Global Connections and Historical Comparisons Track (rev. August 11, 2014)

About the GCHC Track
The track in Global Connections and Historical Comparisons (GCHC) is geared towards International Studies students who are interested in developing a historical perspective on the processes, institutions, and ideas which are shaping the contemporary world. Ultimately, students pursuing the Global Connections and Historical Comparisons track will receive a double major in International Studies and History.

Global capital and new technologies of communication now appear to be eclipsing the power of nation states and transforming personal lives. But today’s globalism and its challenges have important historical antecedents. Oceanic and transcontinental circuits of commerce, warfare, the slave trade, shared technologies, and religious movements have linked Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas for more than 500 years. Modern capitalism and the state arose out of this first global world and its manifold interconnections.

The Global Connections and Historical Comparisons track invites students to explore this historical lineage and its impact on contemporary geopolitics and international institutions, political ideologies, and asymmetries of political and economic power. Global migration and diasporic experience also has a long history, and this track explores the cross-cultural exchanges and cultural innovations that result from the interactions of peoples in the new contact zones created by commerce, warfare, and empire.

Key topics and themes include:

- Oceans, Empires, and Circuits of Commerce, Goods, and Commodities
- Borderlands, Cross-Cultural Encounters, and Migration
- Slavery & Other Coerced Labor Regimes
- Transformations of Kinship, Family, and Gender
- Origins and Development of Capitalism
- Late Modernity, Cosmopolitanism, and Diaspora
- Political Ideas and Religious Beliefs in Global Perspective
- Decolonization, “Neo-Imperialism”, and the Post-Colonial Condition
- Nations and the Transnational in the Contemporary World

The GCHC track provides intensive training in historical interpretation and methods, including the use of primary sources in conjunction with sustained historical research. The department’s many small seminar-style courses provide systematic opportunities to interact closely with faculty and other students. The History major is also writing intensive and provides the analytic and organizational skills that are the essential pre-requisites for post-graduate degrees and careers in business, law, and public affairs.

For students who otherwise qualify for the honors track in History and/or International Studies, the Global Connections and Historical Comparisons track will culminate in a Senior Honors Thesis, a substantial two-semester independent research project that provides the opportunity to work
intensively with a single faculty advisor in the History Department. A capstone project can be deeply satisfying in its own right, and an essay based on systematic research is typically a pre-requisite for admission to PhD programs in history, political science, and cognate disciplines. The exceptional student with an outstanding record of scholarly accomplishment may also apply to be admitted to the Department of History’s BA/MA program.

Contact

The Global Connections and Historical Comparisons coordinators will be happy to answer any questions about this new track:

Professor Sydney Van Morgan (smorga37@jhu.edu), Director of International Studies

Professor Gabe Paquette (gabriel.paquette@jhu.edu), Department of History

Professor Pier Larson, Department of History

Professor Todd Shepard, Department of History

Professor Philip Morgan, Department of History

Declaring the GCHC Track

IS students wishing to declare the GCHC track must complete the following steps:

1. Make an appointment with Professor Sydney Van Morgan, Director of International Studies, to establish the GCHC track within the IS major;

2. Declare History as their second major by completing an “add major” form, which can be obtained at the Registrar’s Office, and having it signed by Professor Toby Ditz (toby.ditz@jhu.edu), Director of Undergraduate Studies, 338G Gilman Hall, Department of History. She will also assign students to one of the GCHC advisors in the History Department.

Academics

Area of Concentration, GCHC

General:

- Two (2) 100-level courses in the History Department (100.1xx)

- 6 additional history courses. 4 of the 6 courses must be at the 300-level or above. At least two (2) should focus on historical eras prior to 1850. Students should consult with their faculty advisor if they are unsure as to whether a course fits this requirement.
Five (5) of this total of eight (8) introductory and advanced courses must be chosen from the approved list of globally oriented history courses published on the GCHC track page of the IS website each semester.

