

International Studies Concentration

The International Studies Concentration is an exciting addition to the broad range of programs offered at Oberlin College. It does not replace the major, but focuses course selections as a complement to the major by including elements from various other disciplines such as history, politics, economics, and foreign languages. The Concentration is designed to help students develop the ability to analyze global issues, to understand dynamics of cross-cultural communication, and to appreciate the characteristics of regions outside the United States.

All students, regardless of their academic interests, can pursue an International Studies Concentration, but it does not substitute for a major or a minor. Completion of the Concentration will be noted on a student's final transcript along with majors, minors, and honors.

The International Studies Concentration consists of three components:

- two courses that focus on contemporary international political and economic dynamics;
- a minimum of five additional courses from the concentration list that focus on non-United States regions, countries, humanities, and/or social science methodologies;
- completion of the fourth college-level semester or the equivalent of an appropriate modern foreign language.

Students with a non-English language of origin and students seeking to meet the third component with languages not taught at Oberlin should consult with the Concentration Committee chair. Study abroad is strongly encouraged. At least four of the seven courses must be completed at Oberlin or in Oberlin off-campus programs such as the London semester or Strasbourg program.

The International Studies Concentration provides students an opportunity to devise a course of study that will prepare them for careers and lives engaged in pursuits that cross national boundaries. The Concentration is grounded in social sciences and focuses on contemporary issues in order to contribute to students' understanding of the current dominant modes of international interaction and the global nature and consequences of those interactions.

Students pursuing the International Studies Concentration will consult with an advisor from the International Studies Concentration Committee to develop their programs. Students interested in the International Studies Concentration should contact Ben Schiff at the Department of Politics, Rice 213, 440-775-8535 or 440-775-8487, or e-mail: Ben.Schiff@oberlin.edu. Students can also access the International Studies Concentration web address for more information at <http://www.oberlin.edu/instudnt>.

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