

## **International Studies**

### **Language, Culture and Communication**

**Updated 2016**

The International Studies program shares most of the general program goals of Modern and Classical Language (MCL), and combines them with the program goals of the professional tracks offered in the International Studies major. The international Studies program is designed to aid students to gain and demonstrate increased proficiency in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication skills as well as growth in cultural, literary and interdisciplinary knowledge as they move through a sequence of study, combined with the acquisition of skills, particularly international in nature, in a professional field (Business, International Affairs, Communication, Museum Studies...etc).

### **Program Goals**

Our mission is to help our students to be equipped to approach the global world. Our goal is to prepare students for a world that is increasingly diverse, international and interdependent by helping them understand global dynamics and cultures in different world regions.

### **Program Student Learning Goals**

1. **Critical thinking:** Students will be able to critically analyze academic texts, international news, maps, histories, and their own received ideologies and received wisdom for assumptions, political and cultural points of view, and stated and unstated biases.
2. **Applying disciplinary contexts:** Students will understand how to use historical background, geographical context, political systems, economic structures, and sociocultural milieu to better understand regional and global developments.
3. **Connections:** Students will begin to see the connections between world events and the multiple contexts that inform them, and learn that these seemingly disparate factors are interconnected and in flux.
4. **Skills:** Students develop core liberal arts skills: reading unfamiliar information and making sense of it; thinking critically about what they're reading; synthesizing material; coming to a conclusion about it; and articulating that conclusion verbally and in writing.
5. **Global awareness:** Students develop knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to live effectively in a world characterized by ethnic diversity, cultural pluralism and increasing interdependence.
6. **Diversity:** Students should gain an awareness of global diversity and learn to think about what the world, or specific issues, might look like from other points of view.

## **Student Learning Outcomes in language area**

For each goal, we have specific objectives, the outcomes assessment of which is facilitated by a clear connection between goal, objective, and outcome.

### **Goal 1: WRITING write effectively in target language**

Objectives:

1. demonstrate recognition of appropriate vocabulary and grammar
2. demonstrate correct use of vocabulary and grammar in simple sentences
3. demonstrate correct use of more sophisticated grammatical structures
4. demonstrate ability to analyze target language from a variety of perspectives

### **Goal 2: SPEAKING speak effectively in target language.**

Objectives:

1. demonstrate the ability to use simple sentences and appropriate vocabulary orally
2. demonstrate the ability to use more complex sentences and accurate pronunciation
3. demonstrate the ability to use basically correct sentences that reflect more sophisticated topics and terminology
4. demonstrate the ability to speak on advanced topics with correct use of tense, aspect, and appropriate sequencing and subordination

### **Goal 3: READING read critically in target language**

Objectives:

1. read with comprehension short elementary texts in target language
2. read more complex texts that include an ample vocabulary and shifts in tense
3. read and understand longer texts, various genres, and nuanced narratives
4. read and comprehend items not written for learners of the target language, but rather texts that native readers of the language would read

### **Goal 4: COMPREHENDING comprehend target language when spoken**

Objectives:

1. demonstrate understanding of target language when spoken slowly and kept very basic
2. demonstrate some understanding of target language when spoken at a normal pace and with some technical vocabulary
3. demonstrate almost complete understanding of target language when spoken by native speakers on basic topics
4. demonstrate thorough understanding of target language spoken by native speakers, regardless of accent, on any number of sophisticated topics

### **Goal 5: CULTURAL LITERACY Identify and appreciate cultural difference.**

Objectives: develop and demonstrate an awareness that geographic, historical, economic, social/religious, and political factors can have an impact on cultural perspectives, products, and practices, including language use and styles of communication develop and demonstrate awareness that situational variables (e.g., context and role expectations, including power differentials, and social variables such as age, gender, social class, religion, ethnicity, and place of residence) shape communicative interaction (verbal,

nonverbal, and paralinguistic) and behavior in important ways develop and demonstrate an awareness that each language and culture has culture conditioned images and culture-specific connotations of some words, phrases, proverbs, idiomatic formulations, gestures, etc.

1. basic exposure to some of the elements delineated in the objectives above. Familiarity with a sampling of cultural realities through exposure to realia such as film and music
2. regular exposure and discussion of many of the elements delineated in the objectives above. Familiarity with a sampling of cultural realities through exposure to realia such as films, short texts, and music.
3. complete understanding and critical discussion of all the elements delineated in the objectives above. Familiarity with a sampling of cultural realities through intensive exposure to realia such as films and documentaries, televisions programs, various literary and non-literary texts, and music. Understanding of the evolving nature of cultures associated with the target language. Understanding of the general cultural realities of the countries studied.
4. sophisticated understanding and critical discussion of all the elements delineated in the objectives above. Familiarity with a sampling of cultural realities through intensive exposure to realia such as films and documentaries, televisions programs, various literary and non-literary texts, and music. Awareness of religious, social, political, and economic realities of the societies studies. Cultural literacy and ability to transfer analytical models to the analysis of other cultures.

#### GLOBAL CULTURES

##### Program Student Learning Goals

1. **Critical thinking:** Students will be able to critically analyze academic texts, international news, maps, histories, and their own received ideologies and received wisdom for assumptions, political and cultural points of view, and stated and unstated biases.
2. **Applying disciplinary contexts:** Students will understand how to use historical background, geographical context, political systems, economic structures, and socio-cultural milieu to better understand regional and global developments.
3. **Connections:** Students will begin to see the connections between world events and the multiple contexts that inform them, and learn that these seemingly disparate factors are interconnected and in flux.
4. **Skills:** Students develop core liberal arts skills: reading unfamiliar information and making sense of it; thinking critically about what they're reading; synthesizing material; coming to a conclusion about it; and articulating that conclusion verbally and in writing.
5. **Global Awareness:** Students develop knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to live effectively in a world characterized by ethnic diversity, cultural pluralism and increasing interdependence.
6. **Diversity:** Students should gain an awareness of global diversity and learn to think about what the world, or specific issues, might look like from other points of view.

Program outcomes/ Courses	1. Critical Thinking	2. Contexts	3. Connections	4. Skills	5. Global Awareness	6. Diversity
GLOC 301	3	3	3	3	3	3
LIBS 131	3	2	3	2	3	3
JASS 388	3	3	3	3	3	3
LIBS 364	3	3	3	3	3	3

Ranking: 3: extensive coverage, 2: substantial coverage, 1: basic coverage  
Coverage is relative to course level and is not an indication of depth of coverage

### UMD Goal for Undergraduate Experience

	Core Knowledge	Communication	Critical and Creative Thinking	Collaboration	Cultural Understanding	Citizenship
LIBS 131	1	2	2	3	3	1
LIBS 364	3	2	3	1	3	3