**29800. B.A. Thesis (Winter Seminar).** *PQ: INST 29800. This course may not be counted as a concentration elective. This weekly seminar, taught by graduate student preceptors in consultation with faculty readers, offers students continued B.A. research and writing support. Students present drafts of their work and critique the work of their peers. This is an optional course for concentrators. All concentrators, however, are encouraged to participate in this seminar. NOTE: Dual concentrators may not take this course for credit. Winter.*

**29900. B.A. Thesis (Reading and Research).** *PQ: Consent of instructor and concentration chair. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course form. This is a reading and research course for independent study related to B.A. research and B.A. thesis preparation. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

## **International Studies Subfields**

*Most literature courses not in translation and most civilization courses taken beyond the general education requirement are accepted towards the IS concentration. For the complete list of approved courses, which is selected quarterly by the faculty, see the program advisors or the IS Web site: <http://internationalstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/courses.html>.*