

Global Interdisciplinary Studies, B.A.

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About

The Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies (GIS) provides students with a tripartite of skills, knowledge, and values that foster critical thinking, problem solving, and preparation for responsible global citizenship. Students gain an understanding of global studies, acquiring the know-how in global and digital literacy, cultural diversity and intercultural competences, interdisciplinary research, and a passion for social justice, nurtured in experiential learning.

All students must choose one specialization from the sections listed below.

The Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies also offers minors in the following programs: Arabic Language and Cultural Studies, Chinese Language and Cultural Studies, Japanese Language and Cultural Studies, Russian Language and Cultural Studies. Visit these individual pages to view requirements.

Program: Global Interdisciplinary Studies

Type: Bachelor of Arts

MAJOR (31-34 credits)

The central dynamic of the GIS major is the emphasis on the interdisciplinary and the global through a specialization in one of the following areas and thematic studies, namely: Africana Studies, Arab & Islamic Studies, Asian Studies, Cultural Studies, Irish Studies, Latin American Studies, and Russian Area Studies. A student may also consider an Individually Designed Specialization after meeting some requirements, including meeting with the Chair of the department. Each specialization emphasizes the core tenets of the major: Interdisciplinary research, global impact through the local, and the application of knowledge to world affairs.

• Seven Area Specializations:

- GIS offers seven specializations in interdisciplinary areas of study – Africana Studies, Arab and Islamic Studies, Asian Studies, Cultural Studies, Irish Studies, Latin American Studies, and Russian Area Studies. The additional requirements of each specialization are listed below. Students must indicate their specialization at the time of declaring the GIS major.

• Individually Designed Specialization:

- A student may opt to design a 15-credit specialization of their choosing. This specialization must be proposed at the declaration of the major, with a clear rationalization for all selected courses. The proposal must be approved by a faculty mentor and the Department Chair and include at least three courses regularly offered at Villanova University.

Program Notes:

- For GIS 5011, Team-taught Topics Student takes two different topics, the first of which counts as the Junior Research Seminar for the Major (6 credits).

Required Major Courses:

Item #	Title	Credits:
GIS 2000	Intro to Global Interd Studies	3
GIS 5011	GIS Select	3
GIS 5011	GIS Select	3
GIS 6500	Capstone I: Research	3
GIS 6600	Capstone 2:Thesis	3
GIS 5000	Special Topics	1
	Study Abroad	

GIS: Africana Studies (18 credits) (GAFR)

Required Specialization Courses:

Six courses with the AFR attribute for a minimum of 18 credits, including the courses listed below.

Program Notes:

- Students may also combine three 1-credit IGR courses to count as one of the undesignated Africana courses
- Courses taken as part of a study abroad program may be counted
- A GIS 5011 with AFR attribute may be counted among the six courses, as long as the two required GIS 5011 courses for the GIS major have been fulfilled.

Item #	Title	Credits:
AFR 3000	Constructs of Blackness	3
	GIS Africana Elective	15

GIS: Arab and Islamic Studies (15 credits) (GAIS)

Five courses with the AIS attribute for a minimum of 15 credits, of which the following must be included:

Required Specialization Courses:

- Two courses of Arabic at the intermediate or above level (6-10 cr)
- One Political Science course with an AIS attribute (3 cr)
- One History course with an AIS attribute (3 cr)
- One Theology course with an AIS attribute (3 cr)

Program Notes:

- Courses taken as part of a study abroad may be counted.

GIS: Asian Studies (15 credits) (GAS)

Five courses with the ASN attribute for a minimum of 15 credits, of which the following must be included:

Required Specialization Courses:

- Three Chinese, Japanese, or other Asian language courses at the intermediate level or above (9 cr)
- Two non-language courses with the ASN attribute (6 cr)

Program Notes:

- Courses taken as part of a study abroad may be counted.
- One internship course may be counted.
- Coursework must be done on more than one country in Asia and in more than one discipline.

GIS: Cultural Studies (18 credits) (GCST)

Six courses with the CST attribute for a minimum of 18 credits, of which the following must be included:

Required Specialization Courses:

- CST 2100: Introduction to Cultural Studies (3 cr)
- Three Core Courses, one from each of the following three categories (9 cr):

Program Notes:

- Courses taken as part of a study abroad may be counted.
- One internship course may be counted.

Item #	Title	Credits:
CST 2100	Intro. to Cultural Studies	3
	GCST Core Courses	9

GIS: Irish Studies (15 credits) (GIST)

Required Specialization Courses:

Five courses with the IS attribute for a minimum of 15 credits, of which the following must be included:

Program Notes:

- Courses taken as part of a study abroad may be counted.
- One internship course may be counted.

Item #	Title	Credits:
	IS 1121 or IS 2222	3
	ENG 2450 or ENG 2500	3
	HIS 3216 or HIS 2286	3
	IS Elective	3
	IS Elective	3

GIS: Russian Area Studies (18 credits) (GRAS)

Six courses for a minimum of 18 credits, of which the following must be included:

Required Specialization Courses:

- Two Russian language courses at the intermediate (6 cr)
- Four Courses with the RAS attribute for a minimum of 12 credits (12 cr)

Program Notes:

- Up to two courses taken as part of a study abroad program may be counted.

GIS: Latin American Studies (18 credits) (GLAS)

Six courses with a minimum of 18 credits, of which the following must be included:

Required Specialization Courses:

- Four courses with the LAS attribute (12 cr minimum)
- Two advanced Spanish courses above 1122 (6 cr)

Program Notes:

- Courses taken as part of a study abroad may be counted.
- One internship course may be counted.

Category Descriptions

Study Abroad

One semester of Study Abroad.

GIS Africana Elective

Credits: 15

Choose five courses with the AFR attribute in either Africana History or Literature, or HIS 2293. Below represents select courses eligible. Please consult the course catalog for additional courses with the AFR attribute.

Item #	Title	Credits:
HIS 2292	African Amer His since Emancip	3
ENG 3690/3691	Br/Ir Lit. & Cult. after 1900	3

GCST Core Courses

Credits: 9

Choose three core courses, one from each of the following three categories:

Representation

Item #	Title	Credits:
CST 4100	Capstone Sem of Cultural Stud	3
PHI 2170	Mass Media Ethics	3
PHI 2760	Philosophy & Literature	3
PHI 4140	Phil of Contemporary Music	3
PHI 4150	Philosophy & Film	3

Gender

Item #	Title	Credits:
PHI 2410	Philosophy of Sex & Love	3
PHI 2420	Philosophy of Women	3
PHI 2430	Eco-Feminism	3
PHI 4900	Feminist Theories	3

Race

Item #	Title	Credits:
PJ 2800	Race, Class, & Gender	3
PHI 3160	History of Islamic Phil	3
ENG 4646	Race & Ethnicity: Amer Novel	3

IS 1121 or IS 2222

Credits: 3

Choose one course of Irish language at the intermediate level or above.

Item #	Title	Credits:
IS 1121	Intermediate Irish Language I	3
IS 2222	Topics: Irish Language	3

ENG 2450 or ENG 2500

Credits: 3

Choose one literature survey

Item #	Title	Credits:
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HIS 3216 or HIS 2286

Credits: 3

Choose one history survey.

Item #	Title	Credits:
HIS 3216	Ireland since 1800	3
HIS 2286	Irish-American Saga	3

IS Elective

Credits: 3

Choose a course with IS attribute.