Concentration in Global Cultural Studies (IAS)

The Major in International and Area Studies — Concentration in Global Cultural Studies

The IAS concentration in global cultural studies focuses on the practical and theoretical issues arising from cross-cultural encounters around the world. Students will study these by both examining traditional cultural products (e.g., literature, film, visual art, music) and investigating their broader political and social contexts. This concentration addresses compelling issues of cultural interchange for students interested in cultures for their own sake as well as in careers in NGOs and international business and law. This program is committed to interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary problems. Students may take courses in the traditional language and literature disciplines as well as in anthropology, art history, film, history, music and philosophy.

This concentration requires 36 units of course work:

- 6 units of disciplinary introductions and methods course work (100-200 level)
- 6 units of world area course work (any level)
- 24 units of advanced course work from a minimum of three different academic disciplines (at least one course must focus on gender, race or class, and at least two must be at the 400 level)

Additional requirements and regulations:

- Students must receive a grade of C+ or higher in all IAS courses. All courses taken for IAS credit must be taken for a letter grade, including language courses.
- Students must fulfill the standard IAS foreign language requirement: the successful completion of four semesters of one language appropriate to their concentration (more details below).
- Students must complete one semester of language before declaring the major.
- We strongly encourage students to study abroad (https://ias.wustl.edu/study-abroad). For those students who do not study abroad, an additional 3-unit course at the 300 or 400 level is required.
- We strongly prefer students to select a study abroad location consistent with their chosen language of study (e.g., students who wish to study in Latin America must satisfy their language requirement with either Spanish or Portuguese).
- Throughout the course of completing the major, students must show depth in at least one world area by taking a minimum of two courses focused on the same area, and they must show breadth by taking a third course focused on a different area. We consider world areas to be Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America and South Asia.
- Students must choose their upper-level course work from a minimum of three academic disciplines (e.g., anthropology, art history, film, history, languages and literature, music and political science).
- No more than 12 total credits earned outside of the day school of Washington University may be applied to a student's IAS major. This limit includes credits from study abroad experiences (never more than 6 credits from a single semester, 3 from a summer, or 12 from a year), University College, summer school from another U.S. university, or any combination thereof. (All 400-level credits must be earned on campus or in Washington University courses taught abroad.)
- No more than 3 credits may be from directed readings, research, or independent study, excluding the honors thesis.
- All advanced credits counting for the IAS major must be unique to the IAS major.
- At least 6 credits must be at the 400 level.

Note: A single course may satisfy more than one of the distribution requirements (i.e., disciplinary; race, gender or class; or world area). Some of these requirements may be completed while abroad (https://ias.wustl.edu/study-abroad).

Disciplinary introductions and methods (choose two from this list,* for a total of 6 units):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFAS 255</td>
<td>Introduction to Africana Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthro 160B</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art-Arch 111</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art-Arch 113</td>
<td>History of Western Art, Architecture and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art-Arch 215</td>
<td>Introduction to Modern Art, Architecture and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp Lit 211</td>
<td>World Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ 1011</td>
<td>Introduction to Microeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ 1021</td>
<td>Introduction to Macroeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film 220</td>
<td>Introduction to Film Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYP 116</td>
<td>Ampersand: Geographies of Globalization and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>History 1500</td>
<td>Silver, Slaves and the State: Globalization in the 18th Century</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History 164</td>
<td>Introduction to World History: The Second World War in World History</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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*Each course can satisfy up to three distribution requirements.
History 1640  Health and Disease in World History  3
History 270  Globalization and its Discontents  3
INTER D 130  The Art of Medicine  3
IPH 175  Freshman Seminar: Seeing is Believing: Visuality, Power, and Truth  3
IPH 207C  Ampersand: Modern Political Thought: Text and Traditions  3
IPH 312  Introduction to Digital Humanities  3
IAS 103B  First-Year Seminar: International Public Affairs  3
IAS 127  Migration in the Global World: Stories  3
IAS 155  First-Year Seminar: Mapping the World: Introduction to Human Geography  3
Introduction to Literature courses as appropriate (English, Comp Lit or foreign language)  3
Music 1021  Musics of the World  3
Phil 120F  Problems in Philosophy  3
Phil 131F  Present Moral Problems  3
Pol Sci 103B  International Politics  3
WGSS 100B  Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  3
WGSS 206  Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies  3

* Students may submit a request to add a course by following the instructions for the Petition Process (https://ias.wustl.edu/ias-course-petition).

