International Studies Program

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International Studies at NMU

The departments of Art and Design, Communication and Performance Studies, Economics, English, Modern Languages and Literatures, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science and Public Administration, Sociology and Social Work and the College of Business cooperatively sponsor the international studies major. This broad major provides students with a basic understanding of modern world history, international relations, world cultures and world religions. Part of this learning, as well as intensive language instruction, takes place abroad.

As students advance in the international studies major, they deepen their understanding of particular parts of the world and specialized issues of international importance. The study abroad and language requirements of the major ensure that NMU students experience internationalism rather than just learn about it in classrooms.

The capstone course for the international studies major, IP 490 International Studies Seminar, offers students the opportunity to make comparisons and contrasts that integrate their study-abroad experience into their academic program.

Academic direction for the international studies major and minor as well as the Latin American studies minor is provided by the International Studies Academy Advisory Committee, which has members from many departments and is currently chaired by Dr. Timothy Compton, head of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, e-mail tcompton@nmu.edu.

Student Organization
• All Nations Club

Department/Program Policies

International studies majors must have a study-abroad experience, normally in a non-English speaking country, for at least 12 weeks, including a minimum of nine weeks of study through an approved college-level institution. Please see the Study Abroad section of this bulletin. This must be approved in writing by an international studies academic adviser. Up to 12 credits may be applied to the area and advanced disciplinary studies requirement of the major with prior approval of the academic adviser. International students or resident aliens who wish to major in international studies may petition the international studies academic adviser for exemption from the requirement for study abroad.

A course in economics is required for international studies majors. (An EC course from foundations of social sciences is recommended.)

A program approval for international studies majors and minors must be prepared and approved by an academic adviser from the Modern Languages and Literatures Department and a copy forwarded to the Registrar's Office. The Registrar's Office is not able to perform a degree audit until it receives this form.
Bachelor Degree Program

Liberal Studies: Complete information on the liberal studies requirements and additional graduation requirements, including the health promotion requirement, is in the “Liberal Studies Program and Graduation Requirements” section of this bulletin.

Courses within each major that can be used to satisfy liberal studies requirements are listed with the Roman numeral (in brackets) that coincides with the liberal studies division the course falls under.

International Studies Major

This major gives students a broad view of the world with an emphasis on developing regions. The core ensures that students have broad exposure to major world religions, international politics and government, recent global history, and relationships between geography, culture, arts and society. This major is a good point of departure for pursuing an international-related master’s degree and/or many careers, including international business, diplomacy and fields related to human development.

Total Credits Required for Degree 124

Liberal Studies 30-40
Health Promotion 2

Required Courses in Major 44

Core 24
GC 164 Human Geography [IV] 4
AN 100 Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology [IV] or 4
   BC 415 Intercultural Communication 4
HS 104 The Third World [IV] 4
PL 270 World Religions [IV] 4
PS 206 International Relations or 4
   PS 203 Comparative Government 4
IP 490 International Studies Seminar 4

