Why an International Studies Major?

International Studies Major Sub Plans

**International Security, Norms, and Cooperation**
In this subplan, students take courses that help them reason about the international system of nation-states and of peoples with both competing and overlapping interests. Among topics covered are international relations, human rights, human security, international organizations, war-making and peace-making, intra- and inter-state violence. Students gain an ability to analyze historical and contemporary global trends in these topics, and to compare experiences of nation-states and peoples across time and space.

**Political Economy and Development**
In this subplan, students take courses that help them reason about the global economy and about comparing the economies of nation-states and regions. Among topics covered are international economics, the political economy of development, regulation of economies, international trade, government budgeting, comparative labor economics, and economic and political history. Students gain an ability to analyze historical and contemporary global trends in these topics, and to compare experiences of nation-states and peoples across time and space.

**Comparative Culture and Identity**
In this subplan, students take courses that help them understand the richness of behavioral, literary, and artistic expressions reflecting the diversity of the human experience. Among topics covered are theories of culture, theories of identity, nationalism, comparative literary and film traditions, comparative ideologies, colonialism and post-colonialism, global arts, comparative gender studies, and cultural transmission. Students gain an ability to analyze historical and global trends in these topics, and to compare experiences of diverse communities and diverse individuals across time and space.

**Global Health and the Environment**
In this subplan, students take courses that help them understand the latest knowledge on worldwide trends in public health and in the natural environment as it intersects with the human experience. Among topics covered are global public health, comparative health policy, pandemics, comparative environmental policy-making, comparative history of mental health treatments across countries, environmental disasters, and climate change. Students gain an ability to analyze historical and global trends in these topics, and to compare experiences of diverse communities and diverse individuals across time and space.