World area courses:

Throughout the course of completing the global cultural studies major, students must show depth in at least one world area by taking a minimum two courses focused on the same area, and they must show breadth by taking a third course focused on a different area. We consider world areas to be Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and South Asia.

Of these three courses, one must be at the advanced level, and it will be counted toward the 24 credits of advanced work needed to complete the major.

The other two courses may be taken at any level; however, if advanced courses are used to fulfill any of these 6 credits, they will not also be counted toward the required 24 credits of advanced course work. Examples of lower-level classes that may be used to satisfy this requirement include the following:

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>AFAS 162</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Contextualizing Problems in Contemporary Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAS 178</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Imagining and Creating Africa: Youth, Culture, and Change</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Advanced courses: Choose eight courses from current, relevant, internationally-focused course offerings in the following departments.* All courses must be approved by the student's IAS adviser in order to count for the major. Visit the concentration webpage (http://ias.wustl.edu/global-cultural-studies) and master course list for the full list of options.

- African and African-American Studies
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Children's Studies
- Classics
- Dance
- Drama
- Economics
- Film and Media Studies
- History
- Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities
- International and Area Studies
- Jewish, Islamic and Middle Eastern Cultures
- Languages and Literatures
- Latin American Studies
- Music
• Philosophy
• Political Science
• Psychological and Brain Sciences
• Religious Studies
• Sociology
• Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

* Students may submit a request to add a course by following the instructions for the Petition Process (https://ias.wustl.edu/ias-course-petition).

Additional Information

Language Requirement for the Major in Global Cultural Studies/International and Area Studies: All IAS majors must satisfy a foreign language requirement that entails the successful completion of four semesters of one language appropriate to their concentration while at Washington University. For some students, this may mean the first four semesters of a language; for others, who place into advanced language classes and who receive approval from IAS language faculty, this may include literature, culture, oral communication or linguistics courses in the target language, once such students complete the basic language sequence. Students must complete one semester of language to be eligible to declare the major in IAS.

Students are encouraged to study more than one language at Washington University, but they must satisfy their IAS language requirement by demonstrating competence in at least one language through the fourth semester. Available modern languages include Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili. Students should consult the course listings (https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/Coursetimings/Courses.aspx?Mode=ILE) for details about the language sequences. (On the “A&S IQ” tab, click on “Courses,” and then toggle “Area Requirement” to “LS Language & Cultural Diversity-Language” and click “Search” to see a list of available language courses.)

Special note for Spanish speakers: The following Spanish courses are not part of the regular sequence that are counted toward the four semesters of foreign language: Intermediate Spanish Conversation and Culture (L38 223), Business Spanish (L38 351), Medical Spanish (L38 353), and Spanish for the Social Sciences (L38 355). Some students might find these courses valuable for other reasons. For questions about this, students should consult with their major adviser.

Advanced foreign language courses in literature and culture used to satisfy the foreign language requirement may be counted as advanced credit for IAS majors as long as they are cross-listed with or approved for study abroad credit for the student’s IAS concentration and provided the courses are not being counted toward any other degree.

Language courses taken to fulfill the IAS language requirement may count toward another major or minor unless they are being counted as advanced elective units for the IAS major requirement.

Students With Prior Language Experience

Native speakers of a foreign language: Students must satisfy the four-semester requirement in another language appropriate to their concentration.

Heritage speakers who do not have a native level of fluency: Students must seek appropriate placement by the coordinator of the language program and complete the four-semester requirement.

Transfer students who have taken language courses: Students may receive credit for the courses as part of the four-semester IAS foreign language requirement only if a placement exam is taken upon arrival at or return to Washington University and the foreign language department determines that the student may progress to the next highest level of language instruction.

Students who take a foreign language course at another institution (whether in the United States or abroad): Students may receive credit for the course as part of the four-semester IAS foreign language requirement only if (1) the credit is transferred back as Washington University credit; and (2) students take a placement exam upon their return to Washington University and the foreign language department determines that they may progress to the next highest level of language instruction.

Study Abroad: Majors are strongly encouraged to study abroad in one of Washington University’s Overseas Programs during junior year or the summer. Some credit for courses taken abroad may be applied toward the major. For those students who do not study abroad, an additional 3-credit course at the 300 or 400 level is required.

Senior Honors: Students must confidently expect to graduate with an overall grade-point average of 3.65 or higher in order to qualify for Senior Honors. Students should enroll in IAS 485 Preparation for IAS Honors Thesis during the fall of senior year and in IAS 486 IAS Senior Honors Thesis during the spring of senior year (under the corresponding section number of the faculty member overseeing the student’s thesis).

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