Area and Advanced Disciplinary Studies 20
Choose from the following, with no more than 12 credits from one department and a minimum of 8 credits at the 300-400 level. Courses from the minor field of study cannot be used.
AD 265 Art and Architecture of Japan (4 cr.) [VI] 4
AD 300 Japan and the West (4 cr.) [VI] 4
AN 210 People, Culture and Nature (4 cr.) [IV] 4
AN 320 Native Peoples of North America (4 cr.) [IV] 4
BC 325 Communication and Performance in Africa (4 cr.) [IV] 4
BC 420 Global Communication (4 cr.) 4
CJ 426 Comparative Criminal Justice (4 cr.) 4
EC 425 International Economics (4 cr.) 4
EN 311 World Literature (4 cr.) [II] 4
EN 4112 Topics in World Literature (3-4 cr.) [II] 4
FR 310 Introduction to French Civilization and Culture (4 cr.) [II] 4
GC 220 Economic Geography (4 cr.) 4
GC 300 Regional Studies (4 cr.) [IV] 4
GC 400 Political Geography (4 cr.) 4
GR 310 Introduction to German Civilization and Culture (4 cr.) [II] 4
HS 234 Indigenous People of Latin America (4 cr.) [II] 4
HS 251 Latin American Civilization (4 cr.) [II] 4
HS 252 Arab Islamic History (4 cr.) [II] 4
HS 254 Introduction to the History of Africa (4 cr.) [II] 4
HS 256 Approaching China (4 cr.) [II] 4
HS 258 The Emergence of Modern Japan (4 cr.) 4
HS 312 Revolutionary Russia (4 cr.) 4
HS 360 Chinese Revolution, 1800-Present (4 cr.) 4
HS 362 Mexico (4 cr.) [II] 4
HS 363 Canadian History and Culture (4 cr.) 4
IP 285 Study Abroad: Special Topics (1-12 cr.) 4
IP 286 Study Abroad: Special Topics (1-12 cr.) (Graded S/U) 4
IP 485 Study Abroad: Special Topics (1-12 cr.) 4
IP 486 Study Abroad: Special Topics (1-12 cr.) (Graded S/U) 4
MGT 475 International Business (3 cr.) 4
PS 299 Model U.N. (2 cr.) May be taken twice as country of study varies. 4
PS 312 War and Peace in the 21st Century (4 cr.) [IV] 4
PS 404 Politics of East and Southeast Asia (4 cr.) 4
SN 310 Introduction to Spanish Civilization and Culture (4 cr.) 4
SN 314 Contemporary Latin American Culture (4 cr.) [II] 4
SO 351 Social Change (4 cr.) [IV] 4

Minor 20

International Studies Minor

International studies minors must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English at the 102 level or higher. This can be accomplished by completing a 102 (or 201, 202, 300, 305 or 400) course in a language, or by verification through the Modern Languages and Literatures Department (i.e. determined by examination or through some other means of confirming proficiency).

Total Credits Required for Minor 24

Core 16
AN 100 Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology or 4
   GC 164 Human Geography 4
HS 104 The Third World 4
PL 270 World Religions 4
PS 203 Comparative Government or 4
   PS 206 International Relations 4

Area and Advanced Disciplinary Studies 8
Choose 8 credit hours from the following: At least one course must be at the 300-400 level. Courses from the major field of study or other minors cannot be used.
AD 265 Art and Architecture of Japan (4 cr.) 4
AD 300 Japan and the West (4 cr.) 4
AN 210 People, Culture and Nature (4 cr.) 4
AN 320 Native Peoples of North America (4 cr.) 4
BC 325 Communication and Performance in Africa (4 cr.) 4
BC 415 Intercultural Communication (4 cr.) 4

Latin American Studies Minor

This interdisciplinary minor allows students to take classes dealing with Latin America from a variety of departments on campus.

Total Credits Required for Minor 24

Core 8
HS 251 Latin American Civilization 4
SN 314 Contemporary Latin American Culture 4
SN 202 Intermediate Spanish II or
POR 210 Intermediate Portuguese*

Electives 16
Electives must come from at least three disciplines/prefixes.
Choose 16 credit hours from the following:
EN 311Z World Literature: Latin America (4 cr.)
EN 411Z World Literature: Latin America (4 cr.)
GC 300 Regional Studies: Latin America (4 cr.)
HS 251 Latin American Civilization** (4 cr.)
HS 361 History of Americas (4 cr.)
HS 362 Mexico (4 cr.)
IP 485 Special Topics: Related to Latin America (1-8 cr.)
IP 486 Study Abroad: Special Topics (1-12 cr.)
POR 210 Intermediate Portuguese** (4 cr.)
SN 312 Introduction to Spanish America (4 cr.)
SN 314 Contemporary Latin American Culture** (4 cr.)
SN 429 Twentieth Century Literature of Spanish America (4 cr.)
SN 495 Special Topics: Related to Latin America (1-4 cr.)

*Native speakers of Spanish must take POR 210, and native speakers of Portuguese must take SN 202. Spanish majors and minors must take the Portuguese component of the core.

**Any course used in the core cannot be used as an elective.