Nebraska Wesleyan University

International Studies

Catalog

2025-2026

About the Program

This interdisciplinary major prepares students for careers in international business, law, journalism, international affairs, the Peace Corps, diplomatic service, international agencies, and government. Students are taught by faculty members with expertise in such varied places as the Caribbean, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and West Africa.

Students may specialize in Asia, Latin America, industrialized nations, foreign policy, or development studies; and they are required to spend at least one semester studying in another country.

As a second major, International Studies adds broadened perspective and increased global awareness to any area of study.

The International Studies major may be designated as either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. If the International Studies major is paired with a second major, the degree designation may be determined by the second major.

Majors, Minors & Degrees

Majors

1. International Studies (B.A., B.S.)

Minors

1. International Studies

Courses

INTST 1900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

INTST 1950 Independent Study

1-3 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

INTST 1960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

INTST 1970 Internship

1-8 hours

An on-the-job experience oriented toward the student's major interest. The student is to secure a position in an organization that satisfies the mutual interests of the instructor, the sponsor, and the student. P/F Only.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

INTST 2410 Experiencing The Culture Of Japan

3 hours

This course will serve as an introduction to the culture and contemporary society of Japan, with an overview of topics such as cultural and religious traditions and celebrations, economics, art, architecture and history.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

INTST 2510 Rwanda: Genocide and Beyond

1-6 hours

Though Rwanda is known mainly for the 1994 genocide, this trip gives you the chance to witness a post-conflict country in the process of reconstruction. The international community recognizes Rwanda for having the world's largest number of women in parliament as well as strong governance, low rates of corruption, and low crime rate. Gerise Herndon, Professor of Gender Studies and Global Studies who lived in Rwanda during her sabbatical, will accompany students from University of Missouri-Columbia under the leadership of Rwandan professor of French and Gender Studies, Dr. Rangira Bea Gallimore. We will visit genocide memorials, reconciliation communities, and women's cooperatives. Presentations and testimonials will provide the historical context leading up to the genocide, including the media's role, the responsibility of the international community (UN, France, U.S., etc.), and the Catholic Church's role. Post-conflict issues include memory, genocide denial, and justice systems (regular, Gacaca, and international). Although mostly remaining in the capital, Kigali, we will take brief trips to rural areas. Participants will have a unique opportunity to visit local villages and organizations to observe efforts at recovery and social transformation, including forgiveness and reconciliation. The internship portion will depend on students' major or academic interest. Examples: pre-med students may shadow doctors; psychology students may shadow counselors; future teachers may help teach English as a Foreign Language.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

INTST 2900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate any relevant subject matter not included in any of the standard courses. The title, content, and credit will be determined by current, mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a group requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

INTST 2950 Independent Study

1-3 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged research project supervised by an International Studies faculty member. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog. P/F only.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

INTST 2960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

INTST 2970 Internship

1-8 hours

An on-the-job experience oriented toward the student's major interest. The student is to secure a position in an organization that satisfies the mutual interests of the instructor, the sponsor, and the student. P/F Only.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

INTST 3500 Rwandan Culture Through Film and Literature

4 hours

This course delves into the uniqueness of Rwandan history to explore the complexities of this country whose politics and history have generated much debate. Through films and readings, we will explore the pre-colonial era to post-conflict transition with an emphasis on the defining moment of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. Artistic expressions of film and literature respond to traumatic collective experiences, but Rwanda is more than genocide. We will analyze globally applauded successes such as women's representation in government and peaceful co-existence of survivors and perpetrators; topics may also include controversies surrounding genocide denial, freedom of expression, political power, and the transition to English. Students will make two presentations demonstrating what they have learned about cinematic representation and cultural difference.

INTST 3900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate any relevant subject matter not included in any of the standard courses. The title, content, and credit will be determined by current, mutual interest of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a group of requirements for a major only by approval of the program director.

INTST 3950 Independent Study

1-12 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged research project supervised by a member of the International Studies faculty. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the International Studies program director.

INTST 3960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

INTST 3970 Internship

1-8 hours

An on-the-job experience oriented toward the student's major interest. The student is to secure a position in an organization that satisfies the mutual interests of the instructor, the sponsor, and the student. P/F Only.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

INTST 4900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate any relevant subject matter not included in any of the standard courses. The title, content, and credit will be determined by current, mutual interest of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet requirements for a major only by approval of the program director.

INTST 4910 Directed Readings

1-6 hours

An opportunity for students, under the supervision of a faculty member, to investigate material not covered in other coursework.

INTST 4940 Capstone

1 hours

This is a course taken as part of the signature work done by students at the end of their degree program: the senior thesis or internship in International Studies. As part of the course, students will connect their previous learning in the Archway Curriculum, both in their liberal arts and International Studies major, with the signature work with which they are engaged as seniors. As part of the course, they will explore through their Archway Curriculum e-Portfolio (ACeP) their earlier work, connect the skills and ideas of that earlier work to their current signature work, engage in discourse with other students about themes relevant to their work, and prepare for the next stage of their career beyond college. Permission of the International Studies Director is required.

INTST 4950 Independent Study

1-12 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged research project supervised by a member of the International Studies faculty. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the International Studies program director.

INTST 4960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

INTST 4970 International Internship

3-6 hours

This course provides experiences in an office or agency setting related to International Studies. The internship must be taken outside the United States or for an international agency or organization in the United Stated. P/F only.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the International Studies Director.

INTST 4980 Preparing For Senior Project

0-1 hours

This course can be taken while studying abroad if the student has already completed the Research Methods requirement. To be taken during the spring semester of the junior year or the fall semester of the senior year, this seminar is designed to aid students in the development of their senior thesis topics. Each will prepare a research project and a plan of study. Pass/Fail Only.

Pre/corequisite: International Studies Research Methods requirement and permission of the International Studies Director.

INTST 4990 Senior Research Project

2-3 hours

To be taken during the senior year, the student will utilize this semester to research the topic developed in INST-4980 and complete the senior thesis. (Course must be taken for 3 credits if the student takes INST-4980 for 0 hours.)

Prerequisite(s): Permission of International Studies Director and INTST 4980 Preparing For Senior Project (may be taken as corequisite)

Corequisite(s): INTST 4940 Capstone