Some history courses (100.1xx) may be double-counted towards the Economics or Political Science requirements for the IS major. The list of such approved courses can be found on the GCHC page of the website. Students should consult with the Director of International Studies if they are unsure as to whether a given history course fits the Economics or Political Science requirements.

**Methods & Advanced Work:**

The IS/History double major will also take the following additional courses:

- Two-semester Undergraduate Seminar in History (100.193-194), normally taken during the students’ sophomore year.

- Senior Thesis (100.507-508): students who meet GPA honors thresholds in History or IS are eligible. Admission into the Senior Thesis Seminar (100.507-508) is by instructor’s permission and admittance requires that the student obtain a commitment from an individual thesis advisor within the History Department.

  **--OR--**

- Two (2) additional history courses at the 300-level or above. Again, some History courses (100.xxx) can be double-counted towards the Economics or Political Science requirements for the IS major, provided that they are chosen from an approved list.

  *(Completion of the preceding coursework fulfills the requirements for the History major.)*

**Additional International Studies Requirements:**

*Please refer to the IS Website for the most up-to-date requirements for the IS major:*

[http://krieger.jhu.edu/internationalstudies/](http://krieger.jhu.edu/internationalstudies/)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Proficiency in at least one foreign language. Proficiency may be demonstrated by completing two semesters (6 credits) of coursework above the intermediate level. Note that courses at the intermediate level may be used for distribution requirements. If you are already proficient in a foreign language, a proficiency test as well as two semesters (6 credits) of either a) an upper level class taught entirely in that language, or b) two semesters of a new foreign language will be required.
ECONOMICS REQUIREMENTS

GCHC students must complete four courses (12 credits) in economics, including:

• Elements of Macroeconomics (180.101);
• Elements of Microeconomics (180.102);
• An additional internationally-oriented or historically-oriented economics course. Students can choose from any of the approved courses listed on the "Courses" page of the IS website. Approved History are listed on the Global Connections and Historical Comparisons page of the IS website.

• A fourth course of the students' choice, taken in the Economics Department at Johns Hopkins University.

POLITICAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

GCHC students must complete six semester courses (18 credits) in political science, including historically-oriented political science courses.

Refer to the Courses page on the IS website for a general list of courses that are approved as IR, CP, AP and PT for the IS major. Students can choose from any of the approved courses listed on the "Courses" page of the IS website. Approved politically-oriented History courses are listed on the Global Connections and Historical Comparisons track page of the IS website.

a) One of the following gateway courses:

Contemporary International Politics (190.209),
International Politics (190.213),
Introduction to Comparative Politics (190.102 or 190.229)

Students must take one of the three gateway courses. The two remaining gateway courses may be taken to fulfill political science requirements, such as IR or CP. For example, a student who takes Contemporary International Politics as a gateway course may take International Politics to fulfill the IR requirement.

b) One course in international politics or historically-oriented international politics designated (IR)

c) Two courses in comparative politics or historically-oriented comparative politics designated (CP)

d) One course in American politics or a history of American politics designated (AP)

e) One course in political theory, or a history of political thought, designated (PT)

Courses with more than one subfield designation (e.g. as both IR and CP) may not be double counted to fulfill both requirements. Courses can, however, be double-counted with History to fulfill the GCHC requirements. If you are uncertain as to a course designation, please consult with the IS Director.
Honors Information

Students may graduate with honors in International Studies and/or History.

To graduate with honors in both International Studies and History, you must meet the following criteria:

• Have a GPA of a 3.7 or higher in courses required for the double-major;
• Enroll in the year-long Senior Thesis Seminar (100.507-508) and complete a Senior Thesis;
• Complete an Honors Clearance Checklist by April 1st in the year you expect to graduate in May. Most commonly, this means by April 1st of your senior year. Failure to submit this checklist by this date will mean that you will not receive honors in your major. You cannot complete the checklist before February 1st of the same year. Please note that these requirements are not related to “General University Honors.” General University Honors are automatically assigned to all students who graduate with a 3.5 or higher.

To graduate with honors in History only, students are required to complete a Senior Thesis and maintain a 3.5 GPA in courses taken in fulfillment of the History major.